

## Peace Moment for Oct. 23

Earlier this summer, I had the chance to meet Irenya. She now lives with her husband and children in Germany, but except for her sister, the rest of her family is living in the middle of the war in Ukraine. Every morning, she lifted her family in prayer as we prayed in the peace garden to start our day. Her prayers were some of the strongest I have ever heard. Her voice was always steady, her words were filled with firm belief, and the peace that came around our group strengthened me.

I also met Claire. She is the pastor of a congregation in London, England. Their work for peace began by tying blue and yellow ribbons around the railings at their church building. This caught the attention of the leaders who were working with many refugees. Through a series of next steps, they are now part of the group who is trying to resettle 750 refugees from Ukraine.

I should have expected that I would meet people in Community of Christ, both who were connected to the experience of war torn, Ukraine. But I'm still surprised that now I have faces and names of people who are suffering and working for peace. The Ukraine conflict has become more personal for me. It's not just on the other side of the world.

Michael, the man who led our mornings in the Peace Garden, pointed out to us that on those days that we were meeting in early August, there were actually 27 different wars going on across the globe. So much devastation and desperation for all involved. Let us pray for unity. Let us pray for hope. Let us continue to pray for peace.

### Questions for Meditation:

1. In what places do you experience peace? Is there a peace garden near you? Do you have a peace place?
2. In what ways can you be generous for refugees? What basics could you share?

### Prayer for Peace:

Loving God, as we lift our hearts and minds towards you this evening, fill us with your love and peace. Help us be more aware of others needs and be sensitive to knowing what to do about these needs. Help us be more aware of ways to create peace. May our generosity be a light for another's way. May we share our faith as walk with each one. May your love and peace guide and direct us. AMEN.