



PNEC Disaster Ministries

Update

10/11/2017

Are you or your mission team at your church ready to take a trip to help those affected by the recent disasters? Below is a list of places that are ready to have volunteers come and help.

Disaster Sites Ready for Volunteers



Houston, Texas, Hurricane Harvey – Intermediate Response, October – November 2017

Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas on August 25 as a Category 4 hurricane with 130 mph winds. The storm caused widespread flooding and significant damage across southern Texas and Louisiana as the slow moving storm dropped several feet of water throughout the region. UCC pastors describe the experience and more in [this video](#) “Love Them Back to Life”. [Click here](#) for full information and to volunteer.



Volusia County, Fla., Hurricanes Irma & Matthew Recovery (Daytona Beach area): Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida on Sept. 10, 2017 with record-force winds and storm surges. The storm then continued north to Georgia and South Carolina. Millions of people in Florida evacuated or moved to approved shelters before the storm hit. The storm caused extensive damage. Hurricane Matthew hit the same areas in October 2016. Hurricane Matthew passed just offshore Volusia County, Fla., on Oct. 7, 2016, and inflicted tremendous damage. Dozens of homes were destroyed and hundreds suffered major damage, with more than \$600 million in estimated losses. UCC Disaster Ministries has partnered with VIND (Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking in Disasters) to assist households to repair/rebuild homes, e.g. roofing, gutting interiors, replacing insulation, siding, drywall repair and painting, flooring and other interior work as needed. [Click here for full information and to volunteer.](#)



Baton Rouge, LA, Flood Recovery: Catastrophic flooding in August 2016 damaged thousands of homes. Residents still live in temporary housing struggling to rebuild their lives. Volunteers are needed to repair and rebuild homes. Teams that sign up to serve in Baton Rouge may apply for scholarships (grants) from UCC Disaster Ministries to help defray their costs. [Click here for more information and to schedule.](#)



West Virginia Flood Recovery: Storms in the spring of 2015 damaged more than 800 homes and left 200 bridges damaged or destroyed. People still do not have proper access to shelter and other needs. Repair and rehab of damaged homes is still needed. All recovery efforts are being directed through **West Virginia VOAD** (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). Schedule your volunteer efforts through *Ohio Conference Disaster Coordinator, Jim Ditzler* at 330-262-3242 or jditzler@ssnnet.com.

If you cannot go and serve in a physical way you can...

1. **Pray**- If all of us pray for the survivors of the recent hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes that will be many, many needed prayers! Ask your friends and family to pray with us.
2. **Donate**- Monetary donations are the best way to make sure those affected will get the help they will desperately need. The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries has set up online donations at:

<https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Hurricane+Harvey+relief>

Or if you prefer to donate by mail:

make checks payable to United Church of Christ, with "Hurricane Harvey" in the memo. Mail to: United Church of Christ c/o Financial Services, 700 Prospect Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

UCC Disaster Ministries helps with long term recovery. So after all the news crews are gone, we will be there to help with unmet needs. Giving to Disaster Ministries helps those who are most vulnerable.

3. **Assemble CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets or Hygiene Kits –**

There is an urgent need for Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Buckets. A shopping list of the items that need to be in the bucket can be found at:

<http://cwskits.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CWS-Emergency-Cleanup-Buckets.pdf>

CWS will also need Hygiene Kits which can be assembled from the shopping list that is found at:

<http://cwskits.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CWS-Hygiene-Kit.pdf>

After your buckets or hygiene kits are complete, you can bring them to **one of our 3 drop off locations**:

1. Jordan UCC in South Whitehall Township. Jordan UCC, 1837 Church Rd, Allentown, PA 18104.
2. PNEC Conference Office, Palmerton will also accept buckets. Please call the conference office to arrange drop off at that location (610-826-3113).
3. Christ U.C.C. 460 Main Street in Conyngham, PA 18219 will accept completed buckets or kits. Please contact Pastor Sandy Murphy to arrange drop off at 570-956-4980 cell.

PNEC Disaster Ministries will transport the buckets and hygiene kits to Church World Service, New Windsor, Maryland. The first delivery date to CWS for buckets and kits will be in mid October. We hope that with this active hurricane season and other disasters, congregations will continue to make and collect kits over the next few months so that we can help Church World Service keep up with the demand.

We can all help the people experiencing such devastating loss. One small act of kindness can make a difference in someone's life. Please consider helping our "neighbors" in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and areas affected by the hurricanes and other disasters.

For questions please contact:

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