



# FUMC Post-Harvey Update

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

**Church Update #11 ~ Pastor Laura Becker  
December 5, 2017**

Grace and Peace be with you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Advent Season is upon us. There is still a busyness in town – local families and businesses struggle to repair and recover livelihood, contractors deliver and disappoint, laborers are new friends or silent strangers, representatives from FEMA and other government agencies are still stationed in abandoned parking lots, non-profit charitable organizations are putting down long-term recovery roots, and area churches hope for some space that will feel like home.

It certainly feels like a trip to Bethlehem. Government requires documentation, pregnancy doesn't stop for change of venue, and hoards of people are looking for a place to stay. If there was any year for a contemporary Las Posadas Service it is this year. My hope is that no matter where we find ourselves, we can make a space for the Christ Child to find home in our hearts.

As I write this update, ladies are cleaning the fine dust off my bookshelves and creating breathable space for work and ministry. I imagine many like them in Bethlehem making the inns ready for guests and travelers alike. The Bethlehem story finds its telling in every generation and praise be to God, our story this year will not be lost in the re-telling.

**WORSHIP PLAN:** Worship Beyond the Walls (located at Aquarium Education Center)

- a. FUMC will have one more Sunday of services at the Aquarium Education Center: December 10, 2017 at 8:00am and 10:30am. There is indoor seating, climate control, and it is handicapped accessible. It will be informal and Spirit filled. Holy Communion will be served at the 8:00am service. December 17<sup>th</sup> is our scheduled date to be back in the sanctuary.
- b. Please continue to worship as you are able and remember if you are out of town or unable to attend that your church in Rockport can receive offerings on our website at [www.fumcrockport.org](http://www.fumcrockport.org) (Click the ONLINE GIVING icon) or you can mail gifts to the P.O. BOX 1045 Rockport, Texas 78381.
- c. Lessons and Carols will be presented on December 17<sup>th</sup> at both services. Please be aware that construction fences will be in some areas and need to be avoided. Parking and entrances will be the same. Handicap accessibility is at the Live Oak Entrance and back parking lot entrance near rose garden.
- d. Christmas Eve Service will be 7:00pm, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary.

## **New Information:**

1. **Work Day coming soon...**the building will need some preparation for guests. Though the Restoration Management Company has done much work to clean and put things back in place, our hands and feet are still needed for final readiness. If you have time and energy to help

with room set-up, decorating, and simple chores please contact church office or come by and lend a hand.

2. **Training Event for Coastal Bend District  
Volunteers In Mission Team Leader Training**

Saturday, December 9th

9 am - 3 pm

Grace United Methodist Church

14521 Northwest Blvd

Corpus Christi, TX

Registration questions? contact: [skennerdell@riotexas.org](mailto:skennerdell@riotexas.org) / 210.408.4514

3. **Lisa Singleton has been hired as Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group Case Manager Coordinator.** Some of her responsibilities include assigning cases to case managers, supervision, overseeing office set ups and staff visits, staff meetings, CAN client entry, case management committee meetings, attending LTRC or other community meetings as needed, etc.

If you need to reach her, she is housed at CBDRG office: [111 N Odem Avenue, Suite 4 Sinton 78387 512-525-1636](#)

**TO SIGN UP FOR CBDRG** Case Management call (361) 596-DRG1 (3741). It's a Google phone number/voicemail so caller leaves message and Lisa will check system daily. She will forward message to case manager which is transcribed text and audio file of voicemail. Case manager will meet in person with client as appropriate for case- home visits, etc. She will make assignments to case managers for follow up. Office hours are 8-5pm with hour for lunch.

**Ongoing Information:**

1. **Donation Report:** The City of Sachse sent Rockport a treasure chest full of gift cards that were distributed to worshippers at the Community Thanksgiving Service. Leftover cards will be given to local agencies to distribute. The total gift was \$12,154.

FUMC has received \$106,552.07 in donations for church repair; all has been distributed for replacing lost items and installations.

FUMC has received \$19,489.20 in donations for Harvey Relief and Recovery efforts; \$4, 027.56 has been distributed thus far for local family needs.

2. **First Learning Tree** is open with current enrollment at 110 children.

3. **Restoration Management Company Updates-Dec 5th:**

- a. VCT is being waxed and ready for use in all spaces.
- b. Carpet is down in Sanctuary.
- c. Education wing is ready for furniture and supplies.
- d. Youth/Recreation Room is almost finished with new kitchen counter, cabinets, and ready for appliances.
- e. Final shelving units are ready for installation this week.
- f. Doors in First Learning Tree have been installed.
- g. Pews have been removed and ready for disposal. Church Interiors will be building new pews, coordinating interior design and working on stained glass proposal.

#### 4. District and Conference Ministries Continue:

- a. [www.riotexas.org](http://www.riotexas.org)                      [www.coastalbendumc.org](http://www.coastalbendumc.org)
- b. **UMVIM Leaders**– training can be scheduled in your church or if your putting together a UMVIM team, please contact Frank Rojas, Conference VIM Coordinator: [vim.riotx@gmail.com](mailto:vim.riotx@gmail.com) / **512.422.0210**; Lisa Bowen, Costal Bend VIM Coordinator: **936.264.6744**/ [lisa@serendipitybridge.org](mailto:lisa@serendipitybridge.org) / **361.442.9056**; Abel Vega, RTC Mission Vitality Center – Director of Outreach Vitality [avega@riotexas.org](mailto:avega@riotexas.org) or **210.408.4514**
- c. **Gene Hileman, Disaster Response Coordinator-Rio Texas** Conference UMC, 210-557-8698: A Case Management program will be headquartered in Sinton at the First United Methodist Church. UMCOR will have a similar program headquartered in Victoria.

#### Action Items for Congregation:

1. Check in. Call or email the church office and let us know how you are. 729-1659 or [pastor@fumcrockport.org](mailto:pastor@fumcrockport.org)
2. Find one thing you can do to serve. Keep taking care of each other. Pray for all.
3. Ministries and programs will return as locations for operating those ministries are determined and volunteer leaders are ready.
4. Keep checking in on all our information: email, Facebook, website, etc.
5. And, please update any contact information and current mailing address.

#### Ministry Partners for Relief and Recovery

*These are the churches who have reached out to us and said 'God is calling us to help Rockport FUMC'*

Wellspring United Methodist Church – Georgetown, Texas  
Grace United Methodist Church – Corpus Christi, Texas  
John Wesley UMC – Victoria, TX  
First United Methodist Church – Georgetown, Texas  
Laurel Heights UMC – San Antonio, Texas  
Midge Hall United Methodist Church – Longmeanygate, Leyland, England  
Halifax UMC – Halifax, Pennsylvania  
St. Philips UMC – Round Rock, TX  
Our little church in Rockport, Ohio  
UMCOR  
Wylie UMC – Wylie Pirates  
Gruene UMC  
El Valle District UMC  
Coastal Bend District UMC  
Family Life Church - Sugarland, TX  
First Methodist Mansfield, Tx  
FUMC and Wesley Nurse – Goliad, Tx  
FUMC and FBC Portland - TX  
Thoburn United Methodist Church – St. Clairsville, Ohio  
Ellisville FUMC  
Stonebridge UMC – Sunshine Kids  
The City of Sachse, Texas  
Vermeer Charitable Foundation  
Gutshall Charitable Foundation  
Eastlawn Methodist Church –Pascagoula, MS  
*Please let us know if we missed your church!*