



[Week of Compassion](#) is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

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May 30, 2024

## Severe Storms Update

*connecting needs, responses, & prayers after the storms*

Over the last two weeks, communities from the Texas Gulf Coast to the Great Plains, across the Ozarks and the midwestern United States have seen significant severe weather, intense hail and thunderstorms, multiple deadly tornadoes, and broad paths of wind damage and destruction. Memorial Day Weekend weather made a particularly widespread impact.

Week of Compassion has been in touch with local church leaders and partners as they assess immediate needs across these various regions. It is still early and needs will continue to shift as the impact of these multiple storms becomes more evident. Week of Compassion is committed to accompany communities affected by these recent storms right away, and for the long term.

Ongoing responses are underway in the *Houston TX* area, following significant thunderstorms and flooding in the last few weeks. *Oklahoma* communities continue clean-up efforts following significant storms in Claremore this weekend, on top of last month's EF-2 tornado in Sulphur, and related storm damage and power outages in Bartlesville and elsewhere across the state. Last week's storms in *Greenfield IA* and much of the *greater Kansas City* area have included straight-line winds, tree and structural damage, and extended power outages. *North Texas* has endured consecutive days of tornadoes, hailstorms, massive rainfall, and widespread power failure. Long-term recovery groups in western *Kentucky* who have been working on rebuilding from the 2021 tornadoes are now responding to the new needs from the past week's storms, which included an EF3 tornado in the Dawson Springs area. Forecasts for this coming weekend show significant weather moving into the *northeastern United States*, and meteorologists are looking ahead, braced for an unprecedented summer *hurricane season*.

[Rev. Ronny Nowell](#), Disaster Response Coordinator for the Great River Region – a partnership program with Week of Compassion – is working alongside Week of Compassion to connect with congregational leaders and ecumenical partners to assess damage, storm impact, and response needs in northwest Arkansas following the major tornadoes over Memorial Day Weekend. He offers a meaningful reflection:

*[Northwest Arkansas was] hit by several tornadoes on Sunday, May 27. Those storms continued across the state causing damage and loss of life in 10 counties. The destruction is hard to imagine, and I don't have words to describe the miles and miles of homes damaged and destroyed, 100-year-old trees uprooted and laying everywhere. Tens of thousands of us are without power with no real estimate of when that work might be completed. Several of our churches sustained damage as well. But amid all this tragedy one thing shines through every day and that is the kindness of people to each other. Neighbor helping neighbor. People driving around passing out cold water to workers. The Line Workers who have come in from all over the US to work in these hot and dangerous situations to try and restore our electrical grid. ... If you look for God's action, you are sure to find it, even in a disaster.*

When storms, emergencies, and crises come, we always ask: **HOW CAN WE HELP?**

[Make a gift to Week of Compassion](#) , marked 'US Storms'.

**100% of designated contributions support immediate responses and long-term recovery.**



When storms, emergencies, and crises come, we always ask

## HOW CAN WE HELP?



**PRAY**

### **REMAIN STEADFAST IN PRAYER.**

Remember in your personal and congregational worship prayers: affected families and communities, regional ministers, local church pastors, emergency workers, and all who give and respond.



**GIVE**

### **GIVE ONLINE, THRU YOUR CHURCH, OR BY MAIL.**

Gifts marked **U.S. STORMS** bring Disciples alongside our partners answering urgent needs and making plans for long-term recovery. [www.weekofcompassion.org/give](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/give)  
-OR- mail to POBox 1986, Indianapolis IN 46206



**STAY**

### **STAY IN TOUCH, AND FOR NOW, STAY HOME.**

**Right now**, emergency trained personnel need room to assess and respond. **Later**, volunteers will be needed over a long-term recovery. You can send an interest form, create a volunteer profile, join leader training, or be a virtual volunteer - go to [weekofcompassion.org/volunteer](http://weekofcompassion.org/volunteer)

[weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org)

*use in worship announcements, newsletter, or social media (right-click then 'save image as' to download)*

The reality and impact of climate change means more frequent weather events, occurring both more often and with greater severity. **Week of Compassion remains alert to emerging needs and committed to long-term response.**

**Week of Compassion is praying with you and for you.** We offer a prayer in this season – to use in your own devotion, to forward to others and to share in your social media, and to include in your worship service however it best serves your community. Grace and peace ...

# A PRAYER IN THIS SEASON

God of All Wonder, we are in constant awe of your power,  
and sometimes even afraid of the way nature swirls around us.

Redeeming Christ who saves us from ourselves,  
it is your compassion and wisdom that guides our steps, our thoughts, our hearts.  
Abiding Spirit, you spur us to creativity, as we care for one another,  
in actions large and small, with word, prayer, and resource.

We pray with true amazement at the way lives are spared amid ravaging storms,  
and we pray with confident hope for the welcome embrace promised  
for those whose lives were lost and whose families remain in grief.

We pray with steadfast thanksgiving for those who are first to respond,  
whose skillful training leads them to the heart of situations dangerous and unknown,  
and we pray with unending gratitude for the mercy shown by one after another  
as neighbors remember what 'love one another' really looks like.

We pray with sighs too deep for words, when words fail and concerns press in,  
and we pray that you will sort out our sighs, our words, our fears, and our cries,  
knowing that none is lost to your sight, that all are held in your care,  
that the terrifying winds of the world's storms are yet no match  
for the fresh wind of your spirit that can – still and again – breathe new life  
into overwhelmed hearts, moving over the chaos to re-create and make us whole.

*God of All Wonder, Redeeming Christ, Abiding Spirit – hear us, see us, be with us.*

**We are yours.**

**Amen.**






**responses since May 30 2024**

Click [here](#) or on the map for an interactive view of recent Responses.

 **IOWA (2)**  
tornado relief

 **OHIO**  
Afghan refugee family support

 **TEXAS (3)**  
storm relief  
windstorm damage

 **GEORGIA**  
storm relief

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**MISSION :** to work with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world

**VISION :** a world where God's people transform suffering into hope

**CORE VALUES :** connection - integrity - accompaniment

Week of Compassion | PO Box 1986 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 US

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