



LEDGEWOOD LIGHT

Ledgewood Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

“A BEACON ON THE HILL”



Rev. Heidi L. Barham, Pastor
Alissa Bodner, Pianist
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SEPTEMBER 2017

A CATAclySM, THEN A RAINBOW ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS STORM

*By Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Associate Director for Week of Compassion
(August 28, 2017)*

Sometime in the middle of last week, I started tracking Tropical Storm Harvey - an "interesting" and "unusual" storm in the Gulf of Mexico. Over the next two days, the storm rapidly increased in strength from a tropical storm to a hurricane, the descriptors also increased in severity.

By this morning, newscasters were becoming adept at finding synonyms for "catastrophic." No words seem to communicate the extent, the severity, the unprecedented reality of the situation in Texas. A good contender is "cataclysmic" - meaning, in various uses, "a sudden and momentous event marked by overwhelming upheaval and demolition," or "related to a deluge."

Harvey and its ongoing effects are certainly marked by overwhelming upheaval and undoubtedly relate to a deluge. As a disaster, it is the most severe weather event in the United States in over a decade. It will be days before the storm passes, months before we have a sense of the total damage, and years before the affected communities really recover.

According to recent FEMA estimates, more than 400,000 households have sustained damage, including dozens of families from our Disciples churches near where Harvey made landfall and in the greater Houston area. Several Disciples church buildings have also been damaged in the storm. At the time of landfall, and during the several hours of sustained Hurricane force winds, Iglesia Cristiana Betania lost their roof and had water damage to the sanctuary. Cypress Creek Christian Church in Spring, TX has severe flooding, and presumably several other churches across the Houston area do as well. ("Presumably," because roads to the churches have been impassable, preventing confirmation of the damage pastors and members suspect.)

The more than 50 inches of rain have caused cascading emergency situations. The reservoirs that help control water flow in the bayous (which under typical conditions helps prevent flooding), are beyond capacity, causing flooding behind the dams and necessitating the release of water into bayous already running high. Creeks and streams continue to rise. Along the Brazos River, levees have been insufficient to hold back the cresting waters. As several of our Disciples pastors in the area have told me, "it's bad, and it keeps getting worse." *(continued on page 2)*

(cont'd) Another definition of cataclysmic comes to my mind, though, as I think of all I have heard from our friends and colleagues: from geology: "related to a sudden physical action producing changes." True, the connotation of the word is still usually negative, but it brings to my mind a positive association as well. Disciples across the state (and, really, far beyond the boundaries of Texas) have taken actions that have produced changes.

Pastors, trapped in their houses by flooded streets - sometimes battling the water from their very doorsteps with trenches, buckets, and whatever means available - have ministered to their anxious and scattered congregations, through virtual prayer services, phone calls, and offers of shelter, if people can reach them safely.

Friends living thousands of miles away have connected people in need to people with resources who could help. Those few who had passable roads have taken blankets and towels to the evacuation shelters.

As of 9:30pm Central, Kingwood Christian Church was housing 70 people who were evacuated from the rising waters of Lake Houston, according to Pastor Amber Mattingly. Neighbors provided food and supplies, and so far, the power has stayed on. Even with the anxiety of the evacuation and the pressing task of finding 70+ air mattresses, those gathered at KCC took a moment to celebrate a birthday, complete with a cupcake and candle.

On the opposite side of the Houston metro area, Pastor Heather Tolleson is trapped in her house in Katy. She said to Week of Compassion staff earlier today: "I can't get out. But when the storm passes in a few days we will use our church [First Christian Church, Katy] as a site for healing and to help rebuild our community. There is a rainbow on the other side of the storm."

The last few days have been grim and heartbreaking. At the same time, we have witnessed once again the incredible power of compassion, generosity, and love of one another. As area minister for the Coastal Plains Area wrote earlier today, "We know that such a catastrophic disaster will take a very long season of recovery, and being bathed in the love and care from brothers and sisters in Christ will be instrumental in our healing and reclaiming of the peace and wholeness we all desire."

Week of Compassion will continue to be in communication with Disciples in the affected areas and to monitor the ongoing situation. Together with the area and region, we are working to get support to the families and churches that have experienced damage from the floods. We are also looking toward long-term recovery, which we anticipate will take several years. Harvey has been cataclysmic, but we, followers of a Christ who broke even the bonds of death, know about actions that produce great change. We will continue to act, together.

Please consider donating to Week of Compassion to support these communities that have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey. 100% of your gifts designated for Hurricane Harvey will provide immediate relief and long-term rebuilding in the days, weeks, and years ahead. Thank you.



A Note from the Pastor:

As we sit roughly one week out from the initial wave of devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, the nation braces in anticipation of yet another storm, Hurricane Irma. The stories of lives lost, homes destroyed and people displaced are heartbreaking. And the thought of what may yet be on the horizon is terrifying. But even in the midst of such horrible tragedy, there is still hope.

In the weeks leading up to Hurricane Harvey, our country found itself dealing with the aftermath of Charlottesville, VA, where people used their First Amendment right to free speech to spew words of hate; words of hate that escalated quickly into acts of violence that ultimately resulted in the death of a young woman, Heather Heyer. In those moments, we saw what was undoubtedly the worst side of humanity, pure unadulterated hate and evil.

But in the days and weeks since then – first with the peaceful protests in Boston, MA and now in the relief efforts in Texas and Louisiana – we are seeing the best side of humanity. The side of humanity that reminds us of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35 – 36, *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me"* (NIV).

Throughout our history, it has often been the case that great tragedy has brought the opportunity for us to show our best selves. Perhaps not coincidentally in just a few days, the nation will pause to remember the horrific events that took place on September 11, 2001 – another point in time when we pulled together as a nation and put Christ's love into action.

It is in moments like these, that we, as the church have the opportunity to serve as Christ's hands and feet of compassion here on earth. Our love and our prayers will continue to go out to those who have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey. And throughout the month of September, Ledgewood Christian Church, in partnership with the Disciples' Week of Compassion, will be collecting funds to help with the relief efforts. We hope that you will partner with us in showing Christ's love through action so that we may be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in need.

Your Pastor and friend,

Rev. Heidi

You know that whole...

**LOVE ONE
ANOTHER...**

I meant that.

-GOD

A Little LIGHT Humor...

As the school year gets off to a start, here are a few real answers taken from science quizzes that we hope none of our students will ever use! *These were originally published in an Ann Landers column many years ago (date unknown).*

- To collect fumes of sulfur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.
- When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.
- Water is composed of two gins, oxygin and hydrogin. Oxygin is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water.
- Nitrogen is not found in Ireland because it is not found in a free state.
- When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire.
- Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.
- Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative.
- The moon is a planet just like Earth, only it is even deader.
- The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.
- A permanent set of teeth consists of eight canines, eight cuspidors, two molars and eight cuspidors.
- A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.
- Germinate: to become a naturalized German
- Rhubarb: a kind of celery gone bloodshot.
- The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is so that there is something to hitch the meat to.
- The body consists of three parts – the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain. The borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five – A, E, I, O and U.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



REGULAR SCHEDULE

Worship Service	Sundays – 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages	Sundays – 10:00 a.m.
WOW Bible Study for all ages	Every First Sunday 12:15 p.m.
Official Board Meeting	Every Second Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Ledgewood Men's Fellowship Free Breakfast	Every Third Saturday 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Disciple Women's Bible Study	Every Third Saturday 9:30 a.m.

Monday, September 4th **Labor Day** is an annual holiday to celebrate the achievements of workers. *Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement, specifically the eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest.*

Monday, September 11th **Patriot Day** By presidential proclamation, Patriot Day is observed in the United States on September 11, or 9/11, in memory of the thousands who lost their lives as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States that involved four hijacked planes. The observance also honors those who came to aid in the aftermath. Each year on Patriot Day, the U.S. flag is flown at half-staff. Citizens are asked to observe a moment of silence, usually at 8:46 a.m. EDT (when the first hijacked plane struck the World Trade Center in New York City), and are encouraged to devote the day and year to serving their neighbors and communities.

Saturday, September 16th *The Geauga County Public Library will host author Michael Hingson at the Newbury Auditorium at 2 p.m. to share his inspirational story of how he escaped from the World Trade Center on 9/11 with his seeing-eye dog Roselle. Their story inspired Hingson's book **Thunder Dog**. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Hingson's new seeing-eye dog, Africa, who will happily sign "pawtographs." (Additional attractions and activities begin at noon.) This event is free, but registration is required. Visit the GCPL website for more information: <http://GaugaLibrary.net>.*

Sunday, September 24th **The Annual Geauga County CROP Walk** will be held at Burton Fairgrounds at 1:30 PM. 25% of the funds raised at this event go to support Geauga County hunger cupboards. The remainder will help Church World Service in their efforts to provide food and clean drinking water to people around the world. All are invited to participate on the 24th by walking and/or by seeking donations for this outreach. Please help *End Hunger One Step at a Time*. See Jane Gray for more information.

THE CROP HUNGER WALK IMPACT

Regardless of its size, your gift can have an impact around the corner and around the globe. Here are some examples of what your gift could accomplish:

- \$1** ***\$10 of groceries:** U.S. Foodbanks can distribute \$10 worth of groceries for every \$1 given to them.*
- \$15** ***10 jerry cans:** ensure that water makes it into homes without contamination.*
- \$25** ***50 chicks:** a self-propagating food source for extra nutrition and extra income.*
- \$30** ***Seeds and tools for a garden:** added nutrition and income for families.*
- \$50** ***One meter of a shallow borehole well:** access to clean, safe water.*
- \$100** ***150 meals** in a food bank*
- \$125** ***222 pounds of food** distributed to families in need.*
- \$250** ***A pair of goats** to provide milk, fertilizer, protein and income.*
- \$1,000** ***Community seed bank:** the seeds a community needs for their individual kitchen gardens.*
- \$2,000** ***A pump** so a community has access to clean water (and the **training** to use and maintain it!).*
- \$7,000** ***All the assets needed for a sustainable garden,** including access to water for irrigation, seeds, tools and training.*



Sources: Mid-Ohio Foodbank (\$1) | Second Harvest Food Bank (\$50) | MSU Food Bank (\$100) | CWS Best Gift (all others)



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Twannamy McMillon	September 6	Kevin Gearhart	September 24
Marlene Perdan	September 17	Don Gray	September 29

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Kim Gearhart	October 4	Carol Erickson	October 22
Ruth Ann Angle	October 5	Ronald Barham	October 25
Jennifer Morris	October 10	Linda Miller	October 28
Eve Henderson	October 18		



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kristen (Erickson) & Derek Fansler	September 28
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OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

GiGi & Wayne Erickson	October 6
Rev. Heidi & Ron Barham	October 14
Kris & Bill Tidwell	October 15
Bonnie & Perry Howland	October 29

HELP WANTED!



HELP WANTED

Looking for crafters or other creative individuals interested in leading one Youth Sunday School lesson per month. The craft or activity should be based on Scripture or reinforce a good message. Please see Elder June Angle if you are interested or for more details.

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Ledgewood Christian Church Youth Ministry is continuing their outreach efforts to collect donations for their on-going support of the Geauga County Hunger Cupboards.

We have been invited to partner with the Burton United Christian Church (*the location of one of the county's seven food cupboards*) in answering a "special need" each month.

For September, that "special need" is toiletries, such as soap, tooth paste, deodorant, shaving cream and shampoo. The bin for donations is located in the narthex. Your contributions of non-perishable foods and "special need items" are all greatly appreciated!