

The Z-Disciple

SEPTEMBER 2017

First Christian Church

3000 Dresden Road, Zanesville, OH 43701-6477 (740) 453-3437

Rev. Dawn Remster, Sr. Minister

Church Email: zvillefcc@sbcglobal.net

Kim Paul, Director of Christian Education

Website: www.zvillefcc.com



The Lord fills my life with good things. Psalm 103:5

As I write, it is the first day of school for children and teachers. Students are decked out with new school clothes and a backpack full of school supplies, ready to take that next step in growth and learning. What an exciting time of year. Yet along with the excitement of new beginnings comes lunches to pack, forms to complete, lists to make, calendars to keep track of it all. As with any new endeavor, there are demands and stresses that can cause us to feel less than the whole balanced people we want to be.

Even for those of us long past our school days, this time of year marks a transition of sorts. As the leisure of summer makes its way to the upbeat pace of fall, it is a time to begin that project we put off all summer, or finally get the paperwork organized. The start of a new school year means a time of new beginnings for us all, a chance to start fresh and renewed after the slower pace of summer. Without a doubt, this time of year brings excitement and possibilities of something “new” as well as the demands and stress of how to accomplish it all.

As you and your family get back into the routine of fall schedules, let the ministries of First Christian Church help you keep it balanced. Include regular time of worship and Bible study for yourself, your children and teens. We offer three opportunities for worship each week as well as many learning and outreach opportunities to help all ages grow in faith and be involved in meeting the needs of our community. You are welcome to be part.

The beginning of a new school year brings with it a wealth of possibilities for growth and learning. May you find this new season one that also provides growth in your relationship with the living Lord and the balance you need to meet the demands of a busy life.

Shalom,



A Message from Rev. Margot Connor

Dear Friends,

I just want to thank you for the opportunity of this summer to be back among you as I served as Pastor during Pastor Dawn's Sabbatical. As I reflect on this time, I am filled with gratitude for the support and the giving spirit I have received here. It has been a blessing to teach and preach and pastor in this very loving church.

I come away from this summer with deep appreciation for the ministries and the ministers who serve here. I am thankful that I have been surrounded by people who are caring servants of God:

- Your church staff - – Kim, Janice, and Mickey - clearly love the church and I have found them all to be hard working, conscientious, loving, and welcoming.
- Your musicians, Susan and Kaye, are not only gifted but spirit filled and have guided our worship to be truly holy services.
- I have been overwhelmed by the faith and enthusiasm that I have seen in all of you ministers who help here in myriad ways. I have seen the joy of service in worship leaders, Elders, Sunday School teachers, kitchen helpers, and vacation Bible school workers.
- I would like to especially thank Dave and Penny Higgins for their friendship and support throughout the summer – they are the embodiment of “faithful servants.”

Finally, I have appreciated your openness and willingness to learn and grow in faith through worship and Sunday School with me! It has been a blessed summer in every way.

So, thank you, thank you, thank you.

I cherish our time together and I know that I will be back again to worship with you.

Yours because I am His

Margot

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*In Our Thoughts
and Prayers*

In Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the following families:

Jane Worstall and family whose mother, Mary Ann Fox, died August 14th.

Trish Church and family whose father, Edsel DeBaker, died in July in WI.

Congratulations!

Elouise Ann Lichtner, daughter of Melissa and JP Lichtner, was born August 15th. Denise & Jody Baker are her proud grandparents and Norma Jardine is Great Grandma.

Janet & Vern Hostetler welcomed grandson **Forrest Parker Myers** on August 4th. He is the son of Anya & Andrew Myers of Chicago, IL.

Weddings

Trevor & Lauren Short were married July 8th in Canton, Ohio.

Matt Tice & Lisa Sturtz were married here on August 12th.

George Graham Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held for George Graham on September 10 at 3 p.m. in New Concord. George died in the spring but his family will gather this month to celebrate his life.

Elders Workshop for our Region will be held on Saturday, September 23rd, 9am -3 pm at Central Christian Church in Wooster. Speaker will be Rev. Bill McDonald. Let Dawn know if you are able to attend as soon as possible so we can send in registrations.

Board Meeting Reminder

The Board will meet September 14th at 7 p.m. Chairpersons are asked to submit reports prior to Tuesday, September 12th so they can be reviewed prior to the meeting.

Men's Ministry

The men will meet on September 16th at 8 a.m. in the Genesis Hospital cafeteria for breakfast, study, and fellowship. All men are invited.

Thank you Margot!

Our sincere thanks to Rev. Margot Connor who provided worship leadership and pastoral care to our congregation during Rev. Remster's sabbatical this summer. We are grateful for her leadership in worship and a Special Summer Study and have been blessed by our time together. Rev. Remster returned from her study & renewal leave on August 12th.

Thank you Congregation!

Thank you to the congregation of First Christian Church for the opportunity to have a study and renewal leave this summer and for all of the many tasks our members took care of during my sabbatical. Special thanks to Dave & Penny Higgins and Cato & Marcia Coleman for their leadership and to the Elders and Pastoral Visitors for providing pastoral care as needed. Sabbatical was a time of renewal, continuing education and reflection and I am grateful for this opportunity and for all of you. My prayers are with you all as we continue ministry together. Shalom, Dawn

Thank you Musicians

Thank you to all who provided Special Music for our worship services this summer while our Chancel Choir took a break for summer. Your many gifts were a blessing to us all! Those who shared their musical gifts with us this summer include: The FCC Women's Chorus, Mary Arnold, Don Susa, John Grubbs, Jessica Moore, Anna Paul, Lori Hittle, Chelsea Welén, Tyson Kumorowski, Callie Buchanan, Jillian Lepi, The Bednarczuk Family, Matthew Baldwin, and Jared & Arielle Robison.

Recycle Bins

Since 2009, First Christian Church has provided a service that saved 250,000 lbs. of paper from landfills. The company that manages this service has new owners and they have informed us they will no longer service our area. Bins will be removed. Please continue to care for our environment by recycling paper through the county bins located beside the Animal Shelter

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Choir Rehearsals to Resume Under New Leadership

Our congregation and choir have been blessed to have Tim Remster serving as our “fill in” choir director for the last 7 years. “*Just until we find someone who wants to do it.*” he would often say. As the choir season ended in May this year, Tim let us know that he would like to “retire” from directing the choir and return to singing in the choir. After conversations with the Worship Committee and Board, we asked Susan Davis if she would be willing to serve as Choir director in addition to her role as pianist. After prayer and consideration, she has agreed to become our Music Director. We will need to move things around a bit in order for Susan to direct the choir from the piano bench but we look forward to beginning a new choir season under Susan’s leadership. And as we thank Tim for his faithful service to our music program we will look forward to hearing him in the tenor section of the choir.

Playground Dedication

On Sunday, August 13th we held a Service of Dedication for our new playground for children. We asked God’s blessing on this space and all who play here, we shared a skit by the children and enjoyed an ice cream treat while the children played. Thank you to the Playground Committee and the Property Committee who worked to identify the need and make the plans for this undertaking. Thank you to all those who offered financial support to make this project possible. And thank you to many, many volunteers who have donated hours of labor to make the vision a reality. Special thanks to our project leaders: Ben Appleby, Dave Higgins, Jim McPherson and Kim Paul. We are still finishing up some trim work on the play structure and have plans to add benches and perhaps a table where classes could meet. This work will be completed over the next several weeks. We are blessed as a congregation by the many children who are part of our congregation and we are blessed to be able to provide this wonderful new playground as a space for them to learn, play and grow.

Fair Trade Coffee Project

For the past few years, we have made fair trade coffee available to our members through the Disciple Coffee Project. Not only does the purchase help small farmers worldwide by purchasing their crops for a fair price, but each purchase made supports the ministry of Week of Compassion. Thank you for your support of the Disciple Coffee Project. You can purchase coffee in the church office.

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering 2017

“*Everyone Has a Story*”. The 2017 Reconciliation Offering will be received during the month of September. The Special Offering is used to fund our Church’s mission priority to become a pro-reconciling/ anti-racist church through experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across racial/ethnic difference. Funds from this offering are providing for leadership development in our camps, our communities and our congregations as well as providing resources to promote small group study and community-action. A special envelope is included in this copy of the *Z-Disciple*. Your giving is changing lives and building hope for realm of God for our children and for Christ’s Church!

College Students (and parents): In the midst of your packing and planning, don’t forget to give the church your school address (email and mailing) while you are away at college. We will be mailing care packages in October and want you to have one!

Thanks to the Weed Patrol

Thank you to The Seekers Sunday School Class and to Lee and Jim McPherson who have helped us keep the church property looking its best by pulling weeds around the church this summer.

Church Office Hours

Monday 9 am-noon

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 am-4 pm

Friday Closed

You can also leave a message on the church answering machine



Still not sure if you would like to join the Chancel Choir on Sunday mornings? Here are my Top 10 reasons to join us!

1. I love serving the Lord – considering all He does for me!
2. Every once in a while, you might catch a glimpse of Heaven’s choir singing along with you. I’m not kidding!
3. From one of my favorite saints, St. Augustine: “To sing is to pray twice!”
4. Several studies have indicated that people who are involved in music live longer and are healthier.
5. No auditions or solos required!
6. Our worship space is heated in the winter and air conditioned in the spring.
7. I am sure that there is a study to prove “Intellectual Stimulation” – when you make music; you are using both sides of your brain simultaneously.
8. Your participation is a great example for all children, teenagers (and reluctant adults).
9. I can guarantee a great seat for Christmas and Easter.
10. Rehearsals on Wednesday night means one night away from the stresses of a busy life AND it’s a great boost mid-week.

Don’t let the word’s “choir rehearsal” deceive you. Yes, you WILL learn your choir part, but you’ll also worship our Mighty God in the meantime and leave feeling refreshed and ready to tackle the rest of your week. Our music ministry is one of the best ways to build great and meaningful friendships. Worshiping together has the same result. I am offering a 100% guarantee that you’ll have a great time in rehearsal each week. Come and check us out. Wednesday evenings beginning on September 6 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

“O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; show forth His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised.” – Psalm 96:1-4

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me or visit me at “the bench” on Sunday mornings!

Playground Dedication



A NEW YEAR OF MINISTRY!

For more information about all of our ministries, visit our webpage at <http://www.zvillefcc.com>.

Return your Christian Education Form at one of our kick-off events and receive a prize!

September 3rd, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday School classes are offered for all ages (including adults) every Sunday at 9:30. These classes are led by loving and dedicated teachers. By participating in Sunday School classes your child will learn the stories of the bible, how to use the bible, and how the word of God can guide them through their daily life. Join us on kick-off Sunday as the children and youth reconnect with their Sunday School teachers, enjoy a breakfast treat and put on a skit on our new stage. The children will meet in the chapel for a video and singing before heading to their classrooms with their teachers.

September 10th, 10:30 a.m. Children Worship and Wonder, Orientation

We as a church family are blessed to be able to offer a worship space for our 3 year old through 2nd grade children in a manner meaningful to them. In the Children Worship and Wonder room our children are given a sacred time and place where they can be with God, hear the stories of God, talk to God, and listen to God. This form of worship is unique so as we prepare for a new season of worship, there will be a "Getting Ready to Be with God" session to orient the children to the worship center. Even if your child has participated in CWW before, it is important that they begin the year with this orientation session.

September 10th, 6 p.m. Chi Rho and CYF Kick-Off

Chi Rho (6th-8th Graders) and CYF (9th-12th) Graders) meet weekly on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30. Their time together is used to build friendships, discuss their faith, and serve in Christ's name. We are looking forward to being together again and welcoming new friends to our fellowship. It will be a night to get to know each other, share some laughs, play games, and of course there will be food! Since it is our kick-off, we will extend our time together until 8 p.m.

September 17th, 10:30 a.m. 10:30- Children Worship and Wonder, 3rd grade graduation

Children ages 3 years- 2nd grade will hear the first story of the year, The Light. This is an especially important day for our third grade students who will graduate from CWW and carry 'their light' to the chapel. Parents are invited to attend.

September 23rd, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. JC/Kingdom Kids, Serve at Christ's Table

JC Kids (3-5th grade) and Kingdom Kids (K-2nd grade) are fellowship groups for elementary school children that meet monthly for fellowship, service, and fun. Generally we meet on the second Sunday of the month from 11:45-1:00. This year we will kick-off our year together celebrating our church's 10th anniversary of serving at Christ's Table. A special collection of a few much needed items are being collected in honor of this anniversary- saltine crackers, powdered coffee creamer, and noodles. The JC and Kingdom Kids will help deliver these items to Christ's Table and will also help serve lunch on this day. We will meet at the church at 10:45 and ride together in the van to Christ's Table. Parents are welcome to stay and help serve as well. Pick-up will be at Christ's Table at 12:15. Please let Kim know if your child will be attending, kimpaul@gmail.com

September 24th, 10:30 a.m. Welcome to Worship Begins

Welcome to Worship, led by Jane Cooper, is a 4-5 week program for our 3rd through 5th graders. Welcome to Worship is a time for children to learn about the worship that takes place in the sanctuary of our church. During this time together children will talk about and practice the many ways they will participate in the worship service.

**"Moving Forward with Hope: Love and Justice for Every Child"
Light a Candle for Children
September 25th**

This month we all have an opportunity to join together in prayer for the children of our church, community and world. Light a Candle for Children is a way for faith communities to focus, pray and advocate for children and important issues relating to their world. These devotions will begin on Monday, September 25th, five weeks prior to Children's Sabbath. Participation is easy. Daily devotions can be found on the, *Light a Candle for Children Prayer Vigil* Facebook Page as well as the website, <http://lightacandle.blogspot.com/>. Please join us in prayer and commit your heart to lifting up our children.

**"Growing in Faith"
A Discussion for Parents of Teens
September 24th, 6-7:30 p.m.
Submitted by Kim Paul**

I remember when I was pregnant with our first child, Anna. As we would share the news with friends and family, we would hear the same words repeated again and again... "Enjoy every minute. It goes by so fast!" Early on in the days of sleepless nights and toddlers that you couldn't take your eyes off of for a second, it seemed that life went in slow motion and the teenage years felt eons away. Next year on the first day of school I will deliver my oldest child to the high school and my youngest to the middle school. How did this happen? How did we get here? And how in the world do I raise a teenager in this world that is changing as fast as they are? I read a quote recently that said, if parenthood came with a GPS it would mostly just say: RECALCULATING. And that is what I am doing now as we enter this new phase of parenting, RECALCULATING. Trying to get my mind around schedules that leave little time for rest and renewal, racing to keep up with the technology and social media that seems to have pitfalls and danger at every turn, asking myself constantly "Are we talking about the things we need to be talking about?", "Am I helping them keep their eyes on the Good Shepherd?"

The Kelly Perry Memorial Youth Fund was established in memory of Kelly Perry to help support and enhance the youth ministry of the church. It is through the gifts of this fund that we are able to offer this new ministry to parents of teenagers from our church family and our community. If you are a parent of a teen, please join us on September 24th from 6-7:30 p.m. and encourage a friend to come with you! Together, we will discuss the faith based questions we have about raising teens. This discussion will be a jumping off point. From there, we will gather four more times throughout the fall to take a closer look at the topics or questions you choose. Michelle Neal and Amy Wilson will facilitate these gatherings which will be on October 1st, October 15th, October 29th, and November 5th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Children Worship and Wonder Greeter Training

The Children Worship and Wonder room is looking for new greeters. Greeters are extremely important to the atmosphere and functioning of the worship center. Greeters help with the care of children during worship so that all children may fully participate in worship. There will be training for CWW Greeters on Tuesday, September 19th at 5 p.m. If you have questions about being a CWW Greeter or would like to participate in the Greeter Training, please see Kim Paul.

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OUTREACH MINISTRY

Work Trip 10 minutes from church!

Habitat for Humanity SEO is serving Southeast Ohio in many ways. You can be a part of the action by helping with the prep work prior to the blitz build, working blitz week or wrap up after the blitz. See dates and times below. Location is Mead Street off of Ridge Ave. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the main church hallway. If you have any questions, please contact Susie Mercer at (740) 452-0933.

We need 10 crew leaders for this weekend. Do you have construction, HVAC, or electrical experience?

Task	Date	# of Volunteers Needed
<i>Foundation/Subfloor</i>	Wednesday, Sept 6 th	4-6
9AM-4PM	Thursday, Sept 7 th	6-8
	Friday, Sept 8 th	6-8
	Saturday, Sept 9 th	6-8
Blitz Week		
<i>Blitz Week</i>	Wednesday, Sept 13th	15-20
8AM-5PM	Thursday, Sept 14th	FULL
	Friday, Sept 15th	15-20
	Saturday, Sept 16th	FULL
Wrap-Up After Blitz		
<i>Wrap-Up After Blitz</i>	Wednesday, Sept 20th	3 to 8
(siding, drywall)	Thursday, Sept 21st	3 to 8
9AM-4PM	Friday, Sept 22nd	3 to 8
	Saturday, Sept 23rd	3 to 8

Christ's Table 10 Years of serving

We will volunteer at Christ's Table on Saturday, September 23rd. It also happens to be our 10th Anniversary of service there! To celebrate a decade of feeding God's people, we are collecting some of the items that are used frequently at Christ's Table. Donations of saltine crackers, powdered coffee creamer, and noodles can be placed in the tote in the main hallway marked Christ Table donations. We will take them with us when we serve on September 23rd. The sign-up sheet is located in the main hallway bulletin board.

2017 CROP WALK

The 2017 CROP Walk will be held Sunday, October 8th. In September we will be recruiting walkers and sponsors.

General Assembly Mission Projects

As part of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held in Indianapolis in July, participants took part in a variety of Mission Projects. Here is some of what Disciples can do when they get together for a couple of days:

- Assembled 120 backpacks for the Homeless at Wheeler Mission
- Created and made 90 Hero Capes for Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent
- Donated 69 pints of blood to the Indiana Blood Center
- Sorted 22,000 pounds of potatoes to gift Gleaners Food Bank
- Knitted 50+ little hats for the American Heart Association
- Mulched areas at an urban elementary school IPS#51 (in the rain)
- Framed a three-bedroom house (in five hours)
- Served two breakfast meals at Indy's two Ronald McDonald House locations
- And much more.

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Weekly Worship:
 Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 am
 Sunday School 9:30 am
 Wednesday 1:00 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School Kick-off	4 Labor Day Church office closed	5	6 1:30 pm Quilters 7 pm Choir	7 7 pm Property	8	9
10 CWW Orientation 6 pm Chi Rho & CYF	11	12	13 1:30 pm Quilters 7 pm Choir	14 7 pm Board Meeting	15	16 8 am Men's Breakfast Genesis Cafeteria
17 CWW 3 rd grade graduation 6 pm Chi Rho & CYF	18	19	20 1:30 pm Quilters 7 pm Choir	21	22	23 10 am Christ's Table
24 Welcome to Worship 6 pm Chi Rho & CYF	25	26	27 1:30 pm Quilters 7 pm Choir	28	29	30

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Acolytes

September 3, 2017

8:30 Lydia Huy
10:30 Aubrey Miracle
Chloe Buchanan

September 10, 2017

8:30 Lydia Huy
10:30 Janetta & Marissa Rose

September 17, 2017

8:30 Lydia Huy
10:30 Kenton Casey
Koben Bowen

September 24, 2017

8:30 Lydia Huy
10:30 Parker Roberts
Gauge Brailer

October 1, 2017

8:30 Lydia Huy
10:30 Carolyn Geis
Jacob Hittle

Jr. Deacons

Justin Allen
Olivia Allen
Callie Buchanan
Jacob Devoll
Nolan Kimberly
Anna Paul
Austin Perry
Trey Wilson
Mady Wilson
Izabella Yerian

Greeters

September 3, 2017

8:30 Ken & Sandy Jones
10:30 Mike & Amy Whitson

September 10, 2017

8:30 John & Susan Grubbs
10:30 Jerry & Tanya Sturtz

September 17, 2017

8:30 Earl & Gayla Smith
10:30 Lori Hittle
Deborah Granberg

September 24, 2017

8:30 Henry & Judy Gorsky
10:30 Fred & Kay Fox

Communion Preparer

Jana Fulks

Deacons

Valencia Clark	Jack Morrow
Christi Desender	Jared Robison
David Desender	Kathy Short
Lexie Desender	Phil Short
Ed Henderson	Jill Smith
Marianne Henderson	Lori Ward
David King	Mike Whitson
John Moon	
Jared Moon	

Elders

September 3, 2017

8:30 Randy Roberts
Bill Factor
10:30 Bill Anderson
Dale Newlon

September 10, 2017

8:30 Penny Higgins
Dave Higgins
10:30 Brady Neal
Kim Fouch

September 17, 2017

8:30 Cato Coleman
Marcia Coleman
10:30 Dick Church
Jerry Sturtz

September 24, 2017

8:30 Jill Bednarczuk
Heather Near
10:30 Jim Wilson
Amy Wilson

Welcoming Team

8:30 Henry & Judy Gorsky
Ed & Marianne Henderson
10:30 Bud & Juanita Krause
Lori Hittle
Deborah Granberg

Worship Leaders

September 3, 2017

8:30 Sandy Grizzard
10:30 Heather Near

September 10, 2017

8:30 Penny Higgins
10:30 Kari Ward

September 17, 2017

8:30 John Grubbs
10:30 Georgia Robison

September 24, 2017

8:30 Dave Desender
10:30 Lori Hittle

Lectors

September 3, 2017

10:30 Trey Wilson

September 10, 2017

10:30 Alaina Paul

September 17, 2017

10:30 Anna Paul

September 24, 2017

10:30 Callie Buchanan



Happy Belated birthday to:

Pat Spragg August 31
Kari Ward August 31

Happy Birthday to:

Joe Burns September 1
Nolan Kimberly September 1
Tanya Sturtz September 2
Rodger Joe Davis September 4
Dick Lear September 4
Carol Sarbaugh September 4
Vicki Wheeler September 5
Marilyn Thorn September 7
Carolina Casey September 9
Randy Roberts September 9
Ethyl Gee* September 10
Jody Baker September 12
Rick Griffin September 12
Olivia Allen September 13
Toby Supplee September 14
Kim Paul September 17
Bo Beight September 18
Connie Hardcastle September 18
Izabella Yerian September 19
Sondra Allen September 20
Scott Barr September 20
Jonathan Devoll September 22
Aaron Kehl September 22
Joyce Haddox September 23
Kyndall Stephens September 23
Beckie Howard September 24
Richard Barr September 26
Carl Coleman September 27
Phil Phillips September 27
Kevin Gaskill September 28
Alana Huizenga September 28
Anna Paul September 28
Susan Frye September 29

Happy Anniversary to:

Judie & Jeff Snyder September 1
Lori & Ed Ward September 15
Charles & Lila Kinney* September 19
Janice & Jim Fritz September 20
Don & Madge Myer* September 22
Jane & Bob Worstall September 23
Jim & Amy Wilson September 28

Special Events this month:

Ethyl Gee celebrates her 98th birthday. Her address is: Clay Gardens, 3784 Frazeyburg Rd Apt 137, Zanesville, OH 43701

Your Special Day

We typically list special birthdays as 80, 85, 90, and each year thereafter. We list anniversaries at 50, 60, 70, etc. However, we are happy to share your special day whenever it is; just let us know.



September 4th

Week of Compassion Update: Hurricane Harvey

Saturday, Aug. 26; 3PM EST

Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas last night at 10 pm local time as a category 4 hurricane, causing flooding and structural damage in towns along the coast. The mayor of Rockport, where the eye of the hurricane crossed, has reported "widespread devastation." Nearly 300,000 power outages have been reported, and may last for days. President Trump has issued a federal disaster declaration for the state, and Texas Governor Abbott has named 50 counties in a state disaster declaration.



Winds have weakened since landfall and the hurricane has been downgraded to a tropical storm. The primary concern right now is flooding within the next few days as heavy rainfall of three feet or more is expected. Water levels in bayous, reservoirs, and waterways are already rising. Two tornadoes have also been reported south and west of Houston, damaging multiple business and approximately 50 homes. Several other tornado warnings continue.

Week of Compassion will continue to monitor the storm and reach out to Disciples communities and our partners. If you are interested in helping, the best immediate response from afar is three-fold: pray, stay, and donate.

Pray. Keep the people who are in the path of the storms, for the rescuers and first responders who will be working on the ground in your prayers as the storm continue into the next few days.

Stay put. Out of concern and a desire to be useful, you may want to go and help. Now is not the time! The situation is dangerous and is ongoing. Volunteers at this time put themselves at risk and create additional challenges for rescue and emergency crews. Volunteer opportunities will come later for clean-up and long-term recovery.

Donate. You can donate to Week of Compassion through our church, make checks out to First Christian Church, designated it *Hurricane relief*, and 100% of your gifts will go to help communities rebuild after Hurricane Harvey.