



BELMONT UMC'S
LENTEN OFFERING

will help rebuild a home destroyed during Hurricane Helene.



Kris weathered the storm with fear inside her mobile home, clinging to her 9-year-old son. The next morning, when the clouds had cleared, she discovered indescribable destruction. Her mobile home was ravaged, and the bridge that linked her property to the main road had been destroyed.

When Hurricane Helene devastated Western North Carolina, those with the fewest resources suffered the most. Your donation to the Lenten Offering will help rebuild a home lost to the storm. Please give generously.



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**Together,
we can help rebuild!**



Give now



The first necessary repair before her was to rebuild the bridge to her property. The state would not repair a bridge that was considered private property, so with the help of a charitable organization called Bridging Together, she was able to rebuild the bridge and regain access to her home. She then qualified for FEMA funds and received \$48,000, but those funds were quickly exhausted by the cost of rebuilding the roadway to her home. Repairs required regrading and new gravel, as well as the removal of debris from her severely damaged trailer.

With her home destroyed, she found herself seeking shelter in the only structure left on the property—a simple shed without electricity or running water. Undaunted and with true mountaineer spirit, Kris sought additional employment, eventually working three jobs in an effort to rebuild her life. But how would she ever be able to rebuild a home for herself and Sam?

Kris was losing hope that she would ever be able to rebuild a safe home, and winter was fast approaching. Then she connected with the Western North Carolina Disaster Ministries team and began working with a case manager in the Asheville/Reeves Chapel office. Kris was treated with kindness and compassion, and slowly she began to see glimmers of hope. In early November, her case was presented to the funding committee. As the committee met, the forecast for the coming weekend called for freezing temperatures in the mountains. The proposal was to rebuild Kris a small two-bedroom, one-bath home—a warm place with running water and electricity—and it was enthusiastically approved.

But the work was not only that of the Western North Carolina Disaster Ministries team. The build was made possible by significant gifts from ministry partners: the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, a local long-term recovery group in her area, the Mennonites, and a small gift from a United Methodist congregation in South Carolina. This collaboration among faith communities made it possible for this young, determined mother to regain her footing and provide for her child.

Thanks be to God for every gift that makes it possible for people like Kris and her son to move forward with hope.

by Rev. Pam Carter, Western North Carolina Conference, UMC

**Please help others like Kris recover their lives and their homes.
Give to Belmont's Lenten Offering!**

All proceeds will support the Western North Carolina Conference Disaster Ministries as they partner with CORE and Catholic Charities to rebuild a home flooded by Hurricane Helene.

