



*Holston  
Conference  
of The  
United  
Methodist  
Church*



A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey at 4:17 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. In the hours that followed, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude. More than 5,000 people were killed, with deaths expected to rise.

The earthquake also heavily impacted northwest Syria, where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance. The majority are women and children. At this time, Syrian communities are simultaneously facing an ongoing cholera outbreak and extreme winter weather events, including heavy rain and snow. The humanitarian response is overstretched due to the devastation and cold weather.

UMCOR has released an initial solidarity grant to a longstanding humanitarian partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC), which has offices in Turkey. The grant will provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready to eat meals and basic first aid kits.

Donations can be made through UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance Project No. 982450

<https://umcmision.org/advance-project/982450/>

*Mailing Address:  
Post Office Box 850  
Alcoa, Tennessee 37701*

*Street Address:  
217 S. Rankin Road  
Alcoa, Tennessee 37701*

*865/690-4080  
Toll Free 866/690-4080  
Fax 865/690-3162*

*www.holston.org*

*Rev. Michael G. Sluder • Director of Connectional Ministries*