

TORNADOS AND STORMS RELIEF



(AP Photo Sue Ogrocki)

"It is in times like these that we understand best what it is to be supported, cared and prayed for by our sisters and brothers across the country. We can never turn the clock back to the minutes before all of this happened, but we can walk together through the difficult days ahead."

*Dr. Edith Guffey,
Designated Conference Minister, UCC Kansas/Oklahoma*

Tornados encompassing unfathomable destructive winds raged across Texas and Oklahoma, May 19 & 20, leaving several communities in shambles.

You are a critical part of the nationwide United Church of Christ community, for which Dr. Guffey gives thanks. Together, we can share our prayers and resources as an expression of our care, compassion and commitment to walk with our sisters and brothers on the long road to restoration.

Please **PRAY** for the injured, people who've lost loved ones, and those who are homeless. Pray for those engaged in relief and recovery work.

Please **GIVE** generously to the Tornado/Storms Response Fund of the United Church of Christ. Your support will enable the UCC to provide immediate and long-term assistance to and through local UCC congregations and partner agencies.

We give thanks for all the people, organizations and communities generously assisting their brothers and sisters in need.

To make a secure on-line donation and for more information go to:
www.ucc.org/disaster



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Written by: The Rev. James A. Moos, Executive Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive Global Ministries, Wednesday, May 22, 2013

“You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”
Isaiah 58:12

Tender and merciful God, we are burdened with deep sorrow in the wake of devastating tornados in Oklahoma and Texas. Hearts are broken, communities are traumatized and dreams are shattered. We struggle to comprehend the magnitude of the destruction. There is agony over family members, friends and neighbors who were crushed in the rubble. Streets that once teemed with life now lay broken and desolate. And yet, hope is not lost.

We ask for comfort for the survivors who search amid the wreckage for remnants of what once was. Grant them strength and courage to face tomorrow. Bless their tears and the ground upon which they fall, and grant the eyes that shed them visions of new life and new community in cities that lay in ruins.

May we, your people, be agents of healing. We give thanks for the first responders and medical teams who offer life-giving assistance, for chaplains and clergy who provide spiritual and emotional care, for those who extend hospitality to the dislocated. Sustain them in their service, and call us anew to give freely of ourselves that we might be repairers of the breach.

You, O God, are our comfort and strength in midst of disaster. You lift the fallen, give strength to the weary and renew the hope of the downhearted. By your grace, the streets of the cities shall be restored for future generations.

In the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

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