



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns *Online*

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Presbyterians show their support as impact of flooding is felt

“It’s really been a mixed bag of destruction,” said Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva, associate presbytery leader in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy.

by Darla Carter, Presbyterian News Service — Days and weeks after summer flooding ravaged various presbyteries this summer, the extent of the damage continues to be assessed. But the known effects have been significant, from displacing school children and pastors to damaging church basements and parishioners’ homes. At least six churches in the St. Louis area have been affected to varying degrees by what’s been called a 100-year flood, said the Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva, associate presbytery leader in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. “It’s really been a mixed bag of destruction,” she said.

The Rev. Doug King, senior pastor of Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, describes the scramble to make new space for 3- and 4-year-old children displaced by school flooding.

“We have \$100,000 worth of damage in the portion of our building where we have our school,” King said. “It’s a huge financial challenge to consider where that money will come from when it’s not built into the budget. And the second thing is that any repairs that need to happen will not be completed in time for the school to open, so we’re going to need to move where the classrooms traditionally are.” *continued*

Flooding, *continued.*

The church is fortunate enough to have Sunday school rooms to accommodate the kids, “but it will mean moving all of the equipment and sort of repurposing those rooms” and figuring out how to share them, he said. “It will be a lot of effort for our teachers to figure all that out.”

Missouri is one of three areas in which Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been in contact with church leaders to offer support recently because of destructive and sometimes deadly flooding. The others are eastern Kentucky and western Virginia.

“Because of the generous support of the denomination, PDA has been able to consider grants in all three presbyteries and deploy national response team members to two of them,” said the Rev. Jim Kirk, Associate for National Disaster Response for PDA.

The Rev. Philip Lotspeich, general presbyter in the Presbytery of Transylvania, spoke of Presbyterian generosity in the wake of historic flooding in eastern Kentucky.

“I’m getting calls from presbyteries and churches and people from around the country wanting to help, wanting to express their concern and their prayers, and so it’s been really wonderful to see the larger church get involved and show how much they care about



An airman from the Kentucky Air National Guard’s 123rd Special Tactics Squadron searches for flood victims in eastern Kentucky. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Clayton Wear)

their brothers and sisters in eastern Kentucky,” Lotspeich said. “We’re trying to make sure they know how much people care about them, so when we go down there, we’re carrying all those connections and concerns and prayers with us.”

In eastern Kentucky, where a PDA team will deploy this weekend, Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Whitesburg and Buckhorn Lake Area Presbyterian Church have sustained damage, Lotspeich said.

“We were fortunate that the flooding was mostly confined to the basement of those buildings,” he said. Buckhorn’s “sanctuary sits up fairly high,” but there’s an outbuilding that’s used for multiple purposes, including a kitchen and fellowship hall, and “we’re going to have to work on that.”

Additional concerns may arise. “Part of the challenge is we’re not even really into the assessment phase yet,” Lotspeich said. Residents and volunteers are still “trying to clean up and figure out what’s wrong. At Buckhorn, as of earlier this week, “they didn’t have electricity, so we don’t know what’s working (or) what kind of electrical damage there’s been,” Lotspeich said.

Continued

Guest Preacher this week: Rachel Hamburger

Scripture lessons: Psalm 82

Romans 5:1-5

Sermon: Where faith ends up.

Flooding, continued.

Another issue is that the manse is not livable right now, so co-pastors Tom and Gayle Burns will be moved to a location with electricity, air-conditioning and Wi-Fi, Lotspeich said.

In the Whitesburg church, there were offices and other things, such as classrooms, in the basement, so they had to discard a lot of things because “the water was pretty nasty,” he said.

Also, a number of parishioners have been impacted and a couple of houses destroyed, and “we’re still trying to figure out exactly who all was impacted and help them take care of their parishioners as well,” he said.

Members of PDA’s National Response Team visited Virginia about 10 days ago to get a feel for flood damage there and provide support. Buchanan First Presbyterian Church in Gundy, which is located near a creek, sustained damage.

“They had about four feet of water and mud and muck and debris in their basement and then all throughout their parking lot as well,” said the Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks, presbytery leader and stated clerk in Abingdon Presbytery. But “they do believe as a whole the church is salvageable. ... They are doing pretty well, all things considered.”



courtesy of the National Weather Service



Volunteers help remove flood debris from Messenger Florist and Gifts in Whitesburg, KY.
Jeff Dean for NPR



Music Notes for Pentecost X.

First Presbyterian Church is blessed with three incredible keyboards in the Sanctuary: the mighty 1893 Woodberry and Harris pipe organ, a first-rate Boston parlor grand piano and a double manual harpsichord. Roger will play two of those instruments this week, with the prelude and special music on the harpsichord and the postlude on the organ. *Allemande, Courante and Gigue* highlight the versatility of the prolific German composer **Johann Mattheson** (1681-1764). In addition to playing keyboards and violin, Mattheson was also a soloist for the Hamburg Opera, singing soprano as a child and tenor as an adult. Although he wrote eight operas, numerous oratorios and cantatas and a variety of keyboard music, he is remembered today primarily as a music theorist. Additionally, Mattheson was a professional diplomat who spoke English fluently.



Mattheson.

Our Worship Channels

click on the logos



Patrick & Ann will be visiting their daughter Brigid in Pittsburgh this weekend. Please contact the church office with any concerns between Friday, August 12 and Tuesday August 16.

This Week in History.



Operation Desert Shield commences in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
August 7, 1990



African American explorer Matthew Henson born in Charles County, Maryland. With Robert E. Peary, he would reach the North Pole, April 6, 1909.
August 8, 1866



Richard Nixon resigns the presidency.
August 9, 1974



Herbert Hoover born in West Branch, IA
August 10, 1874



A traffic stop by a white California Highway Patrol of an African American motorist leads to six days of violence and destruction in the Watts area of Los Angeles. Thirty-four were killed, more than 3,000 people were arrested, and property damage was assessed at \$40 million.
August 11, 1965



The German Democratic Republic, erects a barbed wire fence dividing Berlin; a wall would replace the temporary barrier soon after.
August 13, 1961