



April 18, 2021

## PSEC Climate Justice Team and PSEC Churches Join Together to Make A Difference

Maybe it didn't need the offer of a grant from the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference to spur them on, but seven PSEC churches have been awarded matching grants from the Climate Justice Team's budget for environment-friendly projects this spring.

First UCC, Royersford will buy supplies for their raised garden bed used to educate youth about growing.

Immanuel Shillington will remove shrubs and replace them with pollinator and migratory-bird friendly plants, and use it as a teaching garden for their nature camps and preschool.

Peace in Zion will purchase seeds, and vegetable plants for their Monarch-butterfly attracting raised garden, and donate the yield to the local food pantry.

Ridge Valley will replace old light bulbs with efficient LEDs.

Salem Doylestown will replace aging spotlights and others with LEDs.

Falkner Swamp will renew their pollinator garden.

Trinity Collegeville will plant a no-till regenerative soil-method teaching garden.

With thanks to the Conference Consistory for offering the team a budget, we salute the churches who will plant, grow, teach, save, learn, and share the bounty with neighbors. We all benefit when communities of faith help preserve the environment!

- Rev. Marian Shearer and Rev. Karl Jones, co-chairs, Climate Justice Team



## Volunteers Needed: Tropical Storm Isaias, Eastern PA

Southeast PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SEPA VOAD) is partnering with UCC Disaster Ministries and Eastwick United to recruit volunteers to repair and rebuild homes in the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia.

On August 4, 2020, during the pandemic, TS Isaias dumped seven inches of rain on parts of eastern Pennsylvania. Wind damage and tornadoes left hundreds of thousands without power and widespread severe flooding led to injuries as well as one storm-related fatality. Covid concerns have left significant unmet needs in the impacted areas and especially in the Eastwick section of Philadelphia which has the highest concentration of damage to both structures and mechanical systems.

We anticipate receiving our first teams in early May, 2021. Along with following strict Covid guidelines on the worksites, the pandemic has also made it impossible for us to offer housing to volunteers. We are encouraging volunteers to commute from a radius of approximately 60 miles or to make their own housing arrangements in the area.

**Project Focus:** Repair and Rebuild; install heating systems and hot water heaters if licensed

**Contact:** Judy Moore, Volunteer Coordinator 802-299-8290;  
[IsaiasRecoveryVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:IsaiasRecoveryVolunteers@gmail.com)

**Group Size:** 2 to 5 team members

**Minimum Age:** 18

**Group Leadership:** Skilled team leader and semi-skilled assistant

**Accommodations:** None (due to Covid)

**Cost:** Housing (if teams are not commuting), transportation, food

**Tools:** Please bring general carpentry tools and a substantial first aid kit

**Donations are deductible and always welcome:** It is estimated that \$320,000 will be required to meet the needs of the Eastwick community. To date \$48,500 has been committed from the following organizations: Eastwick Neighbors and Friends Coalition, The Salvation Army, UCC Disaster Ministries, Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern PA, and a local Go Fund Me effort. Please earmark 'Eastwick Recovery' and send donations to:

Eastwick Unmet Needs Roundtable  
St. Paul AME Church Ellwood  
8398 Lindbergh Blvd. , Philadelphia, PA 19153

All necessary information supplied upon contact.

