

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
**Celebrate National Hispanic/
Latino Heritage Month.**

Give Generously to Help Our Friends in Puerto Rico.



**Helping
Puerto Rico
Rise Again**

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
IGLESIA METODISTA DE PUERTO RICO

Share a Love Offering on any Sunday,
September 16-October 14, 2018

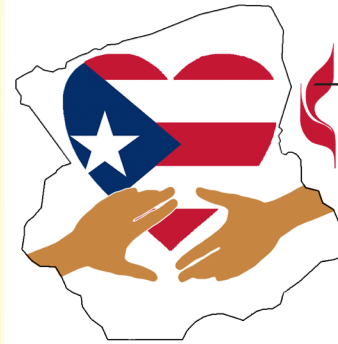
Dear Eastern PA Conference Churches:

We urge you to receive a special love offering and help us support efforts by the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico to recover from Hurricane Maria's destruction.

Resolution 2018-26, adopted at our 2018 Annual Conference, calls on all churches to celebrate Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month in September by receiving and sharing this love offering to aid our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico. We recommend any Sunday, September 16-October 14, for your observance and offering

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“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

As Christians and as members of the Eastern PA Conference, we have a special bond with fellow Methodists in Puerto Rico, who were once partners of our conference. We share an historic covenant—and now a special opportunity—to care for one another.

Methodist churches and their neighbors across this beautiful but beleaguered island are still recovering painstakingly from 2017’s devastating Hurricane Maria. They are trying to restore or rebuild their severely damaged homes, churches, businesses and other community sites and services—and they will be for years to come.

The people and the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico need our help to fully recover. Indeed, they are still “family” and will always be close to our hearts. There is still a great need for more aid and more volunteers, even after all we have given through our offerings and donations this year.

Our 2018 Annual Conference approved a special love offering for our ongoing **Helping Puerto Rico Rise Again** recovery support campaign. Every church should receive a **special love offering** for the autonomous, affiliated Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, our sister church, on any Sunday(s) between **September 16 and October 14**.

Every year since 1988, from September 15 to October 15, our nation has celebrated National Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month, when at least seven Latin American countries celebrate national independence anniversaries.

This is an ideal time for us to receive a special offering in all our churches, as we celebrate not only the cultural heritages of our Latino-American sisters and brothers but also the family relationship we share with fellow U.S. citizens and fellow Methodists in Puerto Rico.

As you give to help us respond to their urgent need for recovery from an awful disaster, please also consider forming or joining Volunteers in Mission teams to go to Puerto Rico and help with repairs and renovations. All of our hands and hearts are needed in this critical mission endeavor, a mission of love, especially for our household and family of faith. Thank you.

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