

World Fair Trade Day—May 9 Embracing a Fair Trade Lifestyle



Children at Beach Lake United Methodist Church wave Eco-palm fronds during a recent Palm Sunday celebration which focused on fair trade and child slave labor issues. Courtesy of Tom Tresslar/Beach Lake United Methodist Church

Worshippers at Beach Lake United Methodist Church in Pennsylvania are embracing a fair trade lifestyle thanks to the efforts of their pastor, the Rev. Mark Terwilliger, who took the special opportunity on Palm Sunday to re-inform his congregation about Eco-Palms, fair trade and child labor issues.

Rev. Mark Terwilliger showed his congregants a short film about child labor abuse in cocoa producing farms in Africa and also pointed out the difference between buying chocolate from a local store and supporting fair trade.

At the end of the service, fair trade chocolate from UMCOR's partner Equal Exchange was available to congregants for sale. The response to buying fair trade products was much higher than usual; however, raising funds was not the priority, but rather education, advocacy and awareness that prompt change to consumer behavior.

Since 2007, Beach Lake UMC has purchased over \$14,000 worth of Equal Exchange products through UMCOR's Coffee Project. The church has also purchased over 900 Eco-palm stems for Palm Sunday services or to send home with pre-school students, using the opportunity to educate families on fair trade issues.

UMCOR Coffee Project

The UMCOR Coffee Project links congregations with small farmers and their families through fair trade. It helps people in need while enjoying fellowship and an excellent cup of coffee. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying goods that are fairly traded. United Methodist congregations that participate in the UMCOR Coffee Project are supporting practices which help farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia earn a fairer share of income, obtain access to credit, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Call **Equal Exchange at 774-776-7400** to order your fairly traded coffee, tea, and hot chocolate today, or order online at <http://interfaith.equalexchange.com>.

How to Give

Observe World Fair Trade Day on May 9 by increasing awareness in your local community or congregation. Please support **UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture Program, UMCOR Advance #982188**. Write the Advance # and name on the memo line of your check.

Online www.givetomission.org

By Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check Make your check to **UMCOR** and mail to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

By Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583



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The United Methodist Committee on Relief delivers hope and enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects.

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