

FUMC Post-Harvey Update



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

Church Update #2 ~ 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. Communication systems are still spread out. Thanks for using every method you have to reach us. Your FUMC Staff is checking in daily and sharing information and needs, as well as, planning the next steps. Information is being gathered by our website, voice mail, personal calls, and Facebook page.
2. Again, 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@fumcrockport.org. As electricity in Rockport comes up our mobile office set-up may change. For now, most of us are linked

3. **WORSHIP PLAN:** Since meeting with God is the first priority and honestly that can happen in any place where people gather to worship Almighty God. In Christ, we understand that his members are widespread much like we are in this displacement and disaster. Those in need are likewise. So the plan for our congregation is to find a people that will equip and empower you with God's love this Sunday. Trusting that God will already be there when you cross the threshold. For those able and desiring to join in worship, you are invited to do a new thing through Christ. I'm calling it Worship Beyond the Walls. Anyone who is able, we will meet at the parking lot outside Rockport Beach next to Bay Education Center from 7-8am on Sunday, Morning September 10th. At 8:30am, we will progress and join First Presbyterian in Rockport with Communion. Then, for those who need a later time, at 10:30am, we will join with First Baptist Church of Rockport. Pastor Laura will be at every location, come to one, come to all people and places and God will give you rest for our weary souls. Currently, Pastor Laura plans to lunch somewhere in Rockport with the community. Afterward, in the spirit of Granddaddy Hewett (a member of Christ) – a family Sunday drive to visit folks, work at the parsonage, or nap depending on the energy and strength given. We have a unique opportunity to embrace our ever changing circumstance and embrace being outside our church walls as construction continues and our usual space has fence around it. Let me be clear: We will continue to move toward making our Sanctuary on 801 E. Main ready and safe for all. We pray and hope access to the building will come quickly.
4. We continue to hear 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.
5. 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.
6. As some of you begin returning to the Rockport Area keep checking in on all are information: email, Facebook, website, etc.

Ongoing Information:

1. Straight from the Restoration Management Co.'s project manager: We are ready to move to construction phase of FLT and Fencing is around the entire block (church and flt). Sanctuary has all carpet out and continues to dry. Power is currently not restored in Church buildings.
2. All damaged materials are out of FLT and the dumpster is coming today.

Action Items for Congregation:

1. Pray for our workers and their families as they recover and restore our space.
2. Worship as you are able and remember that we can receive offerings on our website at: www.fumcrookport.org (Click the online giving) or you can mail gifts to the P.O. Box 1045 Rockport, TX 78381 (Ingleside PO is our closet operational center, so expect delays) Parsonage Mail Box is still standing and receiving mail: 3117 Traylor Blvd. Rockport, Texas 78382



3. As we gain understanding of where ministry leaders are situated we expect that many usual and also new ministries will present themselves. For the time being, getting FLT operational is our top priority and establishing new ways to worship locally during this transition. We are going to take everything one day at a time as life, community, and church settles into new stable patterns.

Shout Outs: Thanks to the amazing FUMC Staff who are holding things together and positioning themselves to be ready for what God is giving us to do.