

Enslow Park Presbyterian Hosts Evening to Support Ukraine

Sunflower Seeds, Inc., Tri-State Aid for Ukraine, will be introduced to area residents in a service of vibrant prayer and music honoring Ukraine's Defense of Democracy on Friday, February 24, at 7 p.m. at Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, 1338 Enslow Blvd. in Huntington. Mayor Steve Williams will speak as well as local experts on Ukraine and its tortured relationship to Russia.

The mission of Sunflower Seeds is to raise awareness of Ukraine's struggle against an unprovoked invasion by Russia and raise resources to be channeled directly to Ukrainian refugees who have fled their homeland.

February 24 marks one year since Russian troops and tanks, directed by President Vladimir Putin, invaded Ukraine and started the war. The Enslow Park service will invite those assembled to join in fervent prayer for an end to the war and relief for the beleaguered Ukrainian people.

Music for the service will be provided by the church choir and piano soloist Nancy Asbury. Also, the Huntington High School Chamber Choir will sing "Total Praise" and "The Prayer of the Children." A Taize' group, Springs of New Hope, based at New Hope United Methodist Church in Proctorville, Ohio, will lead the assembly into a conclusion of songs and meditative silences.

Sunflower Seeds, a nonprofit organization, is acting in partnership with the City of Orange, France, to provide clothing, food, medicine, and sanitary supplies to Ukrainian refugees now living in Jaroslaw, Poland, a sister city of Orange. The people of Jaroslaw have been gracious and generous in accommodating the refugees, but their resources are stretched thin, and thus they requested help from Orange.

Refugees are predominantly women and children, as able-bodied men are back home fighting the invaders.

The prayer service will be led by Pastor John Yeager. Besides Mayor Williams, speakers will include Robert McCollister, a specialist on Ukraine and Russia who holds a Ph.D. in political science from The Ohio State University, and Sandrine Pierre, Ph.D., interim director of the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and a native of Orange.

Contributions to Sunflower Seeds will be conveyed directly to Orange to allay fuel costs for the caravan of supplies and also to purchase additional supplies for Ukrainian refugees. Apart from the service, donations may be given through the Sunflower Seeds website at www.sunflowerseedstristate.com. For more information, contact Pastor John Yeager at 304-360-1198 or yeagiyogi@gmail.com.