

Hi Friends,

I hope you've had a great week! If you haven't heard, please read all about the new home building blitz coming up in just 10 days in Beauregard! I also encourage you to [read this poignant Holy Week reflection by Rev. Geoffrey Lentz of Port St. Joe UMC](#). This gives you a sense of why our partnership with this church and community is so important. Thank you again for all the ways you continue to share Christ's love!

**RSVP** – Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> – If you have been involved with our disaster response in Lee County or with hurricane relief/recovery or if you would like to become involved, you are invited to join us for a luncheon on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> after the 11a service in the fellowship hall. Rev. Geoffrey Lentz from Port St Joe UMC will be joining us to share about his church and community's recovery and we'll also discuss our Lee County recovery efforts. Please RSVP by Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup> to Karen Green at [karen.greene@aumc.net](mailto:karen.greene@aumc.net) or call 334.826.8800.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas about ways our church can be in ministry!

#### Quick Links Tornado Response

- [Click here](#) to download the **Auburn UMC Volunteer Form**. Complete this form and bring it with you if you are serving on a work site. This form can be given to your Auburn UMC team leader or to Karen Green at the main reception desk in Mathison Lobby (or email it to her at [karen.greene@aumc.net](mailto:karen.greene@aumc.net)) if you're serving with a non-Auburn UMC team.
- **Did you volunteer at the EMA Operations Center or Warehouse?** Great! [Please click here to record your hours of service.](#)
- Learn more about Lee County's grass-roots, long-term disaster recovery group called MEND at [www.eamc.org/mend](http://www.eamc.org/mend). MEND is comprised of various sub-committees ranging from home rebuilding, civic groups, Auburn University, healthcare, mental health, animal care, schools, restaurants and more! [Your organization can join MEND using this online form.](#)

#### Tornado Response Opportunities to Serve

- Cleanup with Homeowners in Partnership with Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM)
  - **URGENT NEED:** The clean-up effort is in desperate need of medium to heavy equipment and operators for moving debris. If you or someone you know has access to skid steers, bull dozers, excavators, etc, PLEASE CALL MEND (334-528-6363) to share your capacity to help. You can also contact Lisa Pierce of ARM at [lisa@arm-al.org](mailto:lisa@arm-al.org) if MEND does not respond.
  - ARM's next work days are Friday April 26 and Saturday April 27. You can join an ARM team by coming to the ARM office (200 N 26<sup>th</sup> St Opelika, AL 36801) at 8a on these dates.
  - If you can't serve on these dates, you can still register to serve at [www.arm-al.org/tornadoregistration](http://www.arm-al.org/tornadoregistration) and specify dates you are available!
  - Bring your own lunch and drinking water. Wear pants and closed toe shoes.
- **NEW:** Damage Assessors Needed - Anyone with construction/home repair background can assist with damage assessments. Please contact Lisa Pierce of ARM at [lisa@arm-al.org](mailto:lisa@arm-al.org) or Joseph Farris of ARM at [joseph@arm-al.org](mailto:joseph@arm-al.org) if you want more information on how to help.

- **BLITZ BUILD** – The Fuller Center for Housing is building 3 new homes at the end of this month for families in Beauregard. They will return in September to build 6 more! Here’s how we can help in April/May:
  - Sat. April 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:30a-4:30p – Help frame 3 sets of walls at Providence Baptist Church.
  - Mon. April 29<sup>th</sup> – Fri. May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Help build homes, paint siding, and more! Construction and non-construction volunteers are needed. Arrive at Providence Baptist Church at 7:30a. All tools and materials are provided. Lunch and drinking water are provided too!
  - Mon. May 6<sup>th</sup> – Fri. May 10<sup>th</sup> – Help with “finishing touches” like installing flooring, landscaping, and more. We will focus our efforts with Mr. Napoleon Darby’s home (see below).
  - **SPECIAL:** One of the homes is being built for Napoleon Darby. This is the same gentleman we were able to help move into a new apartment with new furniture and home goods just after the storm. We’re so excited for this opportunity to assist Napoleon with his recovery!
- EMA Warehouse Volunteers – sorting and organizing supplies, **Monday-Saturday** (closed on Sat. 4/20), 8a-5p, at [309 Williamson Ave Opelika, AL 36801](#). Minimum Age to serve is 14. [CLICK HERE to record your service hours at the warehouse.](#)
- MEND Call Center Volunteers: The MEND call center is open from 8a-5p, Mon-Fri. This center is answering questions from survivors and volunteers interested in helping. It is located at the EAMC Foundation Building (407 W Thomason Circle Opelika, AL 36801). Sign up to serve by contacting the call center at 334-528-MEND (6363).

**Thank you!**

Blessings,

Joe

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