



# FLORIDA PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

In Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PCUSA)



May 2022

## Hurricane Season is around the corner: Preparedness tips for churches and families...

The 2022 Hurricane Season is predicted to be above average once again and it's time to begin our preparations. Here are a few tips...

**Determine your risk:** Is your neighborhood prone to flooding? Storm surge? [Know Your Flood Zone!](#) Tornado/wind damage? With soaring construction prices, do you have enough insurance coverage?

**Hurricane supplies:** Restock your family [hurricane kit](#) and include the supplies you have needed during the pandemic. Hand sanitizer, wipes, masks... the COVID variants are still with us. Supply chain issues continue to be a problem with many products so stock up with some extra supplies if you can. And don't forget your pets! (Have you tried finding canned cat food lately? Store shelves have been near empty for months. Just ask my cats!)



**Special Needs Registry:** If you or someone you know has needs such as oxygen, medical equipment or other special requirements, **help them to register now** with their county's [Special Needs Registry](#). This gives officials important information to use in planning for vulnerable populations as well as allows first responders to provide special assistance during a disaster.

**Listen to your local authorities:** Every county will have different plans and protocols best suited to their populations, communities and geography. Your local officials have updated hurricane plans, evacuation routes and shelter information, including which shelters are pet friendly. Listen to your local weather, emergency management and city/county officials. Heed their advice.



**Churches:** Check and update your disaster plan. Make sure contact numbers for staff and others are current. Know your presbytery's disaster protocol. Review your insurance policies. With materials costs skyrocketing, do you have enough church coverage? Assist the vulnerable people in your congregation and surrounding community by helping them gather hurricane supplies or putting up storm shutters and checking on them after a storm.

Churches are a vital part of a community's response and recovery! Can you offer your building or grounds as a secondary post-storm shelter space, a point of distribution

for supplies or a respite center for response workers? If so, please contact your local emergency management office and American Red Cross to let them know. They will work with you to determine if using your facility would be a possibility.

**Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc.**

Phone: 941-483-0675 Email: [fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org)

Mailing Address: 3146 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32609

[www.flapdan.org](http://www.flapdan.org)

# If your facility is damaged in a disaster, FEMA may be able to help!

Understanding FEMA's Public Assistance program can be challenging for applicants, especially in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. But if you do a little preparation ahead of time (taking photos/videos, gathering documents) it makes the process easier in the event of a federally declared disaster.



FEMA, together with the Department of Homeland Security Center of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, created a [video](#) to help inform faith leaders about funds that may help them rebuild if their houses of worship are damaged by a disaster. The video features several faith leaders in Puerto Rico and in the continental United States who tell the story of how their faith center was destroyed—and how they learned about FEMA funding, applied for assistance and how the funds helped them rebuild.

The video is intended to help faith leaders determine if they qualify for assistance and learn the steps to apply for Public Assistance. Houses of worship are considered private nonprofit organizations, and when there is a major disaster declaration, they may be eligible to request funding assistance to rebuild.

Visit [FEMA's YouTube page to watch the video](#).



**FLAPDAN** stays in close contact with the Florida presbyteries, Synod, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, FEMA, state and local emergency management, and many other faith-based and community disaster response organizations to assure continued communication of the latest updates, notifications and best practices. Coordinated response is a key element in all disasters from the federal level right down to each local community. Please contact FLAPDAN with questions or if you need help creating or updating your disaster plan.

**We are here for you. Thank you for your continued support of FLAPDAN!**

Stay safe,

Kathy Broyard, Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist



## FEMA COVID Funeral Assistance

Funeral expenses for an individual whose death in the U.S. may have been caused by, or was likely the result of, COVID-19 may be reimbursable. FEMA has provided over \$2.3 billion to people to assist with COVID-19 related funeral costs for deaths occurring on or after Jan. 20, 2020. This assistance helped pay for the funerals of more than 369,000 people who died from COVID. More information can be found here:

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-olWbPijMo&t=23s>

*FLAPDAN's mission is to support Florida communities through disaster preparedness, response and recovery working in partnership with community, government and faith-based organizations.*

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