

17 december 2023 – 7 januari 2024
Stevenskerk, Nijmegen



Discover Ukraine Festival program

Get to know Ukrainian culture,
history and festive traditions.

From December 17 until January 7 Stevenskerk focuses attention on Ukraine. With a varied program for young and old, the Stevenskerk aims to bring the culture of Ukraine closer. Together with concerned organizations and volunteers, we express our support in the fight against Russian aggression.

Organized by Stevenskerk in cooperation with Nijmegen4Ukraine, Volya Ukraine, Institute of Eastern Christianity (IVOC), Oecumenisch Citypastoraat Nijmegen (OCP), Spadeateliers.

Daily

December 17 – January 7

Icon exhibition on ammunition boxes from Ukraine

This special exhibition consists of 25 icons that were painted on ammunition boxes by two Ukrainian icon masters, Oleksandr Klymenko and Sonya Atlantova. They have been painting the icons on ammunition boxes found at the frontlines since 2014.

These special icons are for sale, and the proceeds will go to healthcare projects in Ukraine.

Sunday, December 17, 14:30 hrs

Opening of the icon exhibition on ammunition boxes from Ukraine

The artists, Oleksandr Klymenko and Sonya Atlantova will talk about their work. In addition, a discussion is planned with the participation of the Ambassador of Ukraine Oleksandr Karasevych, and prof. dr. Alfons Brüning, a Dutch expert on religion and art. Ukrainian Mariia Oliinyk will also tell a personal story about healthcare in times of war.

The event will be complemented by Ukrainian songs performed by Ukrainian ensemble "Makivka".

Sunday, December 24, 14:00 hrs

Reading

Reading Ukrainian and Dutch books to kids

Monday, December 25, 15:00 hrs

Voluntary contribution

Registration required

Christmas dinner for everyone who cannot be at home

250 guests are invited to Steven's Church to sit together at nicely decorated tables and tell stories and share some hope, with of course delicious drinks and food.

This special dinner is prepared by young people with migrant background. There will be music performances, and who knows, maybe some dancing together.

Thursday, January 4, 14:30 hrs

Discussion on the war in Ukraine: Perspectives from historians and experts on international relations

Historians from Radboud University and Kyiv-Mohyla University Wim de Meurs and Olexiy Haran, as well as representatives from Dutch and Ukrainian diplomatic missions, will reflect on Russian war in Ukraine from a historical perspective.

Join the discussion and ask your questions!

The discussion will be followed by a piano recital of Ukrainian songs by Dutch composer Frans Welthout.

Thursday January 4, 4:00 PM

Documentary Culture vs. War

Exclusive screening of the documentary from a Ukrainian project Culture vs. War, an artistic study about Ukrainian artists who defend the country and create new meanings of Ukrainian culture.

January 2, 3, 4, 5 - 2:30 PM

Screening of documentaries about Ukraine (in Ukrainian, with English subtitles)

Let's have a talk with Ukrainian people about the screened documentaries and issues they cover.

2 jan. Unbreakable Children. I am waiting". The documentary tells about the challenges Ukrainian children have faced since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. Ukrainian children prove by their actions that nothing is impossible. They remain unbreakable against all odds..

3 jan. National Treasure – about the importance, variety, and significance of Ukrainian vyshyvanka (Ukrainian embroidery).

4 jan. Nightingale sings, until it has its voice – a documentary studying the Ukrainian language and its survival under Russian colonization.

5 jan. What does Ukraine's independence hide? – about the proclamation of Ukrainian independence in 1991.

Sunday, January 7, 2:30 PM

Closing of the Discover Ukraine Festival.

Together with the closing of the winter weeks in the Steven's Church, there will be a festive closing of the Discover Ukraine Festival with speakers and music. This is the last day to take part in the workshops. Reading to kids from Dutch and Ukrainian books will also be organized.

Workshops

17, 18, 19, 21, 22 December, 11:00 AM – 16:00 hrs

Let's embroider together

Anyone can join our workshops on embroidering using the traditional elements from Ukrainian "vyshyvanka". We would like to make a big table cloth together, as a way of supporting each other through creativity.

28, 29, 30 December – 2 January – 11:00 AM – 16:00 hrs

1 January – 14:00 – 16:00 hrs

Send your wishes to Ukraine

Join our creative workshops on making New Years wishing cards. During the workshops you can create unique cards with your wishes that will be sent to Ukraine to cheer up Ukrainian children and people who fight for freedom.

3, 4, 5, January – 11:00 – 16:00 hrs

Workshop: Making traditional crafts together in Ukrainian style

Would you like to make a doll, a bird, a sheep, a goat, or a star, all out of natural materials? Come and join the artist Olga Zhukova in making colourful items from straw. She will come to Nijmegen for three days and will give workshops for kids and adults.

Join the fun in any language you speak, it will be understandable even without words!

Additionally, you can sing along to Ukrainian carols – traditional songs for Christmas.

January 6 – 11:00 – 16:00 hrs

Workshop: Petrykivka painting with Olena Smirnova

Learn to paint in the unique and characteristic Ukrainian painting style Petrykivka (on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage) together with a Ukrainian artist, Olena Smirnova. (participation from 13 years)

Ukraine souvenirs

During the festival you can buy traditional Ukrainian handmade souvenirs: gifts for home, fashion items and decorations.