

AN APPEAL FOR OUR FINANCIAL HELP

ONE OF OUR SISTER CONGREGATIONS,
LITTLE FARMS UCC OF RIVER RIDGE, LOUISIANA,
SUFFERED SEVERE DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE IDA



SOME ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE SPENT TIME AND ENERGY AS VOLUNTEERS IN NEW ORLEANS FOLLOWING HURRICANE KATRINA. LITTLE FARMS UCC WAS OUR ANCHOR LOCATION. WE RECEIVED OUR INITIAL WELCOME AND BRIEFING IN THE LITTLE FARMS SANCTUARY, AND EVERY MORNING WE LOADED UP OUR TOOLS STORED IN THE STORAGE BARN IN THE "BACKYARD" OF LITTLE FARMS.

ON ONE TRIP OUR TEAM OF TEN VOLUNTEERS BUNKED IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS. WE ALSO PREPARED AND ATE OUR MEALS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND KITCHEN. LITTLE FARMS WAS LITERALLY OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR A WEEK.

THEN, IN AUGUST 2021, HURRICANE IDA CAME. THE STORM DAMAGED THE ROOF OF THE MAIN BUILDING, AND THE RAINS CAME POURING IN. THE RESULT: THE INTERIOR: THE SANCTUARY AND EDUCATION WING WERE FLOODED FROM ABOVE; NOTHING WAS SPARED.

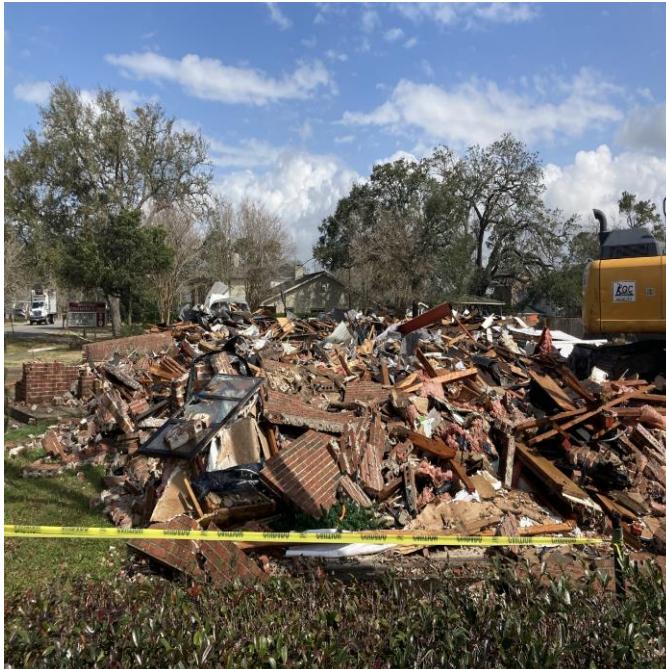


WATER-SOAKED PEWS



WET, MOLDY CEILINGS AND INSULATION

ON DECEMBER 6th, I RECEIVED A TEXT FROM REV. LASSALLE INDICATING THAT DAMAGE ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN DONE AND SO MUCH ASBESTOS WAS FOUND IN THE BUILDINGS THAT ADDITIONAL COSTS WERE NEEDED TO COVER FULL ASBESTOS ABATEMENT. SIGNIFICANT MOLD WAS ALSO FOUND IN THE BUILDING. SO THE CONGREGATION MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO DEMOLISH THE ENTIRE BUILDING AND REPLACE IT WITH A SMALLER, GREENER, MORE EFFICIENT MULTIPURPOSE STRUCTURE. DOWN CAME THE ENTIRE CAMPUS.



THE INSURANCE COVERAGE WILL NOT COVER THE COSTS FOR REPLACING THE ENTIRE BUILDING, WHICH ADDED TO DIFFICULTY TO THE CONGREGATION'S DECISION. BUT WITH LOVE AND HOPE-FILLED HEARTS, THE CONGREGATION DECIDED TO MOVE FORWARD CERTAIN THAT GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH LITTLE FARMS UCC YET!

WITH THIS IN MIND, I CHOSE TO EXPLORE CREATING A FUND TO ASSIST THE NEW CONSTRUCTION. I INVITE YOU TO USE THE "DONATE" BUTTON ON THE LITTLE FARMS UCC WEBSITE AND ADD A FEW DOLLARS TO THEIR REBUILD. JUST INCLUDE A MEMO THAT THE FUNDS ARE FOR THE REBUILD. LITTLE FARMS UCC IS ALSO ON VENMO: @LITTLEFARMS-UCC.

<https://www.lfucc.org/give>

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS,
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