September Outreach Project

During September, here at BCC, we are turning our attention and support to the Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Every week during worship and in this space, you will learn more about just some of the ways Week of Compassion is working with partners across the globe to alleviate suffering.

Just this past ten days or so, Week of Compassion has responded in the U.S. with Iowa storm relief, COVID-19 relief in California and Florida, and Hurricane Laura relief in Texas and Louisiana (see map). There are many other ongoing projects which you can learn more about with the interactive map on the homepage at www.weekofcompassion.org. The partnerships that this organization creates to provide relief is illustrated by one story from Tucson, AZ.

Saguaro Christian Church had been operating a collaborative meal program, Sol Food Initiatives, to alleviate hunger and cultivate community, with the help of local restaurants and suppliers.

As COVID-19 began and continued, it was clear that food relief was even more important in hard-hit Arizona. So, church members, supported by a Week of Compassion grant, developed Sol Food Delivers. Essentially, each Saturday, they deliver 300 meals to seniors and families in East Tucson. Food is sourced from an organic grower, Pivot Produce, and prepared in the commercial kitchen of Café 54, a local restaurant, shut down by COVID-19, which had been offering employment training in culinary arts for adults in mental health recovery. Participants enroll in the weekly program through a texting service. Additionally, it is supplemented by a weekly micro-CSA (community supported agriculture), which supplies families with fresh local produce.

When BCC and YOU support Week of Compassion, we are helping to fund programs just like Sol Food Delivers in Tucson, AZ. You can give directly to Week of Compassion on their <u>website</u> (please let them know you're part of Brookhaven Christian Church), or give directly to BCC with a check, or through Givelify or Paypal, indicating your gift is for Week of Compassion.

