

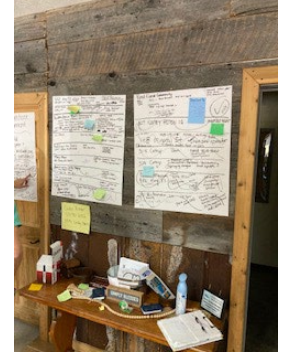


The Center Chronicles

November 2024



Hurricane Helene Disaster Response Update



On October 16, 20 volunteers representing 4 different Presbyterian Churches and 1 Baptist Church left to help those who were impacted by Hurricane Helene. On Wednesday afternoon, October 16, 20 volunteers representing 4 congregations of the East Tennessee Presbytery went to Gatlinburg Presbyterian Church which served as home base to do disaster assistant mission work in the area around Newport TN that was impacted by the floods from Hurricane Helene. We took with us a skid steer, tractor with grappler, gator, side by side ATV and a smaller ATV to transport supplies.



Monies were raised to purchase 3 generators, 9 full size tents, 20 sleeping bags, 30 camp chairs, and 9 gallons of Clorox to give out with the 10 PDA cleaning buckets we took to give out to people in need.



We left the Gatlinburg Church at 8am Thursday and arrived at the Disaster Response Center located at the Wonderfully Made Coffee Shop off of Hwy 321 before 9am. There were five pages with listed needs posted on the walls. We chose three jobs that needed large equipment and chainsaws. We did not know their situation and assumed the worse. We repaired a road, cleared debris from a building to be demolished in downtown, and was caught off guard when we arrived at the third job where a couple somehow allowed to put in a request to removed and piled tree debris from a former boat access area which was now buried underneath 11 feet+- of sand. Though discouraged, we remained obedient to the Lord using our equipment and chains to remove and pile debris on shore. We are going to try and encourage this family to give support to the next person we would help. We reported this situation to the disaster assistance center and they assured us they would do a better job vetting applicants in the future.



With the said, we picked up our next assignment which took us back to the Del Rio area and there we met Samantha Hurst. In a nutshell, she is a single mom of a ten year old boy whose father passed away a week before the flood. The good news is that though the house was filled up to six feet of water, it survived except for the waters concaving the garage exterior wall two feet in. Her income was two rental trailers located in the front of her house, but both trailers were destroyed. An earlier team came and mucked out the house removing all wall sheetrock, appliances, furniture, bathrooms, etc. and began removing the subfloor to shovel the built up mud underneath he floor. We came in and continued to remove debris in the front, removed more of the subfloor and continued the mud shoveling job. She lost her father's vehicles (he was an antique car collector), her own vehicle and was driving a borrowed truck. Our mission team was so moved by the experience, we in essence adopted her and



with your support, we raised enough money to purchase her another vehicle. I will pick her up sometime next week and let her pick a car to purchase.

This is just one person who needs assistance in Newport alone. She is fortunate because her house was well built, though she did not have flood insurance. A Church member, in the insurance business, says this is a nightmare situation. No flood insurance, no house, no property in some cases, but there are still mortgages to be paid. We have much to pray for.

As for us, there is no more need for water (pallets of bottled water everywhere) and food. We still are giving out PDA clean up buckets that have been prepared for distribution. What they need now are bodies of volunteers who are willing to come alongside them and give them hope in the midst of their chaos. We are prayerfully considering where we might go next whether it be back to Newport, to the Erwin area, or into Western North Carolina. There may be several possible mission opportunities in the future. If you are interested in participating in one of those future mission trips, let me the pastor know.

Blessings,

Jon



Don't forget to set your clocks back on November 3 @ 2am

Enjoy that extra hour of sleep 😊

Blast From the Past Fellowship and Fun

We will be having a “Blast from the Past” dinner right after service on **November 3rd**. We will be having soup and sandwiches and playing a very fun guessing game.



Nominating Committee to begin their work

The nominating Committee will meet briefly after worship on November 3 to begin the discernment process on who they will ask to prayerfully consider becoming the next class of Deacons and Elders at Center Church. I ask you church members to also begin a time of prayer when you might be called to serve as an officer in the church.

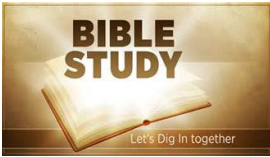


Session is Scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 21 at 6pm



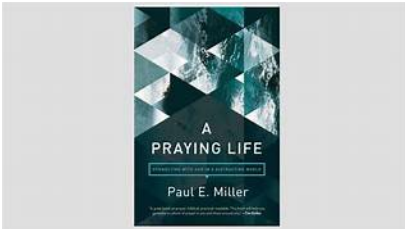
Dorcas Ministry meets every first and third Wednesday at 9:30am

The Dorcas Ministry is a vital ministry of Center Church. What a blessing! If you want to get involved, please contact Sandra Black at 423-253-3876.



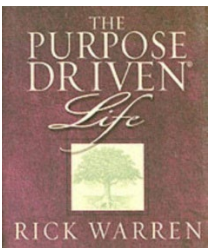
Men's Bible Study meets Saturday mornings at 9am

All men are invited to join us on Saturday at 9am as we focus on Season 4 of the Chosen series.



Wednesday Night Bible Study on Prayer at 5pm

We invite you to join us on Wednesday night at 5pm as we study how to develop a praying life using the book and discussion guide of the same name by Paul Miller.



Adult Sunday School Update

Come and join Donald Bivens as the class studies Rick Warren's classic, The Purpose Driven Life. Adult Sunday Class meets at 9:15am on Sunday morning.



Fruit Basket Time

The Youth invites you to come and help make fruit baskets on November 22 and then help deliver them on Saturday, November 23.



The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is set for November 24

Come and join us as we gather to enjoy turkey, dressing and cranberry sauce after worship on Sunday, November 24. Donna Hamilton will be asking for help with the meal.



"Ahoy Matey!" An Invitation to Sail the Seas at Dolly's, The Pirates Voyage on Sunday December 1

Contact Donna Hamilton or sign up on the sheet in front of the Pastor's office. The cost is between \$60 and \$70 per person.