

## To whom shall we give in 2024 - 2025?



In this holiday season, when many of us decide where to make donations for the year, what does it mean to follow the words from Micah: “... to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God,” especially with the terrible war and horrendous humanitarian crisis in Gaza, millions of climate change refugees, and millions more facing epidemics without vaccines for the sake of Big Pharma’s billions of profits.

Surely, we are called on not only to provide balm for the wounds of people suffering from injury and injustice but also to seek to change the conditions that create the injustices.

Writer and activist Alice Walker has written, “Activism is my rent for living on the planet...” a simple, clear statement of a profound commitment! Most of us benefit richly from the resources of the planet. Let us be inspired by Walker’s stance to reciprocate by using our various capacities, talents, and resources to sustain the planet and advocate for an end to injustices and build equity for all its people.

In this time of giving, the Edgewood United Church Justice and Peace Team suggests these organizations for your consideration to make donations to that will support their work locally, nationally, and globally. As we updated the list this year, we have added an organization doing community organizing and relief in western North Carolina and updated organizations focused on Palestine – both those doing advocacy work in the United States and those providing humanitarian assistance on the ground in Gaza and the West Bank.

### Advocacy on state and local racial and economic justice and peace issues

- [Justice League of Greater Lansing](http://www.justiceleaguegm.org) - Exists to repair the breach caused by slavery & its aftermath and to foster reparations to boost wealth equity for African Americans in the Lansing area. [www.justiceleaguegm.org](http://www.justiceleaguegm.org)
- [Peace Education Center](http://peacecenter.org) - Organizing and mobilizing in the Lansing area for global justice and peace. [peacecenter.org](http://peacecenter.org)
- [Michigan League for Public Policy \(MCP\)](http://mlpp.org) - Lobbies for action on racial and economic inequities in Michigan, especially for children living in poverty. [mlpp.org](http://mlpp.org)
- [Meta Peace Team \(MPT\)](http://metapeaceteam.org) - Mobilizing nonviolent peace-keeping action teams within the United States, at the U.S.-Mexican border, and in the West Bank (Palestine). [metapeaceteam.org](http://metapeaceteam.org)
- [ERACCE \(Eliminating Racism & Creating/Celebrating Equity\)](http://eracce.org) – Exists to eliminate structural racism and create a network of Antiracist institutions and communities. Based in [eracce.org](http://eracce.org)
- [Safe & Just Michigan](http://safeandjustmi.org) - Works to reduce the harm caused by both crime and unnecessary incarceration. [safeandjustmi.org](http://safeandjustmi.org)

### Advocacy and Humanitarian Aid for Palestine

- [UN Relief & Works Agency \(UNRWA\)](http://www.unrwa.org/countries/gaza) - The largest UN agency in the Mideast, for 70 years providing emergency medical care, humanitarian assistance, food, and education for 1.6 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, 1.1 million in the West Bank, and more in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. At least 232 UNRWA employees in Gaza have died in the conflict – the most UN employees lost in history. UNRWA is desperate for funds because the Congress has blocked U.S. funding. [www.unrwa.org/countries/gaza](http://www.unrwa.org/countries/gaza)

- **[Palestine Red Crescent Society \(PRCS\)](http://www.palestinercs.org/en)** - Linked to the International Red Cross, PRCS has borne the brunt of the aid work and put themselves in harm's way even as Israel targeted ambulance convoys. [www.palestinercs.org/en](http://www.palestinercs.org/en)
- **[Islamic Relief USA \(IRUSA\)](https://irusa.org/irusa/donate)** is commended to us by the East Lansing Islamic Center as a reputable, tax-deductible channel of humanitarian assistance to Palestinians. <https://irusa.org/irusa/donate>
- **[US Campaign for Palestinian Rights \(USCPR\)](http://uscpr.org)** - Provides resources and strategic support to the US-based Palestine solidarity movement. [uscpr.org](http://uscpr.org)
- **[FOSNA: Friends of Sabeel North America](http://fosna.org)** – Sabeel is a group of Christians in the Holy Land that is seeking justice and peace through education, advocacy, and nonviolent action. [fosna.org](http://fosna.org)

### Aid to communities devastated by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

- **[UCC's Global H.O.P.E. Disaster Response and Refugee Support](http://support.ucc.org/global-HOPE)** is working with multiple Long Term Recovery Groups throughout the areas affected by these hurricanes. [support.ucc.org/global-HOPE](http://support.ucc.org/global-HOPE)
- **[BeLoved Asheville](http://belovedasheville.com)** – Working since 2009 to build “home, health, equity, and opportunity for all” in Western North Carolina and now assisting with emergency aid and long-term recovery. [belovedasheville.com](http://belovedasheville.com)

### Advocacy on other national and global issues

- **[Friends Committee on National Legislation \(FCNL\)](http://fcnl.org)** - The most effective religious lobby nationally on war, nuclear, military arms and spending, disarmament; Native American and immigration issues; Palestine; and the environment. The 132 FCNL chapters in as many Congressional districts take coordinated actions on the same justice and peace issues across the U.S. [fcnl.org](http://fcnl.org)
- **[Jubilee-USA Network](http://tinyurl.com/s3wb9tn3)** - An interfaith alliance of 75 religious, development, and advocacy organizations working for justice in international trade policies; tax, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption; and financing for the economies of the Global South. In 2023, it won \$650 billion in IMF emergency funds to fight global coronavirus health and economic crises. Donate: [tinyurl.com/s3wb9tn3](http://tinyurl.com/s3wb9tn3)
- **[Sunrise Movement](http://sunrisemovement.org)** - A U.S. youth movement for the environment. “Together, we will change this country and this world, sure as the sun rises each morning.” [sunrisemovement.org](http://sunrisemovement.org)

### Advocacy for international solutions for humanity's crises and disasters

- **[UN High Commission for Refugees](http://unhcr.org)** - Lobbies governments to accept refugees and serves the 110+ million refugees and forcibly displaced people (2020). [unhcr.org](http://unhcr.org)
- **[UN Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](http://unicefusa.org/help/donate)** - In addition to Gaza relief, UNICEF annually immunizes 1/3rd of world's children, mobilizes governments to accept refugees, runs the UN & WHO global vaccine programs, and protects children and youth in disasters with shelter, food, and education. [unicefusa.org/help/donate](http://unicefusa.org/help/donate)
- **[Polaris Project](http://polarisproject.org)** - Mobilizes on and helps victims of human trafficking. [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)



### Advocacy and charity for sustainable change in the developing world

- **[Solar Circle](http://solar-circle.org)** - Promotes access to solar power in Tanzania with solar lamps and a “green” school. [solar-circle.org](http://solar-circle.org)
- **[Via Campesina](http://viacampesina.org/en)** - Helps poor peasants to resist land grabs by foreign corporations and to lobby on climate change and peasants' rights. [viacampesina.org/en](http://viacampesina.org/en)