

**Moment for Mission:
The East Palestine Toxic Train Derailment and the Call to Love**

This resource is designed to assist congregational leaders in composing a moment for mission, prayer, and/or action in light of the need for continued, long-term support and solidarity for the people of East Palestine, Ohio.

Suggested Scripture for Reflection—John 13: 34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Listening to Those Most Affected:

Misti Allison, a mother of two in East Palestine, spoke before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee:

"I'm here to put a face on this disaster. This isn't just a political issue. It is a people issue."

"My mother taught me to fight for what's right, and I will always fight to protect the health and safety of my children, of your children, and of every child in America. Remember this is about people."

[Listen to her full remarks.](#)

Sample Remarks

On Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, we read the scripture in which Jesus issued a new commandment: that we love one another. It is by this that others will know that we are disciples. On February 3rd, the small town of East Palestine suffered from a toxic train derailment explosion that would ultimately provoke national concern and debate. More than a month has passed, and I want to share with you that East Palestine continues to need our support and solidarity. When disaster strikes, our long-term response matters. After the cameras and media drift away, a community is still left in need of an environmental clean-up effort that brings safety and assurance to families with children and every local resident. A community is still left in need of a lifeline that includes economic development and home value protection. A community is still left in need of continued health monitoring as well as mental and spiritual support. Now is a moment in which we are called to love. We can embody this love in giving to the Heartland Conference disaster response fund, and we can embody this love through advocacy efforts that seek to ensure what charity alone cannot accomplish, if we are to fully address the vitally important needs of an entire community.

You can find ways to give and to act at www.ucc.org/EastPalestine.