

YWCA of Palestine Jalazone Kindergarten and Community Center

What better way to support a more sustainable and hopeful future than to support and educate future generations? The YWCA of Palestine, a United Church of Christ partner through Global Ministries and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, has engaged local Palestinian communities since 1893.

Today, it offers programs of economic empowerment, women's rights, youth leadership, and children's education. An example of the latter is the YWCA's nursery schools and kindergartens in refugee camps, schools the YWCA has run for decades. In addition to regular classes, the YWCA offers skill-based camps such as photography and sports, as well as other extracurricular activities at its schools.

In the occupied Palestinian West Bank, roughly one-fourth of the 900,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations live in 19 refugee camps. The YWCA kindergarten in the Jalazone Refugee Camp near Ramallah is a sign of hope for a community that has endured over 75 years of displacement.

The school and connected community center address the needs of over 80 children and their families within the camp. In a place that is often subjected to raids and night-time patrols by the Israeli military, children are not immune from the trauma the residents of the camp experience. As a result, the YWCA has added awareness and counselling sessions to regular classes to help improve the psychological well-being of the children there.

The opportunities that the YWCA affords the community through the kindergarten benefit the children, their families, and the teachers as well, providing a safe space for play and employing techniques to cope with the stress of daily life living in subpar circumstances of a refugee camp under military occupation.

The pride the children have when they dress up for their graduation ceremony is palpable. They enjoy the celebration of their accomplishment, and anticipate their next stages of education and life better able and prepared for the challenges they will face.



“The Macklin Bible—Esther Accusing Haman”

By William Hamilton and Francesco Bartolozzi

Purim Introduction**Purim Prayer**

Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, Master of the universe,

who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us regarding the reading of the Scripture. Amen

Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, Master of the universe,

who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time. Amen.

Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, Master of the universe,

who has kept us alive and has sustained us, and brought us to this season. Amen.

Hymn #211 “Lord Jesus, Who Through 40 Days”**Interactive Reading**

Banquet- “Let’s Party!”

Esther- “oooooo, aahhhh”

Eunuch/s- *clap twice

Haman- “BOOOOO”

Jew/s- “Children of God”

King Ahasuerus- *Trumpet Noises

Mordecai- “Praise God”

Officials- “Blah, Blah, Blah”

Vashti- “No thank you!”

First reading of Esther Chapters 1-3**Hymn #49 “Ask me what Great Things I Know”****Second reading of Esther Chapter 4-7:8****Pastoral Prayer – The Lord’s Prayer****Third reading of Esther Chapter 7:9-10****Invitation to Generosity****Moment for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing****Musical Offering****Doxology**

Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below,

Praise God, above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, with these gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We acknowledge that it may well have been for this time and place we were born. We give thanks for our ability to make changes for the better in our troubled world. Amen.

Hymn #506 “What a Friend”**Benediction****Postlude**

General Giving

Cover Letter: “The Macklin Bible—Esther Accusing Haman” Hamilton, William 1751-1801 ; Bartolozzi, Francesco, 1727—1815 <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20250220431703739&code=act&RC=54115&Row=12>

Please join us for a Purim Feast today after worship in the Fellowship Hall.