



*"If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday."*

*Isaiah 58:10*



**January, 2020**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

My name is Gary Morse, and I'm the pastor at Lambuth Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, TN. I am returning as the hunger advocate for the Memphis Conference. I have some GOOD NEWS for you. Because of the efforts of people such as yourself, the percentage of American households suffering from hunger has decreased for 7 straight years to 11.1%. That's down from 14.1% in 2011 (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture [www.usda.gov]). And, according to Bread for the World Institute, world hunger can be wiped out by 2030.

**YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.** People are alive and have hope for a better future because of Christians like you who care enough to **POUR YOURSELF OUT** for the hungry.

Hunger knows no boundaries and can affect people from all walks of life. Food insecurity is one paycheck or one illness away for many Americans. Many of you are members of churches that are in neighborhoods or communities where there are hungry children, adults, and senior citizens. Hunger affects the health of people and their communities. Chronic diseases go unattended, academic achievement becomes very difficult, and mental health is affected.

What can you and your congregation do to help alleviate hunger and food insecurity? Become an active participant in the Lenten Hunger Offering effort this year. Give and encourage others to give. Use the campaign tools created by Memphis Conference Communications. The money raised will be distributed to local neighbors such as food pantries and feeding programs in the 4 districts of the Memphis Conference; Our Father's House in Tanzania; Peanut Butter Project in Sierra Leone; feeding ministries in Mexico; Reelfoot Rural Ministries and United Methodist Neighborhood Centers in Memphis.

Read and download all information and materials at [www.memphis-umc.net/lentenhungeroffering](http://www.memphis-umc.net/lentenhungeroffering). Or contact your district office for a complete or partial packet of materials. Share this information with the person or committee that will support this effort. Make sure a campaign is implemented in your congregation. Let's work toward the goal of ending hunger at home and around the world.

May God's Presence Bless You,

Gary Morse, D.Min.

Pastor at LMUMC

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*The mission of the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences is to discover, equip, connect, and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.*

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