

To churches, ministers, lay representatives and candidates of Ottawa Presbytery:

We are sharing information from two of our pastoral charges on storm damage, clean-up and ways to help:

First email from Rev. Debbie Roi at Carp-Dunrobin Pastoral Charge:

2018-09-24 7:11 PM

Good Evening Everyone,

Thanks again for your wonderful support.

I was able to get into the Dunrobin Church today and a crew of us cleaned up the cemetery and then headed to the Anglican Church around the corner to clean up there as they were harder hit. The day ended helping neighbours with their yards. All in all a good day with a strong feeling of solidarity.

If folks are wanting to help they can go to the West Carleton High School where they will be given places to go. We are registered as The Dunrobin United Church Group and you can certainly link up with us. If you have a large group that would like to help out, it is probably best to get in touch with the Red Cross before arriving in Dunrobin. If there is a small group, if you let me know what day you are coming I can let you know if folks from my congregation are out and where you can join them. There will be lots of work for what I imagine will be several months. That being said it was incredible to see how much was done today as people came together. Tomorrow I will have a better sense as to whether or not food is needed and will let you know. With your recommendation for donations to the Food Banks across the city and to the Red Cross are most appreciated.

I will continue to keep you informed as best I can and please feel free to be in touch with any questions. Because I am out and about in the community I may not be able to respond until the evening but I will respond.

Please take good care as you offer support to so many.

Blessings to you all

Debbie

Second email from Rev. Debbie Roi at Carp-Dunrobin Pastoral Charge:

2018-09-24 10:53 PM

Hi David,

I've had a thought about a possible outreach project for the churches in Ottawa and would welcome your thoughts.

Today as you know I was clearing fallen trees at both Dunrobin churches and neighbouring homes. The one family whose home I was at have lost 20 trees. I am aware of a farmer who has lost hundreds, and I was unable to count the fallen trees at the two cemeteries.

What I was wondering was if perhaps each church in Ottawa may want to donate a tree in the Springtime to Dunrobin. I'm thinking that the trees could be planted throughout the neighbourhood, this of course would take some planning.

If you think it is a feasible idea I would be happy to be in touch with Eli El-Chantiry to sort out ways to make this happen. I can also be in touch with a member of my congregation who is a well know landscaper to determine the best month for planting.

I welcome all of your thoughts.

Thanks very much.

Debbie

Email from Rev. Andrew Jensen at Knox United Church

24/09/2018 11:10 PM

Hello David

Craig Henry, one of the main Knox areas, was devastated. Knox was without power for a funeral on Saturday, and the regular service on Sunday, as well as an impromptu chili supper for people without power on Sunday night. The Craft Group is expecting to meet with extra sweaters on Tuesday morning, since the light in the basement is pretty good, and only the sewing machines will be seriously inconvenienced (as well as those needing the elevator to get into the building). It is felt that sharing some crafts and snacks is better than sitting at home. The gas stoves work without electricity, so the tea will be hot!

Having driven through Elvaston road, just a block or so past Knox, I have seen countless uprooted trees, homes with shattered windows and missing rooftops, crushed cars, and a wonderful sense of community as the cleanup was going on all around. People are helping and sharing everywhere.

Power is slowly coming back to many of our people, and some are facing major re-construction. However, no one is reporting any serious injuries, for which we are thankful. There is a lot of stress, and some shell-shocked faces around, but we are supporting each other through this time.

Andrew Jensen, Knox United