

CENTRE CHURCH RESPONSE TO THE MERRIMACK VALLEY GAS FIRES TRAGEDY

As is often the case, monetary donations are the most helpful in the midst of a crisis and the period of recovery because it avoids burdening those in need or their helpers with having to dispose of excess or unneeded materials. It gives them the most flexibility to obtain exactly what is needed in the quantities needed. Below you will find several opportunities to offer monetary donations as well as opportunities to supply needed items that our mission partners have requested.

Monetary Donations

- Lazarus House in Lawrence
You can donate to Lazarus House by sponsoring Rev. Nancy and our team of Centre Church Walkers as they participate in the **Hike for Hope** on Sunday, September 30th. Join our team or sponsor us here: <https://lazarushouse.akaraisin.com/HikeforHope/CentreChurchWalkers>
- Our Denomination
Our MACUCC Conference has set up a Gas Explosions/Fires Response & Recovery Fund. All of these funds will go directly to responding in Massachusetts to support our clergy and churches in their own recovery efforts and those in their communities. You can [donate online here](#) or send checks to MACUCC, 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702 with "Gas Fires Response" in the MEMO line.
- Bread and Roses
Rev. Nancy has been in contact with Sue, the Director of B&R. There are two ways to donate money. 1) make a monetary donation online at <http://www.breadandroseslawrence.org/donate.html> or 2) purchase Market Basket gift cards in any amount you choose and bring them to church and we'll deliver them to B&R.
- Essex County Community Foundation
On Sept. 18, Governor Charlie Baker announced the establishment of the Greater Lawrence Disaster Relief Fund at ECCF with a leading \$10-million-dollar contribution from Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. You can read more about the fund, how it will be dispersed, and donate to the fund here: <http://www.eccf.org/lawrenceemergencyfund>

Donations of Needed Items

- Bread and Roses
Sue mentioned several needs we can fill in the short term: 1) gently used electric cooking appliances are needed while families are living with electricity but no gas for hot water or cooking. Electric Fry Pans, Griddles, Hot Plates, Crock Pots, Toaster Ovens, etc. If you have one you would like to donate, drop it off in our Missions Closet and we'll deliver it to B&R. 2) Critical need items are in even greater demand with so many affected by the fires: men's underwear, all sizes (new); women's underwear, all sizes (new); garbage bags; sanitary wipes/moist towelettes; bottled water; travel size toiletries/personal care items.
- Our UCC siblings at Phoenix Rising UCC in Lawrence – We will stay connected and wait for more information from Rev. Donna Spencer Collins as this church supports one of their families who lost their home in this tragedy.
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HURRICANE FLORENCE DISASTER RELIEF

We realize that our local crisis is not the only crisis happening in the world and many of us have family and friends who have been affected by Hurricane Florence and likely Typhoon Mangkhut as well. To read more about the UCC Disaster Relief efforts and to donate to disaster relief for the areas affected by these latest storms: http://www.ucc.org/hurricanes_2018_ucc_response

As always, we are better together and we praise the God who forms us, calls us, and equips us as we love our neighbors as ourselves! If you have information about critical needs or opportunities to provide support to those affected, please call or email the Centre Church office at 781-334-3050, office@centre-church.org.