

Make a Difference for People who are Experiencing Hunger and/or Food Insecurity

See what we can do together through **MIND THE GAP** group at FUMC. We began in the fall of 2016 to learn about food insecurities in the United States. It became clear that our greatest potential impact is to encourage our government to protect and improve programs that help recipients out of poverty. With the support of FUMC's Leadership Council our first action is to participate with Bread for the World's Offering of Letters campaign.



Here's the strategy:

A Join a campaign that gets results.

Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters campaign engages churches, campuses, and other faith communities throughout the United States in writing letters to Congress. The focus each year is targeted and supported by prayer and tens of thousands of letters to Congress.

B Personalize letters for greater impact.

The letter template from Bread for the World makes a compelling case (see sample below). Handwritten verbatim or with a personalized approach reinforces the priority of helping ALL live above the poverty line. Write and drop off your letter(s) in the baskets as you enter worship. Each letter is counted towards our goal of 250.

C Respond when it matters the most.

The sooner the better, as it will give compelling support to our elected representatives from their constituencies prior to key debates in mid-September. **MIND THE GAP** representatives will be available to assist with questions after some worship services. Please check the church bulletin for details.

Here's a sample Bread for the World letter:

Subject: Reject Budget Cuts that Increase Hunger

Dear (Member of Congress):

The executive fiscal year 2018 budget proposal includes deep and disproportionate cuts to critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. I am deeply opposed to such proposals that, if passed, would increase hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

In the U.S., 1 in 8 families struggles to put food on the table. Cutting trillions of dollars over the next decade in funding to programs that help low-income households, such as SNAP and Medicaid, would jeopardize food security for millions of families.

Right now, 20 million people are at risk of starvation due to the extraordinary famines in South Sudan, northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen. Recently, Congress allocated \$1 billion in additional funding to address famine. The impact from famine will persist in the coming years, therefore it is crucial that the U.S. continue to be a leader in foreign assistance. But beyond saving countless lives, our own nation's security is benefited by alleviating suffering and decreasing poverty to create a more stable and prosperous world. These programs are critical to U.S. leadership in the world.

Cutting funding to programs that address economic development to impoverished families in the U.S. and abroad will increase hunger and hardship. As Congress works on the 2018 budget and spending bills, I urge you to reject cuts to lifesaving programs.

Signed:

Pick letter recipient(s) – suggestions on other side . .

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Join us the third Sunday for **MIND THE GAP** meetings downtown FUMC at 11 am for ongoing education and cultivation of ideas for meaningful action.

MICHIGAN - CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

US SENATE, MICHIGAN SENATORS (they both represent all Michigan citizens):

Gary Peters,

Washington Office: Senator Gary Peters

Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 724

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-6221, Contact Gary Peters via email at: <https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

Debbie Stabenow,

Washington Office: Senator Debbie Stabenow

731 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-2204

Phone: 202-224-4822, Contact Debbie Stabenow via email at: <https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/contact>

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES -

Michigan is divided into 14 Districts, one Representative for each District, Find your District here, you enter your address: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/MI#representatives>

Many people from our church may be living in a district where one of the following Representatives is their district's representative:

12th District: Debbie Dingell

Washington Office:

Representative Debbie Dingell

116 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202-225-4071

Fax: 202-226-0371

Contact Debbie Dingell via email at: <https://debbiedingellforms.house.gov/contact/>

7th District: Tim Walberg

Washington Office:

Representative Tim Walberg

2435 Rayburn HOB

Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202-225-6276

Fax: 202-225-6281

Contact Tim Walberg via email at: <https://walberg.house.gov/contact/email>