

FUMC Post-Harvey Update



“Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.”

Church Update #1 ~ Pastor Laura Becker

I will be sharing regular updates in this fashion to keep everyone on the same page and aware of progress in our relief and recovery. Normal communication methods have been compromised by this particular disaster called “Harvey”. I’m blessed to have a new team member on staff, Kimberly Head, who is helping with updates. She has crafted these sections to structure communication with FLT Staff. I will edit as it pertains to congregational needs. These updates include 1.) New Information / 2.) Ongoing Information / 3.) Action Items / 4.) Shout-Outs.

I hope this helps you to stay connected and know that we are making steps toward restoration. I’m confident in the District, Conference and our Ministry Partners that will provide a strong mission outpost as we position to serve Christ in Rockport.

I am inviting ALL STAFF and Church Leaders to take care of themselves (time with God) and their families, one item for church, and one act of service to neighbor. We will be living into a new experience and depth of trust; today I must simply trust that God will give you and me the peace that passes all understanding as we choose what to do next.

New Information:

1. We completed our initial walk-thru the building with adjusters and with a restoration company. Upon completion of the walk-thru, we decided to hire the restoration company to help with muck-out of the building, storage of items that were not damaged, documentation and disposal of items that were damaged, and utilize very large dryers to remove the water and humidity from the building. I am happy to report that as of last night they have done a lot of work and are reporting that our building structurally made it through the storm very well. I have attached some pictures of the work they are doing. We are in very good hands and they are communicating with FLT and Church leadership team regularly.
2. Communication systems are still being restored. Information is being gathered by our website, voice mail, and Facebook page. Cell phone and texting have been functioning for some of our congregation. Church Office number and pastor’s extension is best contact for now. 361-729-1659 ext. 2248. Messages will be addressed in as timely a manner as possible.
3. Though we are all spread out and tending to our family and household needs, we are feeling deep grief for our church family and inability to gather face to face. God has provision for each of us and I’m amazed at the stories that we are hearing of how people are helping one

another. The Body of Christ is still alive and well in this mess. There is still much support available if we keep reaching out to each other, trust that God will hold you wherever you have landed for now. It will take time as we are able to get information out to you.

4. I do want to caution you that we may miss something important due to everything that is going on. If you need to hear from your pastor, text 361-920-0654. I am currently located in Goliad, Texas; we have had various FUMC Staff in and out Rockport tending to their households, however, cell service is not the best but it seems that text is working consistently. I will get back to you and set up a time for us to talk. You can also email me at pastor@fumcrookport.org.
5. We are hearing from many churches who want to commit ongoing help so that we can continue ministry in this area. We will have more details about this process as we go forth. With everything going on, decisions are being made daily by Pastor Laura and FUMC Staff. This is to simplify and move quickly on behalf of the congregation and community.
6. Just a reminder that the Mayor and Co. Sheriff is sending out good updates with information about our City/County. Please stay connected to those and also, WWN is doing a great job organizing all the information and getting it out to the community.
7. Until Rockport infrastructure is in place you are encouraged to keep taking care of your household.

Ongoing Information:

1. We have made agreement with Restoration Management Company.
2. Buildings are secured and currently in restoration steps.
3. Infrared Wet Check in progress.

Action Items:

1. Wendy is keeping a database of where everyone is and all key information. And, Kimberly is keeping FLT.
2. Attached is a needs assessment. We need to know what needs you may have that the church and others can attempt to help you with. Please be specific. We will let you know if we can help or we will steer you in the best direction we know of to get that help. Please ask.

Shout Outs:

1. It is a blessing to serve with an amazing team of faithful disciples of Christ. Every spiritual gift is being utilized as we take on one thing daily that ministers to our family, neighbor, church, and ourselves. If we get one thing done it is enough. If all four are accomplished it is enough. The God of enough grace is carrying us all and is sufficient for every need. I want to give a shout out to everyone that closed the Church and First Learning Tree on Thursday. Y'all did an amazing job. Thank you for your dedication and work to get everyone out safely and organize all the material we needed in case Harvey got us. You did amazing!

Psalm 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."