

SERVE

with your time

- Flood Recovery in East Tennessee — Read more on the backside of this insert about how Church Street has — and continues to — support Hurricane Helene relief efforts in East Tennessee.



SUPPORT

with your gifts and talents

- Wesley House Collection Drive — This month, we are collecting **OATMEAL** and **RICE** for the Wesley House Community Center food pantry. Bring your contribution to the Welcome Center throughout the month of April - thank you!

SUSTAIN

through ongoing gifts and prayers

- Prayer of the month — *Thank you, God, for the colors of spring that are blossoming around us! May the hope and joy they bring restore in us a sense of hope and joy! Thank you for opportunities to serve our brothers and sisters. May we spread hope and joy in all we say and do! Amen.*



DISCIPLESHIP

APRIL 2025

Church Street serves our community with fervent love. We provide service, outreach, and support to our neighbors in our local community. Thank you for supporting these ministries!

MISSION & MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Have a question? Reach out to one of these mission or ministry leaders:

Missions Committee Chair

Jeff Smith - jasvols@gmail.com

Soup Kitchen

Julia Kelley - juliakelley5402@comcast.net

Sharing Shop

Elaine Ralston - aralston1025@tds.net

Family Promise

Valeta Norris - valetanorris@gmail.com

Dogwood Elementary School

Mary Torres - coachrysmom@gmail.com

Benevolence

Duane Simmons - simmonsduane@msn.com

Staff Ministry Contacts:

Missions Assistant

Marc Gamble - mgamble@churchstreetumc.org

Church Street Kids

Katryn Bancroft - kbancroft@churchstreetumc.org

Youth

youth@churchstreetumc.org

Contact a Pastor:

Rev. Catherine Nance: cnance@churchstreetumc.org,
865-521-0260

Rev. Tim Best: tbest@churchstreetumc.org,
865-521-0279

EAST TENNESSEE FLOOD RECOVERY

On September 27, the unthinkable happened - a downgraded post-tropical cyclone devastated the region, took lives, changed the landscape, and decimated homes and communities. We all remember the images news stations broadcast and individuals posted on every social platform. The images are seared into our minds, but you may not know how Church Street UMC and partner churches were on site, bringing hope within a few days of the storm.

Within days of the storms, volunteers from Church Street, Concord UMC, and many other churches could be found hauling water and other essentials to Greenville, TN, and the surrounding area. Our connection with Sarah Varnell, former CSUMC Associate Pastor, provided valuable direction to the greatest need. Soon, Robert Bedwell and Pam Arnett, through connections in Knoxville, went to Mountain City in Johnson County, TN. The need was great and immediate.

They connected with Dewayne Dixon, Pastor of 1st Christian Church in Johnson County, who manages the needs and available resources coming through the county. To date, he maintains a list of over 150 families that need significant help moving forward. Groups of volunteers from Church Street and Concord UMC began making their way to Mountain City, bringing much more than able bodies and a willing spirit; they were bringing hope.

Allen and Lori are the first family that our volunteers served. Their house was utterly destroyed, but they waved our volunteers off and told them to help others because they owned a daycare they could live in for the time being. Next, our volunteers met Janet and Danny Ray, who were days away from leveling what was left of their house. Janet works at the Post Office in Mountain City, and everywhere the crew goes, locals ask if they are the people helping Janet and Danny Ray. As a result, hope began to grow in the whole community. Janet and Danny Ray will receive a new modular home thanks to the generosity of many.

The crew returned to Allen and Lori and began to help them renovate their daycare and turn it into their home. They needed to eliminate much of the daycare equipment to make space for home furnishings. Allen and Lori donated some of the equipment to Church Street's newly reopened child daycare and other agencies that needed the supplies. The work completed is amazing: new floors, sheetrock, windows, and walls. Our volunteers do not do it for the thank you's; however, the families they have served have called them "angels come to help." That means more than anyone could imagine.

Trips to the region will continue, including opportunities over the weekend for those who work during the week. You can watch the Messenger for more information.

Note: The ministries above are primarily connected to missions and community outreach. Contact a pastor or communications@churchstreetumc.org or 865-521-0299 for additional support in finding a ministry leader.