

Hurricane Sandy Relief



**UCC response extends
from
Caribbean to Eastern U.S.**

Hurricane Sandy raged for nearly one week in late October leaving a wake of death and destruction through the Caribbean and on up the Eastern Seaboard and inland of the United States, an area equal in size to continental Europe. The United Church of Christ has sent immediate support from One Great Hour of Sharing to church partners in Haiti and Cuba as well as UCC congregations in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Your assistance is needed now.

Please pray for the injured, people who've lost loved ones and those whose homes and property, schools and places of work have been damaged or destroyed. Pray for those engaged in relief and rehabilitation work.

Please give to the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund of the United Church of Christ. Your support will enable us to provide immediate and long-term assistance to and through partner agencies that are on the ground right now. Immediate needs include food, water, shelter, and clean up supplies and equipment. Longer term responses are likely to include rebuilding and environmental protection initiatives and meeting the needs of those who were already living on the margins.

Please assemble urgently needed Church World Service Clean Up Kits.

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

*For donation instructions, CWS kit information and disaster response updates go to:
www.ucc.org/disaster/hurricane-sandy/*

United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115
1-866-822-8224 EXT 3210 or 3215

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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**UNITED CHURCH
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Prayer after the Storm

Written by: The Rev. Dr. James Moos, UCC Executive for Wider Church Ministries

God of justice and mercy, in the beginning your spirit moved over the surface of the waters as a wind, giving birth to creation. In Hurricane Sandy the wind and waves were bearers, not of creation, but of chaos. In our grief and in our expectation, we now seek signs of new works that you are doing in our midst.

We are filled with compassion for survivors who have lost their homes, businesses, neighborhoods and loved ones. For many, the driving rain has been replaced by falling tears. It is by your grace that, even in sorrow, our breath carries words of thanksgiving.

We are grateful for your love made real:

- in first responders who battled the elements to provide life-giving assistance,
- in shelter providers who offer hospitality to the dislocated,
- in medical teams who bind up the wounds of the injured,
- in chaplains and clergy who provide spiritual and emotional care.

Breathe your spirit upon them that their strength might be renewed. Enable us to look not only to others to help in time of need, but also to ourselves so that we might share the gifts that you have entrusted us with. Like the rainbow, may our lives be signs of promise and hope.

We offer you our praise in the knowledge that your steadfast love is always with us. Once the wind parted the waters of the Red Sea and the children of Israel moved from bondage to liberation. Now may your children who have endured the wind and water of a colossal storm move from chaos to new creation. We ask these things in the name of Jesus who is the Christ, Amen.

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