

## [Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Efforts](#)

Bishop Connie Shelton



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North Carolina United Methodists,

Our hearts are heavy as we witness the devastation brought by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina and across the Southeast. Many families are facing unimaginable loss, and, as the body of Christ, we are called to respond with love, compassion, and action.

In times like these, our presence and support make all the difference. I urge you, as leaders in your churches, to rally your congregations in assembling [UMCOR cleaning kits](#). These kits will provide not just practical help but also a sign of hope to those beginning the long process of recovery.

Thank you to all of you who have been doing that important work over these last days and weeks. You can drop off supplies and completed kits at MERCI in Goldsboro or one of our collection centers across the conference. Please visit our [website](#) listed here on the screen for specific information about each collection site, its hours, and what is accepted.

In addition to assembling kits, I know many of you are eager to serve hands-on. Early Response Teams are critical in disaster recovery, but it's essential that we wait until the emergency phase has passed and it is safe to deploy. Until then, please prepare and be ready to offer your skills when the time is right by joining a [basic or recertification training](#).

This is a moment for us to grab our green shirts and be the tangible hands and feet of Jesus—offering love, healing, and comfort to our neighbors. Whether you're creating these kits, offering prayers, feeding our neighbors, or sharing monetary gifts, each act of kindness can help restore lives.

Please visit our [Disaster Ministries page](#) to learn how you can contribute to this vital mission. Together, let us be peace builders bearing witness to Christ's love in the midst of this storm.