

PRESBYTERY OF EAST IOWA

Presbyterian Church USA

Derecho Response Update II

On August 10, 2020 a derecho with winds up to 140 miles an hour blew through Iowa. The damage to trees and buildings within the bounds of the Presbytery was extensive. According to updated data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the August derecho was the most costly thunderstorm in US history.

The Presbytery hosted ten separate work days to assist in storm clean up. We have cleared debris from churches, residences, and private organizations. We have passed out sandwiches, barbeque, and school supplies to impacted communities. We have reached out to rural communities and farmers with pastoral care. We are here for the long haul.

To date, we have given away \$31,000 including \$17,000 to food banks that either lost food in the storm or have seen an increase in traffic because of the storm, \$1000 in school supplies for area youth, and additional money supporting local agencies that work with refugee communities.

Additionally, we are planning a tree initiative in the spring to replace some of the trees lost in the storm.

None of this would be possible without the prayers, volunteers, donations, and well wishes from people all over the country. We are humbled and grateful for all of the support we have received.



Disaster Response Task Force

Rev. Kristin Hutson, Chair
Julia Andrews
Dr. Rebecca Blair
Rev. Sarah Hegar
Rev. Trey Hegar
Rev. Dan Jessop
Rev. Erin Kaye
Betsy Kutter
Duane Oltman
Rev. Melody Oltman
Rev. Dr. Pamela Saturnia
Tom Suchomel
John Swanson
Heather Woodin
Rev. Lori Wunder

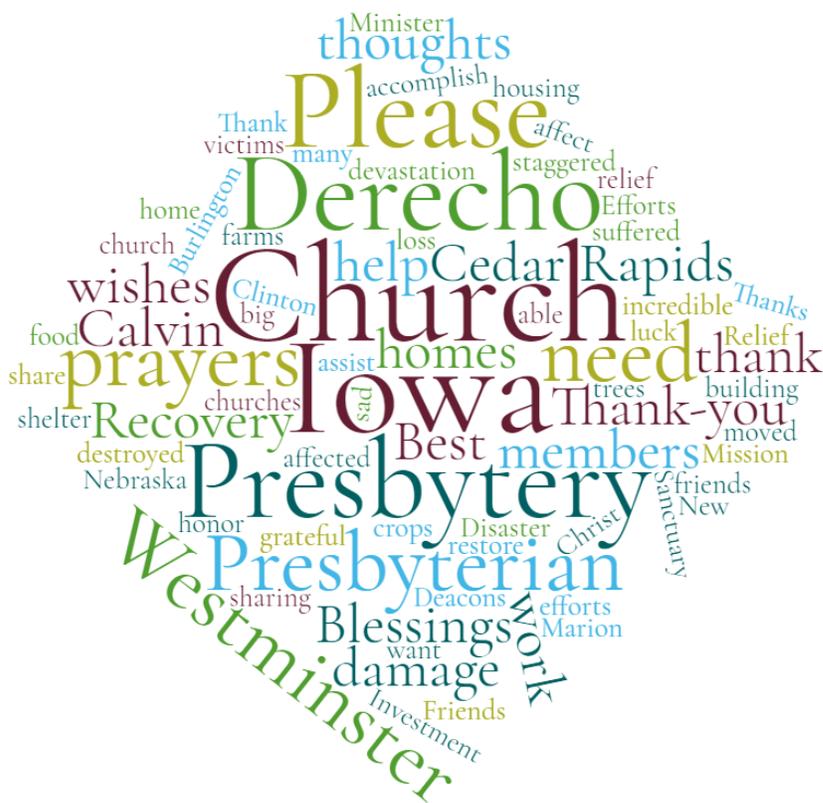


**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Derecho Response Update

If you wish to donate to the Presbytery's Disaster Fund, please go to <https://peia.org/disaster-assistance-information/>
OR mail a check to
Presbytery of East Iowa
1700 S. 1st Ave. Ste 23
Iowa City, IA 52240
Please write "Disaster Recovery Fund" in the memo line

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is known for their "blue shirt ministry" after natural disasters. During the storm clean-up, it was our privilege to wear these blue shirts as we worked to clean up impacted areas.



What do the countless well-wishes after a natural disaster look like? Collecting all of the notes reveal a picture of prayer, concern, hope, and covenant community. We are so grateful for the connectal church and the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ.

The Disaster Recovery Task Force lost long-time PEIA Elder and dear friend Tom Suchomel on October 17, 2020. We honor his servant ministry by continuing to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love -- just like Tom did.

