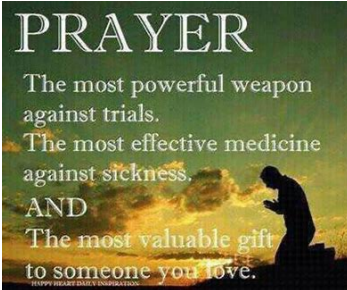




The Center Chronicles

October 2024



Peter Kreeft in his book, [Prayer for Beginners](#), writes, “Some say that prayer, and "the spiritual life", or "the inner life", or the soul's private love affair with God, is an unaffordable luxury today, or an irresponsible withdrawal from the pressing public problems of our poor, hurting world. I say just the opposite: that *nothing*, nothing is more relevant and responsible; that nothing else can ever cure our sick world except saints, and saints are never made except by prayer.

Nothing but saints can save our world because the deepest root of all the world's diseases is sin, and saints are the antibodies that fight sin. Nothing but prayer can make saints because nothing but God can make saints, and we meet God in prayer. Prayer is the hospital for souls where we meet Doctor God.

God is inviting the prayer saints of Center Church to come together and pray for

- Lives that have been impacted by the devastation of Hurricane Helene in East Tennessee, Western North Carolina all the way back to Cedar Keys and other places in Florida to those who lost homes in the west due to raging fires and droughts.
- The upcoming election in the midst of an angry, bitter, and polarized nation.
- Family members who are suffering health afflictions and drug addictions.
- Kids who are vulnerable to be victims of peer pressure, physical and social media bullying, and their own sin choices.
- Family members (adults and children) who have been devastated by the loss of a loved one or because of divorce.
- The Homeless and the mentally challenged who are on the streets or in the woods.
- Veterans who struggle with PTSD, addictions, and loneliness.
- Wars and the soldiers who are forced into “kill or be killed” circumstances and victims that suffer as a consequence terror brings in war.
- For rising cost and unaffordability of rent, food, and the basic needs of life.

The lists can go on and on which is my point for the need for prayer saints to come together and pray. We invite you to come and share your thoughts on how we can develop an prayer ministry at Center Church and what that would look like. We invite you to join us as we begin on Wednesday, October 16 @ 6:30pm to explore ways we can come together for prayer. I will be introducing you to different author perspectives about prayer including Paul Miller’s book, [A Praying Life, Connecting with God in a Distracting World](#) and introduce to you a prayer journal guidebook by Mary Ann and Tom Otley called [Journaling with Jesus](#).

We will then explore what opportunities we may have to schedule times for us to come together and spend time in prayer. Until then, just pray whatever is on your heart. As Paul Miller notes, “**Don’t try to get prayer right (*thinking you have to know some kind of prayer formula or have to achieve some faith level of maturity- my addition*); just tell God where**

you are and what's on your mind. That's what little children do. They come as they are, runny noses and all. Like the disciples, they just say what it on their minds..... We'll sing the old gospel hymn "Just as I am" but when it comes to praying, we don't come just as we are. We try, like adults, to fix ourselves up." When you pray, just be you and let the Holy Spirit take it come there.

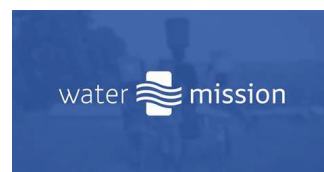


Blessings,
Jon

Hurricane Helene Disaster Response Update



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



We are all aware of the devastating impact Hurricane Helene had on this nation from Florida to Virginia. In particular, record rainfall and winds took out major highways, bridges, rural roads isolating whole appalachian communities from the rest of the nation without electricity and water.

So this is an update from what I know. Like many, including the Tellico Plains community, there has been a rapid response to provide for those in the damaged East Tennessee areas where roads and water treatment plants were taken out by the floods. People are giving water and cleaning supplies to help people deal with the devastation. As for Center Church, right now, several church members have brought cases of bottled water to the church. I was asked to serve on the Presbytery's disaster's Reponse team and every Wednesday for the next month, I am to pick up all collected supplies from the Madisonville, Mars Hill, and Sweetwater Churches and deliver them to the Farragut Church where a box truck comes and carries all water and supplies to Greenville and Newport communities. As of right now, water has been restored in the the Greenville Community, though there are many who as still isolated from active water sources. In other words keep the water coming, (bottled and gallon size water are welcomed). I do want to give a shout out the Water Missions whom Bethany works for. They established a emergency water treatment system in Boone, NC. The director, Brock Kreitzburg, who lives there shares, "People are having to hike a day and a half out to another town in order to just get food and water. Most locations have three things: no power, no access to water and food," Kreitzburg said. "There are communities that are actually sharing food among themselves." Water Mission is utilizing the same river that devastated communities to become a source of fresh, clean water because of their unique water filtering system for those who have become isolated by the floods.

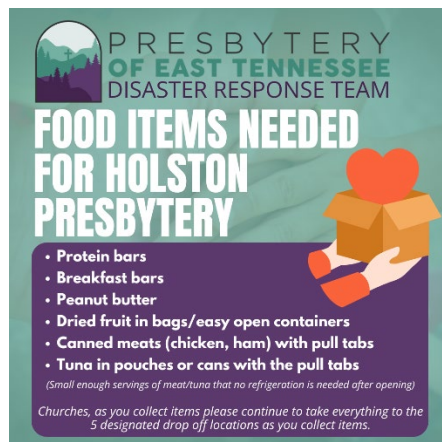
There is a transition happening to help provide cleaning supplies. Disaster cleaning buckets are to contain the following list:

Clean Up Bucket Kits per PDA items:

- One five-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 4-8oz. 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 32-64oz. or two 25oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-34oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-40oz. bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One package of 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100ft. 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 6-9oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes also acceptable.)

The Presbytery has purchased 200 buckets that will be distributed to congregations throughout the Presbytery. I have already purchased 6 buckets for Center Church. I purchased most of the list for one bucket and it came out to around \$85. When buckets are filled, they will be taken to the collection site at the Farragut Church.

More recently, a food list has been published to help those who cannot get to stores and who do not have electricity or water. The following is the list that requested:



These food items will also be collected and sent to Farragut Church where they will be delivered on Thursday with everything else. Bags of charcoal can be added to list because with no electricity or water, many isolated families are building fires to cook their meals.

Third, several have asked about putting together a disaster response team to go and help with the clean up. As of right now, PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) has not scheduled any clean up teams to help with the mucking out of houses. Local authorities, Insurance, and FEMA are still evaluating the extent of the devastation. Access is limited and multiple roads are closed due to flood damage. I do know Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief is setting up places where volunteers can help with clean up. Initial work would be to help clean up debris outside and



Mucking out the inside of homes, removing appliances, flooring, furniture and damaged portion of walls. Where would we stay? Samaritan Purse utilizes its network of churches to provide housing for volunteers. In addition, Gatlinburg Church (15 members) has converted its Sunday School rooms into dormitory rooms and other friends have offered places to stay in the Gatlinburg area which puts mission teams within 30 minutes of Newport and Greenville areas.

If you are interested in doing clean up mission work or rebuild work, please let the pastor know of your interest and he can keep posted on the latest news.

Finally, prayerfully discern if God is leading you to give financial support. If so, make checks out to Center Church and mark in the memo, Hurricane Response. Until then, let us continue to pray for those Appalachian and Piedmont and coastal areas that have been impacted by Hurricane Helene.

COMMUNITY REVIVAL

WHERE: TELlico PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL

WHEN: OCTOBER 6-10

Schedule: October 6 @ 6:00 pm
October 7 - 10 @ 7:00 pm
Doors Open 30 minutes prior to service
Nightly Prayer Room & Community Choir

EVANGELISTS

SUNDAY - BOBBY MORGAN
MONDAY - GRADY BUTLER
TUESDAY - DOUG ALEXANDER
WEDNESDAY - RALPH PATTON
THURSDAY - CARL CROFT



Calling all Volunteers

Starting **Friday, October 11 @ 9am**, We will start work on prepping and refurbishing the old Chota Clinic into a Homeless Center in Madisonville. Our goal will be to replace rotted bottom face boards and some exterior walls so that the tri wide trailer can be put together. Once it is set in place, then electricians, HVAC people and volunteer plumbers will tie everything together while the rest of us continue to replace rotted base boards on other areas of the building. What we need are bottle jacks that can hold frame in place while we replace boards. Also volunteers bring crowbars and hammers to tear out and replace boards. We join with True Purpose Ministries and received a \$50,000 grant to create this Homeless Center. The building project is located behind the Light House Ministry Apartments at **4930 Hwy 411** Madisonville, TN just south on right of where Hwy 68 and Hwy 411 intersect.



It Halloween time again

It is that time of year again when the old School House is prepared, the fake trees and tombstones are placed for another Halloween ministry opportunity. I know that sounds odd, but the monies raised in this event are used to provide and purchase a months supply of food for 100 needy families in the area.



Last year, over \$12,000 was raised for this cause through the Haunted House which, strange enough, is one of the major social gatherings in the Tellico Plains area.

In addition to the screams and scary moments, Center Church will also provide a prayer sanctuary for anyone who comes to enjoy the haunted house, but who are going through a truly scary times in their lives. Whether it be addiction issues, bullying issues, social media issues, and other life issues, our goal is to provide a place where they can make their requests and know they are being supported with prayer. The dates are **October 18-19 and 25-26 from 7pm- ???**



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. **I will need some older pictures** (Baby pictures or just pictures from many years ago) if you could label the back with you name and age and give them to me or mom (Regina) or digitally to my email keri_bivens@yahoo.com by **October 20th** (they will be returned ASAP after I receive them) that would be appreciated! We will see who can recognize the most members of our church family’s old pictures. It will be a good day of fun and fellowship. Let me know if you have question's.



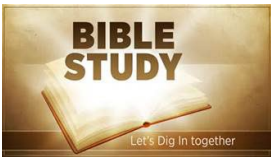
Trunk or Treat is October 27, 5pm

Trunk or Treat is when we decorate our vehicles and offer a fun space for kids in their costumes for halloween. If you want to join us, decoration ideas can be found on the Oriental Trading website. See you then.



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.



Elders are scheduled to meet on October 17 at 6pm for the Session meeting.



Adult Sunday School Update

Donald is studying Rick Warren's classic, The Purpose Driven Life. Adult Sunday Class meets at 9:15am on Sunday morning.