Here is a mission opportunity right in your backyard! Many families in Philadelphia’s Eastwick neighborhood are still struggling to complete repairs to damage from severe flooding in last year’s Tropical Storm Isaias. The United Church of Christ is inviting mission teams to bring a helping hand and hope to 60 families. Teams of 2 to 5 volunteers are welcome for one to five days at a time. Commute in, or stay overnight for free at Salt and Light Church, Philadelphia. UCC Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Disaster Coordinator the Rev. Karl Jones is among leaders of the recovery effort. UCC Disaster Ministries has deployed Partner in Service Judith Moore as volunteer coordinator.

Shenkel UCC in Pottstown, Pa., sent a five-member work team to Eastwick July 17. They’re already planning a return trip. The team included Shenkel UCC’s pastor, the Rev. Suzanne Spaulding. “I hope more churches in the area will send groups,” Spaulding said. “There is something satisfying to help people in our own backyard. And with COVID it is nice to not have to travel a long way.”

The Shenkel team worked on restoring the basement of the home of an older man rearing two grandchildren. He has lived in the house for 41 years. “He had gutted the basement before we arrived,” said team leader Gary McDermit. “A new hot water heater, HVAC system and washer/dryer had been installed. The homeowner just needed a hand to complete the work.”

Interested in volunteering? Contact: Judy Moore, Volunteer Coordinator 802-299-8290; IsaiasRecoveryVolunteers@gmail.com To learn more about other ways to get involved or to make a gift in support, contact Lesli Remaly, UCC Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery: remalyl@ucc.org