

From: **Cindi Stewart** <cindi.stewart@columbusfumc.com>
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Subject: SPECIAL Email Blast

SPECIAL First UMC / Email Blast

Many of our church family members, families, friends & colleagues have been displaced by the recent flooding in and around Columbus. We also know that many homes, basements and garages have sustained water damage. There are several things that we want you to know including the fact that the **Great Plains Disaster Response Team** will be organized and deployed when it is safe to travel to the Columbus area.

- **Outreach Center** / When we attained our Outreach Center, we did get “on the list” for the American Red Cross as a *possible evacuation site* – if needed, we will be available. In addition, we have offered First UMC Outreach Center to be a “**mission outpost**” by providing space for Great Plains UMC disaster team response members to gather, to eat & to sleep and, of course, to be deployed from. When we know more about this possibility, we will let you know. We have also offered for our OC to be a collection site in our community – again, please watch for more details.
- **How to Help** / Check with your neighbors & see if they have any needs. Please do report extent of damage by calling the Church Office as we are keeping a list of those affected by flood to report to our district & conference for resources. While the extent of damage and resources needed are somewhat unknown at this time, we do know is that donations of cleaning supplies will be helpful – and **cash donations** are most helpful. Through our conference, funds can be designated to: **Great Plains Disaster Respond Fund / #975/42010**. We believe in our connectional system and the work of our agencies; of course, you are welcome & invited to share with charities that you believe in and trust.

- **POSTPONED** / **The United Methodist Women Mini Mission Study** scheduled for **Saturday, March 16** from 9:30 AM to 1 PM has been postponed until a later date.
- **POSTPONED:** **Bishop's Regional Gathering** scheduled for **Saturday, March 23** from 10 to 12:30 PM has been postponed until a later date.

Thank you for your prayers & patience and thank you, in advance, for the ways that we will adjust our current program and ministries to be able to engage in mission and ministry in our community, area & state. Pray that we can help in all of the ways that we are able. We are Nebraska Strong, and we are also UMC Strong. Blessings & see you this weekend in worship where we will pray & live into the promise of hope together.

Rev. Cindi & Pastor Joe