



# FUMC Post-Harvey Update

**"Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord."**

**Church Update #14 ~ Pastor Laura Becker  
January 25, 2018**

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

Thanks be to God for the calls, prayers, and helpful hands that continue to come add support and care to on-going relief and recovery. It is clear that everyone is experiencing different stages of progress and the presence of our 'winter family' has brought new energy and strength.

I have found that metaphors help to convey the experience of rebuilding after natural disaster. Some days it feels like we are laying wounded, broken, loosing blood and breath. We are aware of the injury but we can't dial for 911. Some days we muster the energy to tend our wound and then there is nothing left to take care of others. Other days we receive grace from responders who are seeking to help us heal. There are also days where we pull up the proverbial 'bootstraps' and will ourselves into forward steps for the sake of self and neighbor. God isn't wasting any of these days as the wound heals and the scars strengthen. Often the most difficult wounds to identify are those unseen within our emotional, mental, and spiritual faculties.

As a friend reminded me, self-reflection is vital for health and wholeness. Such reflection is a gift that can result in spiritual transformation when done in grace filled environments. Remember the woman that meets Jesus at the well. His grace-filled presence allows her to enter a conversation that enables reflection of her life. Jesus sees her, hears her, and speaks truth that heals her. Jesus knew her story and offered life giving water.

*"Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." - John 4: 13-14*

I'm so grateful for the gift of life-giving water in colleagues, family, friends, and the Church. Our partners in the body of Christ have enabled us to give drink to all kinds of thirst in Rockport. We continue to distribute gift cards, relief and rebuilding funds, emergency expenses, and provide soul food in worship.

## **WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAN:**

- a. Worship schedule resumes to 8:00am Holy Communion and 10:30am Traditional
- b. Sunday School Adult classes have resumed.
- c. 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 P.O. BOX 1045 Rockport, Texas 78381.

## **New Information:**

1. Immediate Pressing Needs
  - a. Income to meet First Learning Tree Mortgage commitment.

- b. Stock investors to help Youth fulfill their mission trip commitment to Costa Rica
- c. Volunteers to help unload boxes and re-organize rooms
- 2. Future Needs – Unmet by Insurance
  - a. Power wash entries
  - b. Paint exterior of Sanctuary and Church buildings
  - c. Level old playground and complete 'recreation space' project
  - d. Update signage – outside and interior
  - e. French drain installed in parking lot where water accumulates
  - f. Window replaced to match the restored windows (6)
  - g. Breezeway maintenance – clean, paint, cover exposed nails.
- 3. Prayer Needs
  - a. The family of Ellen Leikam, sister of Virginia Felts, who died 1/16/18.
  - b. The family of Buck Kohl, husband of Carol Kohl, who died 1/21/18.

### Ongoing Information:

1. **First Learning Tree** is open with current enrollment at 125 children.
2. **Restoration Management Company Updates-Jan 18th:**
  - a. Working on finishing punch list
  - b. Main Kitchen appliances delivered.
  - c. Youth Recreation Room Kitchen is plumbed and wired with appliances.
  - d. Metal roof to be installed.
  - e. HVAC on Fellowship Hall installed.
  - f. Sanctuary Pews and Windows are on order with Church Interiors.
  - g. Parsonage roof materials are ordered and awaiting good weather days and scheduling
  - h. Parsonage fence is complete on east side of yard; materials for west side are ready and waiting on good weather and scheduling.
3. **District and Conference Ministries Important Contact Information:**
  - 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 yourself and each other. Pray for all.
3. Ministries and programs will return as rooms are reset and leaders are ready to lead. Look for news as we move into 2018.
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!*