Pray for Beirut, Lebanon

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. (Isaiah 40:1)

Holy God, ever present, our hearts are once again heavy as we watch the disaster in Beirut unfold. We pray comfort for those who have lost loved ones and remember those who have lost their lives, commending their souls to your care. In the midst of this tragedy, we are mindful of those who are injured and of the many who are ill, and of communities that are already struggling to address the many needs that are present. We pray for relief in these days of suffering, may our lives and our resources be a source of assistance, love and care. Be present with all who mourn today, grant



peace and renewed hope. Comfort, O comfort your people we pray. Amen.

On August 4, 2020, shortly after 6 pm local time, an explosion at the port of Beirut sent shockwaves across the city, shattering windows as far as 25 km away from the blast site. Although the full extent of the destruction is still unknown, the devastation was immediately clear. Buildings at the port were flattened, and apartments in the nearby popular and densely packed neighborhoods of Quarantina, Gemmayze, Mar Mikhael, Borj Hammoud, and Ashrafieh crumbled. In suburbs around Beirut, doors were blown in and windows were shattered. The damage is estimated at 5 billion dollars.

Pray for continued strength and resolve for those whose lives have been impacted by this and all disasters. Please pray for all who were lost in this tragedy.

Stay up to date with UCC Disaster Ministries www.ucc.org/disasters.

Donate. Your generous financial contribution today will help the people and communities in Beirut Lebanon respond to the needs caused by this horrifying destruction. Make a secure online donation: https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Disaster

Give through your local UCC Congregation, or you may also make your checks payable to the United Church of Christ with "Beirut Explosion Response" on the check and mail to:

> United Church of Christ c/o Financial Services, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115 Direct Questions to 216-736-3215

