



### **Gifts of the Heart**

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Dear friends,

By now I'm sure you've all seen and read about the devastation in the wake of Hurricane Helene. It is hard to imagine the scope of the hurricane's impact, from Florida's Big Bend up through the Carolinas. The mountains of western North Carolina were hit particularly hard as the rains and winds caused flooding and tore down trees and structures in an area not acquainted with hurricanes. The picture above is from the Montreat Conference Center near Black Mountain.

When a crisis strikes, we want to help. I believe the best way to do so is thru Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This excellent organization within the PC(USA) is already on the ground working with other agencies to bring aid wherever it is needed. Speaking with Catherine Neal at yesterday's retired pastors' lunch, she shared that monetary donations and Gifts from the Heart Kits are what is needed most. It doesn't help to collect items such as clothing as there is nowhere for them to go. (Catherine is active in PDA and the Red Cross.)

**Gifts of the Heart Kits** are ones such as Cleanup Buckets and Hygiene kits. Creating these kits is a tangible way to be involved in the recovery efforts. Perhaps a youth group or women's circle in your congregation has put these together in the past for PDA or Church World Service. Obviously, the Cleanup Buckets are especially needed now and in the coming months. If you're looking for a hands on mission project or can add this to a Faith in Action day at your church this fall, please consider creating some kits. You don't need to make hundreds; every single one will be deeply appreciated by those who need them. For more information and details for creating the kits, go to the Gifts of the Heart Kits webpage [here](#).

In Wisconsin we've been spared the hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and flooding affecting other regions throughout our country. May we share our blessings with those who have experienced these calamities.

Grace and Peace.

*Lisa*