

The Virginia Christian

October 2024 Special Edition

www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian



Hurricane Helen

Dear All,

Thank you for the many ways everyone is attempting to help. We are stronger together and I know we all want to help, so here is what we can do together. Attached is a flyer with good stuff about what to do at this point....from clean-up buckets (see attached), to giving to Week of Compassion (<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/give.html>). Also, be ready to sign up for the Region Wide Mission trips to areas in the coming months and years. If/when we learn of specific needs that call for a Pony-express style transfer of items to an area, we will let you know. There are a lot of needs so lets all find ways we can add our part to help as many as possible. It will be a long recovery so please keep praying, but lets start planning on working together to help.

We are learning slowly that churches in the western part of Virginia are without power, internet and water in different places.

From Galax Minister, Rev. Glen Sage:

“I am checking in from First Christian Church in Galax. We have wide-spread power outages in the Galax area. I have been without power at my home since Thursday, Sept. 26th. I have been running on a generator since that time so no problems at my house. I am a ham radio operator so I am gearing up to assist the Red Cross over a ten county area in SW Virginia during damage assessments. We have many secondary roads still closed in our area. There is one shelter open in Galax. Bottled water is difficulty to find in the area. The Galax shelter ran out in a few hours from the time of their opening. They were giving out water to the community. There is a problem in the city of Galax with their city water system and we cancelled church. West of Galax appears to be even harder hit than us. Much property damage along the New River and in areas below the 100 year flood stage.”

From Tazewell Christian Church

Tazewell Christian Church will be open at times as a charging station. Also, if you need a shower, we will have them open at the church. Bring your toiletries and towels. Feel free to share.

Craig Springs Camp

Our own Craig Springs Camp will open their doors to provide short-term shelter for any individuals or families displaced by the flood/hurricane. If anyone knows of people in need of temporary respite or short-term stay, we are able to host them in Oak Lodge (with a communal kitchen) at

<https://www.craigsprings.org/>

Please have anyone contact me directly at 515-577-9050 and ask for Bill.

From Bon Air Christian Church

Bon Air Christian Church is to be a collection site for Clean-up Buckets. From there we will get them to our Disciples in North Carolina. If other churches want to serve in this way, please let me know and I will spread the word. The NC Region has identified this as a major need right now.

David Finnegan-Hosey, Minister

804-272-6228 / davidfinneganhosey@baccdoc.org



CLEANUP BUCKET LIST

Hurricanes, floods and other disasters are happening more frequently. When our neighbors around the world experience these unforeseen circumstances, you can make the road to recovery easier with CWS Cleanup Buckets. These buckets are full of essential home recovery supplies that are needed after a disaster strikes.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- One 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Advertisement on the outside acceptable.)
- One 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener
- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose dry cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 32-64 oz or two 25 oz bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-34 oz bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-40 oz bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One package of 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather.)
- 20-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45-gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)
- One 6-9 oz bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes also acceptable.)

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes. Please send all monetary donations to: CWS, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 or pay your shipping online at cwskits.org/shipping.



VALUE: \$75 PROCESSING FEE: \$3 per bucket

From our North Carolina Disciples



The NC Disaster Response Team Regional Notice - Hurricane Helene Saturday, September 28, 2024

The Christian Church is a member of NCVOAD (North Carolina Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster), which coordinates all volunteer/non-profit agencies in correlation with state & federal organizations for disaster response. When a major disaster occurs, such as the one in Western NC, meetings are held daily with updates and essential information. Today was the first meeting in response to Helene, though they were already up and running from the impacts of the "unnamed storm" just a week or so ago.

The Update from the Morning Meeting - Conditions in NC:

*39 Counties are affected

- Currently there are NO roads open into Western NC
- Currently there are no communications systems working (military style satellite stations will begin to be set up this evening and hopefully communications will be available tomorrow.
- Currently there is no power. Cell phones may be able to receive texts but may not be able to respond.
- Many water systems are down and repair timelines are unavailable.
- Curfews are being established.

Actions In Place

- National Guard deployed to Western, NC
- Red Cross centers are being opened
- 21 Shelters are open/14 counties with shelters
- Feeding Centers are being set up by non-profit organizations located within the disaster areas.

What we CAN DO

- **STAY PUT!!!!** We are Disciples and our first instinct is to "go help."

However, when a community is in crisis, just "showing up" only adds additional strain on the community and its resources. This disaster is what Week of Compassion calls "a Long Term Recovery effort." In the days, weeks and months ahead there will be legitimate organizations and workgroups you can join if you wish to go help.

- **GIVE CASH!!** Cash is the best gift as it can be used to purchase locally what is needed. Sending supplies once again can become more of a burden than a gift, especially with the road situation. When you give to Week of Compassion your gift provides speedy assistance.
- **MAKE KITS!** Start putting together the CWS cleanup buckets. The inventory list of cleanup buckets and hygiene kits is included with this notice. We will collect them at Hillyer until such time that we find a distribution point in Western NC. Folks can email me at davidtmallory@gmail.com or call/text me at 919-345-4305.
- **Respond and assist our Disciple congregations** in the area. We will have several. Once communication lines are opened, members of our NC DOC Disaster Relief Team will contact these congregations to see what needs the church or their congregations has. It is also very likely they will be establishing local ministries of their own in response and we can help support them in their efforts.
- **Pray.** Lift all those who have been affected by Helene in your prayers. Pray for their resilience and their healing. Pray for their communities as they rebuild and restore. Pray for the earth in these times of larger and stronger storms. Pray that God will heal the earth and that we will have the wisdom and courage to be the caretakers God has called us to be.

We are a Resilient Region! We can and will respond to this disaster with the same energy as those behind us. Let's give our Western NC family a few more hours to access and establish some communication.

Church World Service Hygiene Kits

All kits can be sent to Bon Air Christian Church

These little kits are jam-packed with supplies to help keep people clean and healthy. From toothbrushes to washcloths, you are making sure that someone's needs are going to be met in the wake of an emergency when even the most basic supplies can be hard to come by.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel, or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (found at discount dealers like sallybeauty.com)
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

Affordable wide-tooth combs can be found at discount suppliers such as sallybeauty.com. Search for "wide-tooth pastel comb" to see an example of combs that meet the kit requirements.

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing.

Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey.

Church World Service

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davidfinneganhosey@baccdoc.org



the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

YOU CAN FIND SHELTER LOCATIONS BY TEXTING

Text SHELTER and your ZIP CODE to 43362

Example: Shelter 01234



- Usable anytime cell connection is available, even during a blackout.
- Easy to share results with friends and family via text.
- State and local officials may be aware of additional shelters not on the texting feature.
- Standard carrier fees apply, no additional cost to use this service.

Download the FEMA App

The FEMA App can help you Plan. Protect. Recover.



The FEMA app allows you to receive real-time weather alerts, locate emergency shelters in your area, prepare for common hazards, and more. The FEMA app is your personalized disaster resource, so you feel empowered and ready to take charge of any disaster life throws your way.

PLAN: Learn how to prepare for common hazards quickly and easily.

PROTECT: Knowing when and how to protect yourself, your loved ones and your property during a disaster can make all the difference.

RECOVER: The [FEMA App](#) gives you the tools you need to recover after a disaster.