



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

PORTLAND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1838 SW JEFFERSON, PORTLAND, OR 97201

an **E** special edition

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## HURRICANE KATRINA

### our church responds



The news of the devastation and human suffering wrought by Hurricane Katrina is humbling. I am sure that all of us are keeping the people of that storm-ravaged area in our thoughts and prayers.

I am sending this special Circuit Rider Electronic Edition to update you on what our church is doing to bring relief—and to enlist your compassionate response.

The United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) is in the scene. Disaster Response Coordinators are meeting to coordinate their efforts to make damage assessments, set up volunteer efforts, and distribute relief supplies. While the extent of the damage is just now unfolding, as it will over the next several days, UMCOR is beginning its response.

Tom Hazelwood, who heads the response teams reports, “As the storm clears and the media focuses on the major metropolitan areas affected by Katrina, UMCOR will be focusing on its mission to seek out the people left most vulnerable by the storm who often live in outlying rural areas. We seek to help people who might be otherwise overlooked.”

UMCOR maintains a warehouse in Baldwin, LA to stockpile emergency supplies. The Sager Brown Depot does not act as a shelter itself, but it is currently supplying cots for people to have a place to sleep and is distributing health kits and flood buckets to those who need them. The health kits contain items such as a toothbrush, wash cloth, and soap. The flood buckets contain items like gloves, household cleaners, and bleach to help people clean their homes to make them livable again.

**The need is urgent to replenish the supplies of health kits and flood buckets.** Since collecting, packing and shipping these kits and buckets from our area is both costly and not timely, the best way we can help is by giving financial gifts so that supplies can be quickly purchased and distributed.

**On Sunday we will invite a special offering for flood relief by ‘passing the buckets’ during our Worship Service. You may also contribute by sending a contribution to the church office clearly marked, “Hurricane Relief.” We will make sure that all donations are used for helping the victims and the recovery efforts.**

**Your gift is entirely tax deductible—and there is no administrative or overhead taken from your gift. 100% will help those who need it most.**

**Thank you in advance for your response!**

In Christ,  
Arvin R. Luchs  
Senior Pastor