



Mike Fitzer

Presbyterian Ministries Provide Water and Hope in Flint, Michigan

For years, citizens in Flint, Michigan, have been trying to bring awareness to high levels of lead leaching into their water supply from aging pipes. In late 2015, news broke nationally of just how bad the crisis was—stories of the thousands of residents who have already experienced health issues due to lead poisoning—stories of government corruption and cover-up.

But also, there are stories of citizens coming together to help one another and stories of relief pouring into the city of Flint as organizations provide water supplies, filters, and crisis counseling centers.

With a long history of community involvement, First Presbyterian Church of Flint (FPC) has become a trusted refuge for community members seeking relief from the crisis. With support from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, members from FPC and the Lake Huron Presbytery have been on the ground assisting in distributing emergency water supplies, representing their community on the local recovery committee, and supporting the spiritual care and reconciliation in a community that feels betrayed.

The news cameras have all pulled out, but the crisis is expected to continue for years while the government updates the city's water system. With continued support from fellow Presbyterians and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, FPC intends to play a key role in restoring their community.



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