



RIGHT: Cindy White looks over the devastation inside her home in Morganton, N.C. The adjacent Catawba River flooded due to the torrential rains destroying seven homes on the property. Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEFT: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team members are on the ground assisting those who need help, like these volunteers in Tampa, Florida.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.
(Song of Solomon 8:7)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, is on the ground responding to the many urgent needs following the destruction Hurricane Helene left in her path.

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

GIVE:

Immediate donations can be made [online](#), by scanning the QR code below with your mobile device, calling (800) 728-7228, ext. 5885 or mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



World Communion Sunday occurred just two days ago, a time when churches are encouraged to receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, retaining 25% to use for their local peacemaking efforts that align with their passions and for mid councils to retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. Considering the destruction that hurricanes have and will leave behind, we ask that both mid councils and churches that receive this Offering consider using their portions to support the Church's emergency disaster needs related to these disasters.

ACT:

- Assemble emergency [cleanup buckets](#).
- Download the Hurricane Helene [bulletin insert](#).
- Download the Hurricane Season 2024 [bulletin insert](#).
- Learn how you can help families affected by Hurricane Helene and other hurricanes this season. Stay informed and [like us](#) on Facebook.

The news of the widespread destruction caused by Hurricane Helene weighs heavily on all of us. The damage left in the wake of this storm is among the worst the region has ever experienced. Thirteen presbyteries were directly affected, with over half of them having devastating damage in their communities. We have also received reports of a significant number of churches that experienced wind and flood damage. Entire neighborhoods have been wiped out, thousands of homes and buildings have been severely damaged and countless families are now without shelter. The storm has also left the natural environment in peril, with wildlife habitats destroyed and ecosystems disrupted. In addition to these challenges, many roads and infrastructure have been rendered impassable, severely hindering access to critical resources and delaying relief efforts to some of the hardest-hit areas.

This weekend, we all became aware of the impending landfall of Hurricane Milton, a catastrophic category 5 hurricane. Sadly, as we await the end of the hurricane season, the early predictions have come to a reality as we continue to see the developing of more devastating hurricanes ravaging communities. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), has been in constant communication with mid council leadership in the impacted areas. Emergency grants have already been distributed to address the most urgent needs, and National Response Teams have been deployed to provide assistance to churches and mid councils and to help coordinate the Church's response.

This effort will require ongoing support, not just for the physical recovery but also for the emotional and spiritual healing of those impacted. Presbyterians from nearby regions are engaging with other faith-based and nonprofit organizations to ensure coordinated efforts and that every affected person receives the help they need. In these difficult times, we are called to respond through generosity, action and prayer — standing in the "GAP" to uplift our neighbors and offer hope in their journey toward recovery.

Rev. Edwin González-Castillo

Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance