



UNITED METHODISTS OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“YES WE CAN” PACK A HALF MILLION MEALS MARCH 21

NEPTUNE, NJ—xx, 2020—With the 800 million hungry people in the world in mind, volunteers throughout New Jersey for the “Yes, We Can” event will work together in six different locations on Saturday, March 21, to pack 500,000 meals in one day.

[INSERT CHURCH NAME] is planning to attend. Pastor [INSERT PASTOR NAME] says, “We are signing up people to join us at the [INSERT LOCATION NAME]. Everyone from the community is welcome to join us!”

Ashley Wilson, Director of Mission at United Methodists of Greater New Jersey, said, “There is so much energy and compassion around this community-wide effort. I’m confident that together we will meet our goals, promote our mission and make a difference in thousands of lives.”

With the support of the nonprofit, Rise Against Hunger, Wilson added, each of the six sites across GNJ will have three meal packing timeslots throughout the day. **For details and to register, see www.gnjumc.org/congregationalvitality/mission/yeswecan/. Registration is free.**

“The mission project is great for persons of all ages, from five years old to 105 years old,” she added.

Event and church sponsorships are also needed to help cover the cost of using Rise Against Hunger’s resources. For details, visit www.gnjumc.org/congregationalvitality/mission/yeswecan/.

One volunteer who is planning to be there on March 21 is Arthur Schalick, a member of Rosenhayn UMC who also volunteers for a soup kitchen run by Spirit and Truth Ministries at First UMC in Vineland that serves more than 100 people each weekday.

“In a country of plenty, there are many faceless people that are hungry,” said Schalilck. “Anything that we can do to fill their bellies and souls is the least we can do.”

GNJ congregations know what it takes to work hard to feed the hungry. Volunteers at 71 church sponsored events in GNJ have packed 1.2 million meals for people in 13 countries.

Rise Against Hunger (<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>), founded in 1998 by Ray Buchanan, a United Methodist minister and Vietnam veteran, is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Goal #2 of Zero Hunger. From the implementation of sustainable community development projects and improving health to addressing gender equalities and facilitating this meal packaging program around the world, the nonprofit is committed to ending hunger by 2030.



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More than three million children die every year because of undernutrition and the disease that ensues, and many others fail to thrive in school because they're hungry. Every child deserves an education and the opportunity to achieve their dreams—but in order to do this they need enough to eat.

On March 21, thousands of people throughout GNJ will embrace the words of Margaret Meade when she said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;

About United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

More than 40,000 people worship in the 540 United Methodist Churches throughout Greater New Jersey, which includes New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania and New York. United Methodist mission work helps to feed, train and house the most vulnerable in our communities. Last year, 22,282 United Methodists in Greater New Jersey served 452,572 people in need throughout the state, region and world. The combined work of United Methodists and our affiliated organizations are an economic driver for the state. They employ nearly 4,000 people and have budget expenditures exceeding \$100,000,000 annually. There are more than 12 million United Methodists throughout the world. For more information, visit <https://www.gnjumc.org/>.