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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE SEEKS TO BRING HOPE AND HEALING AFTER IDA, A CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE

AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT US, BECAUSE
GOD'S LOVE HAS BEEN POURED INTO OUR HEARTS
THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN
TO US.
— ROMANS 5:5

On August 29, 2021, Hurricane Ida slammed into the Gulf Coast. Ida's 150 mph winds made her the fifth strongest hurricane to in U.S. history. As news comes in of the storms devastating effects on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is organizing a response that will help sustain life and restore hope in the coming days.

"Our hearts break and rise up in prayer for the people of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, where the catastrophic damage from last year's hurricanes in Lake Charles, February's freeze and spring flooding, along with the continuing impact of COVID are still largely unrepaired, and the burden on the people of this hard-hit state is overwhelming," the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, director of PDA, said Sunday.

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) is the emergency response and refugee program of the denomination, committed to the long-term journey of recovery of communities adversely affected by a crisis or catastrophic event. It is funded by One Great Hour of Sharing and has designated funds for responding to specific disasters.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**



The Pastor's Page

*The gifts Christ gave were . . .
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.
— Ephesians 4:11-13*

If we, as we begin the month of September, look in the mirror, it's doubtful that we'll see it.
But if we look in the sanctuary, the likeness appears, clearly, vividly, unmistakably . . .
the likeness to the body of Christ,
a likeness that is visible even during a pandemic,
diverse parts united for God's purposes,
sinews of love joined in harmony,
shining as a lighthouse upon a darkened sea.

The body of Christ, blessed with the hands of New Covenant Community Church —
the hands that serve meals at Gennesaret, and write checks for the people of Haiti,
the hands that fill Buckets of Care for the Central American Medical Outreach,
the hands that place books in the hands of elementary school children and dig in the dirt
of the Community Garden to provide food for strangers.

The body of Christ, blessed with the heart of New Covenant Community Church —
a heart large enough to make a place for someone else
a heart that understands that other lives might be very different from our own
a heart that genuinely cares for our fellow human beings across the globe

The body of Christ, blessed with the voice of New Covenant Community Church —
a voice whose prayers refresh the world with the fragrance of newness,
a voice that trumpets the message of justice and peace with Christ's clarion call,
a voice whose melodies of faith intone new paradigms of faith, hope, and love.

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(Pastor's Page continued from page 2)

The body of Christ, blessed with the eyes of New Covenant Community Church –
the eyes to see another's tears and paint for them a rainbow in the sky . . .
the eyes to see beyond the present moment and envision a new horizon splashed with the
colors of God . . .
the eyes to see the beauty that unfolds before us when we recognize that there is neither
Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, but we are all one in
Christ Jesus.

The body of Christ, revealed through the disciples of New Covenant Community Church –
who display generosity by graciously offering our gifts to others . . .
who demonstrate compassion by truly caring about improving the quality of life for all
people . . .
who embody the virtues of patience and forgiveness when things don't proceed as
smoothly as we would like.

Yet, through the hands,
the hearts,
the voices,
the eyes, in this extension of the body of Christ,
someone will have enough to eat tonight
someone will have decent clothes to wear
someone will be much healthier
someone will learn the skills they need to survive
someone knows that there is at least one person in this world who cares.

And so, we continue to grow . . .
to grow in faith . . .
to grow as God's people . . .
to grow as the body of Christ . . .
until that glorious day when all humanity will be like Christ,
and all people will come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the
Son of God,
rejoicing in God's gift of abundant life
and celebrating in the kingdom of God
that will have come on earth, as it is already is in heaven.

Blessings,
tom



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of New Covenant Community Church,

With the beginning of September, Labor Day and the end of summer, we have much to be thankful for, some things to be sad for, and much to do.

We are saddened that the corona virus pandemic has not ended as quickly as we had hoped, and we mourn for those people who continue to get sick, and to die. And it certainly makes me sad that the freedom we seemed to enjoy from this disease, at least for a few months, turns out to have been a false dawn. I have no qualms at all about asking everyone to go back to wearing a mask when we worship together. I am very sorry that this is where we are now, but no hesitation at all to thinking that this small measure is necessary to protect each other. And what could we say about a Christian community whose people did not look out for each other? Not much good.

This reminds me of a thought that Susie Stevenor presented in an opening moment at the governing board meeting last week: "You may not always see the results of your kindness, but every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world makes it a better place for us all." (Credit to author Lisa Currie.) Certainly we don't see any immediate results from wearing a face mask or from other actions we take to slow the spread of an invisible virus, but the benefits are real. And it applies to so many other aspects of life. I have been surprised more than once in my life when someone has told me that something I did years earlier had made a positive impact in that person's life. (I am also afraid that there have been many times when I have been a destructive force in people's lives. But so far, most of that has not been thrown back in my face. Call me lucky, perhaps. But I need to seek forgiveness for those thoughtless and cruel actions just the same.)

There is so much sadness and heartbreak in the world, but we should be thankful (and directly express our thanks) for the efforts of our Missions Committee, which organizes ways for us to relieve some of this suffering. For just one instance, in this past month, after an earthquake and a hurricane hit Haiti in quick succession, New Covenant was able to commit funds from our budget and addition funds from a special collection to help serve human need in Haiti.

With school resuming for the fall, we are looking forward to our annual book fair at Portage Path school (again, organized by the Missions Committee). Since we were able to add Case, a second school to our efforts to support reading in the schools this past spring, we will be asking for contributions toward the Portage Path effort this fall. Please consider prayerfully what you will be able to contribute. (PRESIDENT' continued on page 5)



(PRESIDENT continued from page 4)

Maybe you didn't notice, but in the past month, our steeple was repainted. It had been getting to look a little tired, if you really looked, and our goal was to get it fixed up again before it became a noticeable eye-sore. Great work was done by Thomarios Painting, and we are grateful that they took the initiative to fill in and re-seed the trench left in the grass by their cherry-picker lift, at no additional cost over their bid.

The personnel committee has been searching out and reviewing resumes, and interviewing candidates for a permanent Music Director to lead hymns and anthems in our worship. Interim Music Director, Olivia Roberts, certainly set a very high standard. Our best wishes to her as she returns to Capital University.

As the year rolls on into fall, the mission garden continues to produce fresh vegetables for Gennesaret's food ministry. The three new trees in the east yard have each grown more than a foot this year despite the stress of being mailed from Georgia and transplanted last fall. Flowers continue to bloom, and colorful monarch butterfly caterpillars are feeding on plants in our garden. (Forgive me if I am a little less pleased about the deer that come and chew some of our flowers down to the ground. But they need to eat too, I suppose.)

Thank you, all of you, for making up such a kind and caring Christian community. I am a better person for being a part of it.

In Christ's service, Tim Meyer
Governing Board President (2021)



Fall Picnic Supper

**Thursday
September 23, 2021
5:30 p.m.**

Come celebrate the first full day of autumn, at the Fall Picnic Supper in the form of a hot dog roast. The Fellowship Committee will supply the hot dogs, buns, condiments and plates, along with the iced tea, water and lemonade. If you plan to attend, please sign up to bring baked beans (Marty, do you hear this??), 2 bags of chips, coleslaw, any vegetable salad, fruit salad and either cookies or brownies for dessert. We will eat outside (weather permitting). Sign up then show up.



WOW! What a Wonderful Harvest





HELP US WELCOME

Kathy Tschiegg, RN, BBA,
Founder of CAMO USA & Fundación CAMO
Honduras International Director Fundación
CAMO Honduras Executive Director CAMO USA

Kathy Tschiegg started [Central American Medical Outreach \(CAMO\)](#) 25 years ago, out of a duffle bag in her living room. Now, she is the Board President of the INSSA (a for-profit organization) where all the profit is given to the non-profit CAMO entities. CAMO is now a multi-million dollar international non-profit entity that delivers education, medical services, and community development. CAMO provides more than 140,000 services per year in Honduras. Kathy spends half the year living and working in Honduras and the other half at CAMO's headquarters, which is based in her hometown of Orrville, OH. Please help us welcome her, when she comes to speak on during our September 26th service.



*Give me my roses
while I'm living.*

**These roses are for the members of
the Worship Committee.**

**They seamlessly moved worship
online when COVID restrictions
forced us to lock down.**

**Now they are searching for ways to
minimize the affects of not having
a music director.**

Thank You.



NEW INITIATIVES GROUP

Our first meeting in quite awhile is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 7, 10:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Coordinators for the group are Nancy Clem, Cathy King, and Nancy Williams. Remember, that everyone is a member and can suggest activities at any time. Our purpose is to get others inside our church.

On the agenda:

Mitzvah Day participation October 2—3
Trunk or Treat, October 30,
and a monthly food drive to benefit a local school or organization

MITZVAH DAY

Started by Temple Israel several years ago, Mitzvah Day involves 8-10 congregations—Faith Lutheran, St. Hilary, Fairlawn West, New Hope Baptist, Temple Israel, Akron First Seventh Day Adventist, ISAK, The UU Church of Akron, and others-- that gather for two days to work on various community-based projects, then gather for a final dinner at Temple Israel the last evening (which is October 3 this year). Congregations sign up for projects such as painting a home for a family, sprucing up the grounds, knitting scarves, doing crafts with kids, etc.

Two years ago, I provided a dish and attended the dinner along with several others from our congregation, two speaker sessions before the dinner. The dinner is at Temple Israel, outside. This is a great way to interact with others from various congregations. Details still being worked out. A brief brochure listing the volunteer options will follow soon.

JOIN 15+ AKRON AREA
CONGREGATIONS AND
ORGANIZATIONS IN A DAY OF
CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

**OCT
2-3
2021**

**MITZVAH
DAY
WEEKEND!**



For more information please contact
socialaction@templeisraelakron.org

MITZVAHDAYAKRON.COM

Ladies, be sure to sign up for the upcoming ladies' luncheon, Sunday, September 5th. (September 12th, we won't be in the building, because of the worship service at Tadmor.) The lunch will be at:

Beau's Grille
3180 W Market St.

Tuesday, September 14th, 11:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, please talk with Clarita Rader or Mary Lindsay.

LADIES' LUNCHEON



BACK-TO-SCHOOL CARNIVAL

On August 19, torrential rains poured down on Akron prior to the 4:00 p.m. set up time, on the grounds of Buchtel High School. But, that didn't stop us from having the Back-to-School Carnival, sponsored by AAIC, Global Ties Akron, WISH (Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage group), and the Interfaith Social Justice group.

The carnival quickly moved into one of the gyms, and we hurriedly set up tables with activities and school supplies, then prepared to receive students and their families at 5:00. Our church was not a sponsor, as previously reported, but two members from our church did volunteer.

This was a very successful first-time event, and it gave the faith community an opportunity to assist students and their families in the Buchtel cluster.

- Nancy Williams



AAIC MEETING

The September AAIC meeting is scheduled for the 14th at noon on Zoom or in person at Temple Israel's large Fellowship Hall. The meeting won't be held on the first Tuesday of the month because of Rosh Hashanah. The Zoom link, passcodes and phone numbers will be sent next week.



Back-to-School Carnival Pictures



Akron Area Interfaith Council
Our Faith is the GLUE
That holds us TOGETHER



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 12—10:00 AM

On Sunday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m., we will have the joy of participating in an outdoor worship service and picnic at Tadmor Shrine (3000 Krebs Drive). Not only will we celebrate with our sisters and brothers at Allenside Presbyterian Church, North Springfield Presbyterian Church, and Firestone Park Presbyterian Church, but we will also have the opportunity to share in a Service of the Blessing of the Animals. So, you are invited to bring your four-footed family members with you (but also please have them on a leash or in a pet carrier). The folks from Firestone Park will bring hot dogs and condiments. Our congregation is asked to bring cold sides (such as potato salad, fruit, coleslaw, etc). Please mark your calendars for this meaningful time of worship. In the case of inclement weather, we will gather at the Firestone Park Presbyterian Church.



DID SOMEONE SAY DOG TREATS?

Yes, dog treats will be offered during the Tadmor service, September 12th. And, there will be human treats. Please sign up to bring a cold side dish.

