



Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

Missions and Community Impact Newsletter

The purpose of Wesley Memorial is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world

Wesley's Response to the WNC Hurricane

During the first week after hurricane Helene hit the mountains of North Carolina, Wesley Memorial sent a truck load of supplies to the Weaverville United Methodist Church. In addition, over \$36,000 has been raised which allowed \$12,000 to be immediately shared equally by Samaritan's Purse, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and the Weaverville United Methodist Church to purchase critically needed supplies including food.

In the interim, your missions committee has met a number of times to develop a long term plan which we know will be changed as conditions and needs change in the communities. We have started looking for places where we can live out the part of our purpose



statement which states that we are "...living in ways that will transform the world". Transforming the world can be to assist the people in Western North Carolina who need food, something to keep them warm, a safe place for them and their families to sleep, and some assurance that they are not alone in this tragedy.

We are contacting small churches in out of the way places to determine if our assistance is needed and what they really need in their community. Please know that we will be seeking answers and NOT pretending that we know best or know what they need.

Rev. Lyon will be going back to Weaverville UMC with another truck load of supplies and food. The

previous truck load of food and supplies was delivered on a Friday and totally gone by Sunday. Members of the church pitched in and did a wonderful job of getting help to those who needed it.

Moving forward - at least for the next few months we will be centering our response using the following priorities: #1 Saving lives, #2 Providing safe water, #3 Providing food, #4 Providing safe shelter #5 Attention to children. This list will change over time as needs change and as we get new information.

What's next? Starting in November we will start collecting blankets; good, slightly used coats of all sizes, hats, gloves, boots, etc. The average temperature at this time of year in the mountains is 52-high 29-low. For those who have lost their homes or lodging this will be a needed gift.

For clothing and blanket donations you may bring them to the Bridge Cafe or main office. Additional funds will be sent to qualified recipients like Samaritans Purse, etc. for use in Western North Carolina. Also, at the end of November we will be preparing "winter bags" with hand warmers, gloves, and other items. There will be an announcement in the bulletin and elsewhere asking for you to come before or after church to help assemble these bags.

Finally, the next missions meeting will happen on October 29th to which all are invited. Our response is an agenda item for sure. If you can't come but have a thought, please contact one of the missions team members who will present your idea/thought. A list of team members is on the back.

Special note: Part of the current donations sent to Wesley Memorial will be sent to Samaritans Purse and the community of Weaverville. Just like UMCOR, there will be NO charges for administration. All funds go to the projects. If you decide to donate directly please put Hurricane Relief, North Carolina in the memo line to avoid administrative fees of 10%.

Needed Items as of 10/13/2024

- Diapers - all sizes
- Baby formula
- Baby wipes
- Blankets
- New and gently used and clean coats for children, teens and adults
- Gloves
- Hats

Mission Team Members

Charles Surles **Chair**
Brenda Coates Member
Pat Colonna Member
Ken Gulledge Member
Matt Heald Member
Joe Lorber Member
Jane Lutz Member
April Maines Member
Becky Scholtz Member
Buddy Wilson Member
Rev. Ken Lyon . . . Staff Liaison
David Adams Lay Leader

As we continue to pray for those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene, consider giving towards the disaster relief fund here at Wesley Memorial. All proceeds go towards aiding our neighbors in Western North Carolina. To make your donations, please scan the QR code and choose the drop-down option: Disaster Relief-WNC or visit our website at www.wesleymemorial.org/give and choose the same drop-down option mentioned above. May the Lord bless you for your generosity and kindness towards your neighbors in need.



Teams from Samaritans Purse showed up in Avery County (Linville, Newland) and immediately went to work about a day after the storm subsided. The organization puts together teams of 50 volunteers to attack projects in assigned areas. They will stay in the area until they are not needed anymore long after other organizations leave.

In addition to Western North Carolina, the organization has volunteer teams working in South Carolina and Florida. www.samaritanspurse.org

