



## Wintergarden Presbyterian Church (Wintergarden) Disaster Recovery Program Handbook, V. 10



If your group is interested in staying at Wintergarden as you serve our community, please:

- Go to our [PDA page](#),
- Select “Click here to volunteer,
- Fill out the [Volunteer Interest Form](#) and
- Select as your service location: “Port Charlotte, FL: Wintergarden Presbyterian Church”
- After the group form is received by WPC, leadership from the Disaster Relief Host Team will reach out to the team leader with additional information, including a link to our Volunteer Registration Form which will need to be completed by each volunteer.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

For grants and other assistance - helping us help our community we give thanks to our many partners:



The Florida Conference  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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## SPECIAL THANKS

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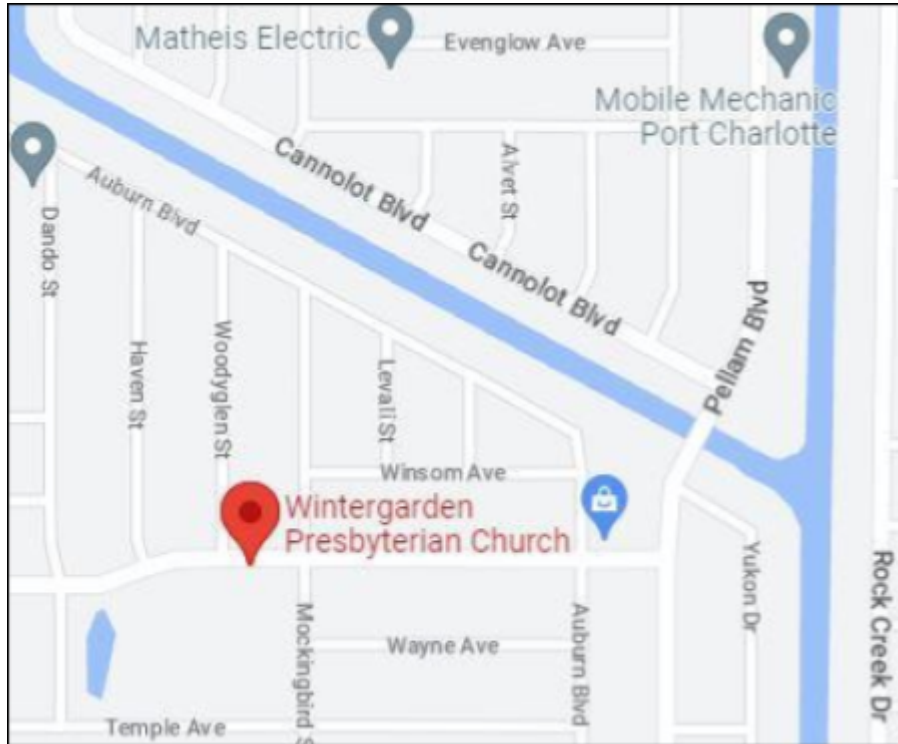
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## Contact Information and Location



Wintergarden Presbyterian Church  
18305 Wintergarden Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Email: [disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org](mailto:disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org)

Phone: 941-743-5335

On the web: <https://www.wintergardenpres.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wintergardenpres/>

# Introduction

## About Wintergarden Presbyterian Church

God is doing amazing work through Wintergarden Presbyterian Church (Wintergarden), enabling us to be a small but mighty church made up of loving, welcoming, and devoted people. Every week, we gather in creative ways for worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and serving our community.

## Wintergarden Mission and Core Values

Our mission is to feed people physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally in our community. As we live into our mission statement, we hope to embody being “a church of love, hope, and friendship” for you and your family.

The congregation of Wintergarden has four core values in how we look at everything we do as a faith community. These values help us to stay in line with who God is calling us to be in our community.

**Welcome**: We include all people into a warm and friendly environment to worship God.

**Worship**: We engage, by faith and prayer, with God wherever we go.

**Servant Hearts**: We are proactively involved in our congregation and community, sharing the gospel of Christ.

**Fellowship**: We enjoy one another’s company through sharing time and experiences that help us get to know God better.

## Impact Ian on Wintergarden and Our Region

On September 28, 2022, our community was devastated by Hurricane Ian. Words do not describe how deeply our community was impacted. Although considered a category 4, we experienced the winds of nearly a category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of over 190 mph for many hours. Moreover, the size of the storm impacted most of the state, making this a historically devastating storm. There was significant damage to homes, churches, businesses, medical facilities and service agencies throughout the area. Rebuilding Charlotte County (as well as Sarasota, Lee, and Desoto Counties) is going to take time and we are grateful for your interest to join us in these efforts.

Here at Wintergarden, the storm made our sanctuary uninhabitable. It blew off part of our roof and as a result the rain poured into our sanctuary for 15 hours. This resulted in the need to replace the roof, and completely redo the sanctuary, the kitchen, and some other spaces. It also decimated our food forest and did significant damage to our gardens and food pantry. (Collectively called, "The Garden of Eatin'.") Because of the damage to our building, we worshiped outside under a tent for 10 months as we were busy restoring and renovating both inside and out. However, throughout the rebuilding process we remained determined to serve our community well. Thankfully, our buildings are now fully restored and we're back inside! Our new sanctuary is lovely and even has a labyrinth!

We felt so moved by the impact on our community, that we not only continued to feed people in our community, but felt called to serve our neighbors in new ways. We answered God's call by beginning this disaster recovery ministry. We are a PDA host site, providing accommodations to mission groups who can assist people in restoring their homes. As we continue this journey of faith, we are excited to see how God will work in and through us to share God's love with everyone we meet. We are told it will take 5 years or more for Port Charlotte and the surrounding area to be made whole again. We are called to do whatever we can for our neighbors. We prayerfully present this handbook to you as you consider joining us in this mission. Throughout it all, we will continue to embody being "a church of hope, love, and friendship." We welcome all to join us on this journey.

### **The Work & Our Partners**

God has provided mightily in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian with an outpouring of support, collaboration, and new partnerships. And this new mission could not have happened without the help of partners who provide us with a bunkhouse trailer, construction coordinators, and other assistance. Without the support of these disaster recovery partners, we could not be where we are. We are grateful to God for bringing them to us.

Mission groups staying at Wintergarden will be working under the umbrella of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., as well as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) or other partners, such as Praying Pelicans. (Our partner list is ever evolving and if there are questions about this, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.) FLUMC and other partner organizations will be doing case and construction management for storm survivors - vetting projects and planning the work, materials needed, etc. in collaboration with Wintergarden. Teams will work under the direction and supervision of these ministry partners. The work will vary but some examples are: mucking and gutting disaster-damaged homes, clearing debris and tree stumps from yards, hanging sheetrock, mudding and taping, painting, and other interior

work. They might also do tasks like tarping roofs or installing new roofs (when groups qualify). This work will require interaction with those impacted by hurricane Ian - people who are still hurting from the experience. It will have a huge impact on their individual recovery, as well as the recovery of the community.

In addition to working to rebuild our community, mission groups also have the option of working on-site at our food pantry, in our gardens, or on other special projects. Prior to Hurricane Ian our primary ministry was our feeding ministry, the Garden of Eatin'. The economic challenges in our community before the storm had our food pantry growing quickly. The effects of the storm have greatly expanded the need for this ministry, with our food pantry now serving about 500 families each week! We have a joyous, loving crew of pantry volunteers from throughout the community, but because of the increased need in the community, we have a growing need for volunteers at our food pantry. (This is especially in warmer months when our seasonal volunteers go north.) Pantry prep work is on Wednesdays and the distribution is on Thursdays.

We also offer community and sensory gardens to help supply food and peace to our neighbors. Even before Ian, our gardens required a lot of upkeep and we had big plans for growth and improvement. Now post-Ian there are still needed repairs on top of the upkeep and growth. Therefore, there is always work to be done in our Garden of Eatin'. As our garden grows, our intent is to help our community tackle both acute and chronic food insecurity through food production opportunities and educational classes, with the goal of helping to meet the daily needs of those who are hungry, teaching economically friendly and sustainable ways of meeting these needs, and advocating for policies to reduce the levels of food insecurity in our community. Through these and other efforts we try to ensure that anyone who comes to the property in need of food finds something to eat. So, if your group has garden skills or can help weed, plant, or otherwise help us build our "Garden of Eatin'" in addition to working on homes in the community, then we'd be grateful for the help! Some groups find gardening a good way to relax in the evenings.

# More Ways to Serve

In addition to serving in our disaster relief ministry, consider volunteering with our feeding ministry at our Garden of Eatin'!

## Opportunities to serve can include:

- serving at our weekly food pantry on “pantry day” when we will typically provide food for over 500 families!
- helping with prep for food pantry day
- filling the blessing box or kids bags



Or helping with our:

- community gardens & food forest
- sensory garden or elsewhere on the grounds - there is so much more to do!



PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SERVING WITH OUR FEEDING MINISTRY!



## WINTERGARDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

where our mission is to feed people physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally in our community

There will also always be many on-site special projects available at Wintergarden for groups that desire work after the normal work hours (which can be shortened due to heat).



## **Communication, Fees, Required Forms**

We are eager to host groups who want to help people in need in our community. If your group is interested in staying at Wintergarden as you serve our community as you serve our community and is not yet begun your paperwork, please:

- Go to our [PDA page](#),
- Select “Click here to volunteer,
- Fill out the [Volunteer Interest Form](#) and
- Select as your service location: “ - Port Charlotte, FL: Wintergarden Presbyterian Church”
- After the group form is received by WPC, leadership from the Disaster Relief Host Team will reach out to the team leader with additional information, including a link to our Volunteer Registration Form which will need to be completed by each volunteer.

Wintergarden will then work with you to determine what is available during the desired timeframe and will get you started.

Mission team leaders will work directly with Wintergarden and partners to handle questions, including questions about mission projects, fees, policies, frequency of communications, paperwork, amenities available on property and in the region, and more. Wintergarden will supply a host for each group before it's time of arrival. The hosts will do a walk-through of the facility with your leaders when you arrive and before you depart. Please provide Wintergarden with up to date arrival and departure times, that way we'll be ready to receive your group and show you around the property. At this time, any last-minute details can be discussed and various up-to-date info sheets will be distributed.

### **Insurance and Medical Forms**

Once your group and Wintergarden have agreed to partner for a mission in our area, additional forms may be required. We proudly partner with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and with the Florida Conference of United Methodist Church (FLUMC) and their United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), a global humanitarian aid and development organization. In most cases, FLUMC will be doing case management and construction management for the neighbors we serve. PDA and FLUMC will each have paperwork that will be needed related to your stay at Wintergarden and your work at the worksites. To ensure everyone's safety, there will be background checks, liability releases, skills assessment, and general information on the group that will be needed. All persons must do any form given out by our partner organizations. (We occasionally partner with other

groups. In those cases, the forms may differ, but are generally similar.) At the end of your stay you will be asked to complete an exit survey as well.

Your group is responsible for its own primary medical/accident insurance coverage. We recommend that group leaders should have the information with them, including basic health history, emergency phone numbers. And for each minor not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, a release for treatment in the event of an emergency.

### **Supervision of Groups Containing Minors and Other Vulnerable Persons**

You must provide responsible adult leadership and supervision for all youth under the age of 18 at all times. Wintergarden Staff is *not* responsible for supervision of youth at any time. This is also true for any vulnerable person on your team. It is our expectation that all chaperones are fully vetted by the sponsoring congregation. In order to protect everyone, we ask that you avoid being in an isolated area of the church in which a minor or vulnerable adult is present.

To stay and eat at Wintergarden, groups must provide 1 responsible adult over the age of 18 for every 10 youth. For on-site mission groups working at Wintergarden, we ask that direct supervision be provided at the rate of 1 adult per 4-6 youth, relative to the risk associated with given tasks. For mission groups working off-site in collaboration with one of our partners, the organization should be consulted for its adult-to-youth ratio requirements, but the expectation would be a similar or even more restrictive ratio. (Some of our partners might have stricter rules for these youth/adult ratios. When they are not the same, the strictest rule will be the one that is followed.)

Please Note: Wintergarden we cannot allow individuals under the age of 18 or untrained adults to use potentially dangerous tools and equipment, such as a chainsaw or other bladed power tools even if supervised. Youth between the ages of 16 and 18 are allowed to do general construction work, but not hazardous activities such as excavation, demolition, or working on rooftops.

### **Fees**

Wintergarden is suggesting a donation of \$10 per person per night to offset our increased costs of this ministry on the church, as well as to support our ministries. Additional love offerings are also gratefully accepted. They will allow us to contribute to building supplies and otherwise help us support our community. If there are questions or concerns about these fees please contact Wintergarden.

# Housing, Showers, etc

## Bunkhouses

We are proud to be partnering with Mission on Wheels in our disaster recovery mission. They are providing us with all of the housing facilities for mission groups.



**Our bunkhouse trailers hold up to 32 persons!**

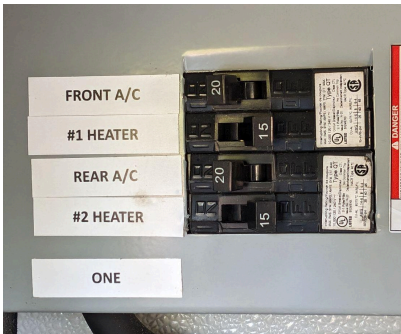


This includes 2 bunkhouse trailers that sleep a total of 32 people. The sleeping accommodations are bunk beds so at least half of the volunteers will have to be able to climb onto the top bunk to stay with us. We can sometimes host slightly larger groups with overflow into the building upon request. Please let us know as early as possible if you need additional or special accommodations.

### Guideline For Trailer Heat and Air Usage



The bunk trailers are heated and air conditioned for everyone's comfort overnight. The heat and air conditioning cannot run at the same time. To prevent this they are on separate breakers. The breakers are accessed from the outside of the trailer as shown. (Left Hand side.) Flip only one (heat or air) on at a time.



### Showers & Laundry

We have new inside showers! They also provide a washer and dryer and all in are co-located by our janitorial closet. This is an exciting addition for us all.



## **Kitchen, Restrooms and More!**

Inside the church we have additional accommodations for mission groups, including restrooms and sinks, lounge, coffee bar, kitchen, and more.

### **Kitchen**

As a part of our storm recovery, we rebuilt and expanded our kitchen. With industrial equipment and an ice maker, it works very well for our visiting teams.



### **Lounge, Bathrooms, Coffee Bar, WiFi**

There is also a lounge in Wintergarden designed specifically for mission groups to relax and recover. It has a smart TV and WiFi. Although WiFi is available in most buildings on-site, the satellite TV and WiFi for the lounge and bunkhouse is brought to you courtesy of our partner Information

Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC). It was added specifically for mission groups to relax after serving our community. Passwords will be supplied upon arrival.

In addition to the kitchen, there is also a coffee bar which we will try to keep stocked. If something runs out please let us know. We usually have more stored away. (We also have larger coffee makers for groups, this is for single servings. There is more about the kitchen in the “meals” section of this document.)



## Other Amenities

In addition to a fully stocked kitchen, we have a variety of kitchen accessories, such as crock pots. Additionally, we have coolers, large water coolers, and first aid kits all available to take to job sites. We also have an outside grill, a labyrinth in the sanctuary, gardens with a fountain for relaxing or outside worship and a park and pond nearby for walking. Basically, if there's something you'd like, ask and we either have it or can likely find a way to borrow it or let you know where to get it.



**\*Please bring and use reusable water bottles, clearly marked.** We have large water coolers that can go to work sites. Reusable water bottles are a great way to save money and care for God's creation.

## Building Access and Security



Access to the building will be through the backdoor by the trailers. It is opened by using a security code that you will be given when you arrive. It does NOT lock automatically. Please remember to lock it whenever not in use by the team. Lock it by selecting the non-numbered button at the top of the keypad as shown in red.

## Bedding and Linens

Volunteers will need to provide their own bedding and bath linens (twin XL), including towels and washcloths, pillows, and season-appropriate sheets and blankets or sleeping bags. (Sleeping bags avoid the quandary of what size sheets to bring.) We also have cots if there is a reason to house anyone inside. Please make these arrangements ahead of time. If something is forgotten, however, ask. We can make arrangements as needed.

## Cleaning and Care

The care of God's creation is a shared responsibility, and so is the care of Wintergarden. Mission groups are asked to leave the buildings and grounds as clean as or cleaner than they were upon arrival. Cleaning supplies and updated guidance will be provided upon arrival. Cleaning supplies and a cleaning checklist are provided in each building, and an updated task list will be provided upon arrival.

User groups are responsible for all damage to buildings, property, or equipment incurred under any conditions other than those of normal use. Fees for repairs or excessive cleaning may be charged to your group.

### **Shared Facilities**

Our building is well used by a multitude of other groups, from AA and NA, to a visually impaired group, and scouting groups. All our disaster recovery groups should know that these groups will come and go. They have their own keys and know to lock the doors they use behind them, but it's always good practice to double check doors. Your group will be provided a schedule for when other groups will be in the building. Schedules will also be posted in the lounge.

We will provide a calendar which should provide group leaders with an idea of who will be on the grounds. But others will come and go, such as cleaning people, staff and volunteers. If someone shows up that you're uncomfortable about, contact your Wintergarden Host Team representative or Wendy. Wendy's cell is (941) 661-2623 and email is [disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org](mailto:disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org)

### **Quiet Hours**

From 11:00pm to 7:00 am, noise should be kept to a minimum in the trailers. ALL volunteers need to be well-rested if they are to work safely, and a good night's sleep also makes it easier to respond gently if confronted by a survivor's expression of frustration and/or grief.

### **Transportation and Parking**

Wintergarden has no buses or vans at its disposal. Groups planning to travel to a work site each day must arrange their own transportation. Because we have campers and on Thursday a busy food pantry, please park in such a way as to ensure you can get in and out. Talk with staff if you have questions. It is permissible to park on the lawn as needed - especially on pantry day. Large groups with large or numerous vehicles should discuss with Wintergarden the best options.

## Tools

Our partners who contribute construction managers typically have all the tools needed for any given project. Additionally, we have access to tools through a partnership with ToolBank, a non-profit that makes tools available for just this kind of work. However, Wintergarden also recognizes that many people have strong preferences in tools, and so often teams choose to bring their own tools. But because there are times when this isn't practical (such as those flying here) there is no pressure to bring tools.



# **Meals**

## **Sunday Morning**

We have a fellowship together on Sundays, typically involving some light snacks. We welcome our mission teams to join us on Sunday for fellowship, worship, and even Christian Education. It's a relaxed traditional service - shorts, jeans, or whatever feels right. We look forward to the mission / volunteer groups joining us when that fits the group's needs. If your group would like to do so, we'd love that! The Sunday schedule looks like this:

- 9:30 - Fellowship
- 10:00 - Relaxed Traditional Service
- Following worship - Christian Education

In regard to breakfast - the fellowship is usually only a light snack and so you might take that into consideration when you plan other food throughout the day. This means the kitchen will have some light use by church members on Sunday mornings. But you're welcome to come alongside us and make other food if a more substantial breakfast is required. Or go out for an early breakfast and join us after that. (Which helps to rebuild our economy after the storm.)

## **Other Meals**

We're excited that our kitchen is repaired and ready for use! The kitchen, including the industrial refrigerator and freezer will be primarily for your use. Teams also have access to a grill and will also have instant pots, griddles, and other items for cooking if desired. The kitchen may be occasionally used by others, but if all groups remember to be good neighbors we should not have any issues. If you have concerns please contact Wintergarden.

Most groups choose to make most of their meals themselves. There have been some that choose to eat out a lot which helps our economy recover. Still others have worked out agreements with other churches for meals to be provided each evening. So, there are a lot of approaches to your group's meals. Occasionally a meal may be offered to teams by a local organization or church. We will let you know in advance of your visit if any meals are going to be provided. For most meals, you can buy food at nearby grocery stores and prepare it in our kitchen. If you need other arrangements, have a concern or have something specific your group would like to use, please communicate clearly with Wintergarden and we will try to make special accommodations.

Dietary requirements are the responsibility of the group. Because other groups use our kitchen, we can not guarantee allergens aren't in the area.

### **Dining**

Depending on group size and needs, the library, fellowship area, deck, gardens, and even the sanctuary can be set up with tables for dining when they are not in use. But because we have outside groups, such as AA, that use some of these spaces, your group will need to work around the groups. Therefore, where and when your group will be eating might vary a little. The key is to check the church calendar and ensure you know which rooms are in use that day.

No food or drink is allowed in the bunk, shower trailers or lounge.

# Cleaning Instructions

## Trailers

The bunks and showers are courtesy of Mission on Wheels and FLUMC. It is expected that the groups will clean them after use.

### Church Building and Trailer Cleaning Checklist

1. Pick up the trailers and rooms after use.
2. Cleaning supplies will be in the janitor's closet and in the kitchen.
3. Ensure cleaning supplies are returned after use.
4. Sweep (especially under the bunks!)
5. Clean showers thoroughly
6. Empty trash to dumpsters and close the dumpster lid.
7. Check for lost items - especially in cracks of bunks and under bunks.
8. Clean trailer A/C filters and return.
9. Ensure lights and air / heat are turned off.
10. Trailers and lounge stay much cleaner if no food is taken into either!

### Grounds Cleaning Instructions

1. Pick up the grounds after use.
2. Ensure any church tools are returned to the shed and that shed is locked.
3. Empty trash to dumpsters. **Dumpster lids HAVE TO close completely with no garbage near the dumpster or we will pay a large fine and have animals in the dumpster making a mess.**

Try to leave all spaces better than you found them.

## **Health and Safety**

### **First Aid Supplies**

We have 2 first aid kits that can be taken to worksites as needed. ***They are located in the cabinet in the back hall. They should travel with you during your stay.*** If you use them, please let us know if any of them need resupplying. They are in a cabinet in the hall and clearly marked.

### **Emergencies**

Below is a list of the closest emergency rooms and walk-in clinics. Please feel free to contact Wintergarden whenever you need to, including in any emergencies, or if there is a problem with the building. ***Hospital information is posted in the lounge and included with your itinerary.***

- HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital, 21298 Olean Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952
- Sarasota Memorial North Port ER & Care Center, 2345 Bobcat Village Center Rd, North Port, FL 34288
- MedExpress Urgent Care, 2200 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33948
- Millennium Physician Group Walk-in Medical Center, 2460 Tamiami Trail Ste A, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

### **Safety Suggestions, Medications and Other Medical Matters**

Florida is hot! Drink plenty of water, reapply sunscreen regularly, and listen to your body for when you need to rest. Please encourage your team to bring reusable water bottles. We have large water coolers that can go to work sites. Reusable water bottles save money and the planet.

Volunteers should be advised to contact their doctor to be sure their most recent tetanus shot is still in effect and have it updated, if needed.

Volunteers' medications should be clearly marked and maintained in their personal belongings. If a medication needs to be kept cool, please be sure it is labeled and put in the kitchen refrigerator. But also please let Wintergarden know it's there.

## Prohibited Items

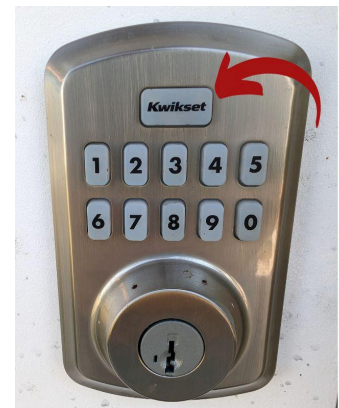
For everyone's safety, the following are prohibited.

- Alcohol
- Firearms
- Weapons
- Illegal substances of any kind
- Fireworks are prohibited on the property.
- Smoking is prohibited inside the building, trailers, and near the building.
- Pranks, practical jokes, and other destructive behavior are prohibited.
- We reserve the right to terminate an event or the stay of any individual or group related to violation of the law or the policies outlined in this document and in materials provided upon arrival.
- User groups are responsible for all damage to buildings, property, or equipment incurred under any conditions other than those of normal use. Fees for repairs or excessive cleaning may be charged to your group.

## Facilities Access, Safety of the Area

As precautions, we have cameras on the property, a well lit campus, and a security system. We recommend lock facilities not in use and other common-sense caution regarding items left in vehicles, trailers and the church. We urge people to leave valuables at home.

Access to the building will be through the backdoor by the trailers. It is opened by using a security code that you will be given when you arrive. It does NOT lock automatically. Please remember to lock it whenever not in active use by the team. Lock it by selecting the non-numbered button at the top of the keypad as shown in red. You will also have keys to the trailers and locks for the showers. Please lock each when not in use. Again, take common sense precautions.



***We urge people to leave valuables at home.*** If you must bring items of value and if you can lock the trailer door while you're away during the day. Note: Wintergarden cannot be held responsible for the safe-keeping of personal or group valuables.

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## **Emotional and Spiritual Care**

### **Things to remember:**

- We are not here to judge, we are here to help and provide hope.
- We are God's hands and feet, helping our neighbors.
- Some homes had deferred maintenance prior to the hurricane – the homes you are working on have been chosen for a reason you may not know.
- Homeowners may be “warm and fuzzy” and some are not. Be prepared for both.
- One of the great gifts you bring is your “new ears” – listen to the homeowner's story—you may want to designate a listener in the group and rotate if you want.
- Some homeowners will be onsite, some you may never see.
- You will likely see a full range of emotions – know any anger is not personally directed at you.
- Do the best job you can - do the work you would like done in your own house.
- Damaged items will have an emotional attachment for the homeowner that you may not expect.
- HAVE FUN! The gift you are bringing is joyful and humor is also healing.

### **Fatigue and Stress in Storm Survivors**

One of the many needs that is often overlooked when helping people in an area of devastation is the need to be heard. Listening to survivors' stories is often just as important and beneficial as the physical labor you and your group offer. No wisdom needs to be offered – they just need to know someone is listening.

If, after listening to a storm survivor, you feel the individual needs counseling or other specialized support, please don't hesitate to connect with the leadership of Wintergarden. The leadership of the church has a resource list to provide additional support for these individuals.

### **Fatigue and Stress in Volunteers**

Wintergarden is both a place and a living ministry. Weary volunteers will likely find the general atmosphere at Wintergarden restorative. A walk through our garden, for example, can bring peace after a weary day. In addition to the peaceful gardens there are ponds nearby that are home to many local birds and can make for a nice walk. Our staff enjoys

walking around Ollie's Pond when the stress gets a little too much. If concerns rise within the volunteer/mission group, please let the leadership of the church know and we will see how we can come alongside you on the journey.

### **Additional Resources**

(Also in the appendix of the printed version of this handbook in the lounge)

Rather than reinvent the sensible and powerful information available from experts in the field, Wintergarden suggests volunteers read the following prior to arriving at the work site:

- [Nine "First Things" to Know About Emotional and Spiritual Care Following Disasters](#)  
A blog post from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- [Light Our Way: A Guide for Spiritual Care in Times of Disaster](#) (available through NVOAD)
- [Disaster Spiritual and Emotional Care Tip Sheets](#) Adapted from: Spiritual Care Committee. (2006). Disaster spiritual care: National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Points of Consensus. Arlington, VA: NVOAD.

# **Appendix**



# **Church Schedule**

## **Standing Meetings/Gatherings**

**This is a shared space.** Because of this it's vital work team leadership be aware of who is using the building and which room(s) they will need. The church schedule can be viewed here. [Wintergarden Church Events 2024](#)

Throughout the week, others will come and go, such as staff, volunteers, cleaning people, and those that simply seek a church for a variety of reasons. If someone shows up that you're uncomfortable about, contact your Wintergarden Host Team representative or Wendy. Wendy's cell is (941) 661-2623 and email is [disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org](mailto:disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org)

Wintergarden church offices are open most weekdays from 10-2, but this sometimes varies based on need.

**There will be meetings going on during the day, so inside voices are helpful.**

Wendy or someone from the Wintergarden Host Team will be available when you arrive and depart and other times during the week. Wendy is in the church office most weekdays during the day and is only 5 minutes away if something comes up. Wendy's cell is (941) 661-2623 and email is [disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org](mailto:disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org). Wintergarden's office number is: 941-743-5335, the address is: 18305 Wintergarden Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33948 Website <https://www.wintergardenpres.org/>

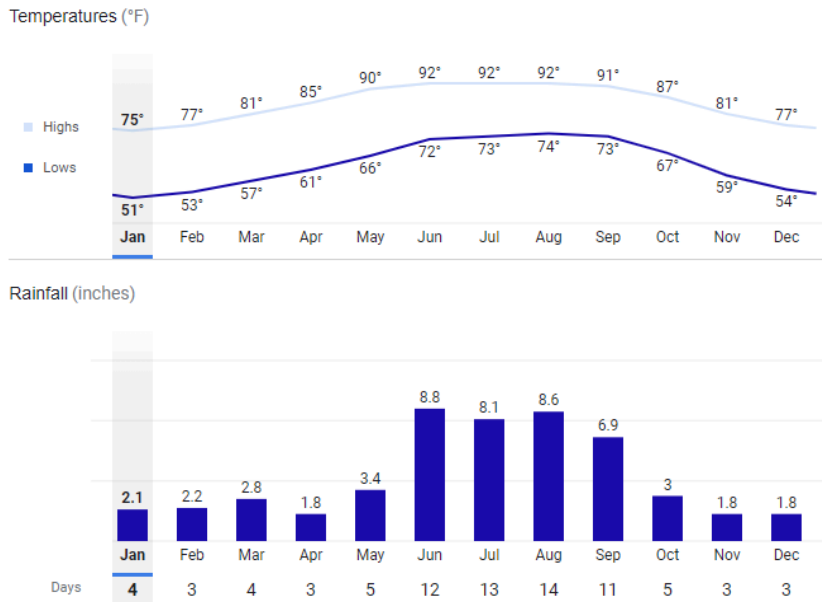
## **Harvest Host**

We do participate with Harvest Hosts. This means we will get campers from time to time. They only stay one night and must be self-contained, so they will not need the building or any of our trailer facilities. These are campers that are self-contained and should not need any of our facilities, but might be found on the grounds and garden. As you see others on the property, our response is always one of hospitality and welcome. We pray that you will also approach people on the property in the same manner. They are only mentioned here for informative purposes. They make a donation in the wooden welcome back toward the entryway of the church on the left.

# Helpful Hints

## Port Charlotte Weather

It's mild to hot in Port Charlotte in the winter and hot in the summer. It can also be humid and, at times, get a great deal of rain or other inclement weather. Below is some average weather guidance.



## Personal Packing List

Groups should check the weather forecast and plan accordingly. But here are some suggestions:

- Work boots with hard/steel toes; athletic shoes are typically not suitable for a work site but can be used in the garden
- Work gloves
- Heavy pants
- Long sleeved shirts with layers that can be added or taken off
- Insect repellent (in warm weather, plan to use liberally and often)
- Sunscreen (plan to use liberally and often)
- Hat and Sunglasses
- **Reusable water bottle (We have large water coolers that can go to work sites. Reusable water bottles save money and the planet.)**
- Personal toiletry items
- Personal medications
- Your own bedding: Pillow, pillow case, sleeping bag (or sheets) and appropriate weight blanket for the season. (If sheets are desired, the bunks fit XL twin sheets.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Towel and washcloth
- Shower shoes
- Flashlight
- Laundry bag and detergent
- Bible, if desired (can be provided by Wintergarden)
- Quiet-time items: guitar, reading materials, journal, hobby supplies
- Camera (optional and it is each individual's responsibility to store and protect valuables)
- Rain gear, especially during rainier times of year.
- Outdoor gear of your choice
- A heart for sharing, a positive outlook, and a sense of humor
- Pack in something you can carry a short distance. Duffel bags work well.
- What not to bring: alcohol, drugs, pets, valuables, etc. (see page "Health and Safety" section)

### **Guideline For Air Conditioner Usage**

Please, when the building is not activating being used, reset the Air Conditioner to the following settings:

#### Warmer Months:

- Cool
- Fan
- 80 degrees

#### Cooler Months:

- Heat
- Fan
- 65 degrees

**Please, NEVER turn off the system. Thank you.**

### **Fire Alarm**

During our rebuilding, we're having issues with our fire alarm beeping when there is no issue. If this happens please

1. Push "Silence"
2. Enter Code: "1111"

### **Dumpsters**

To prevent Wintergarden being fined, please keep dumpster lids closed!

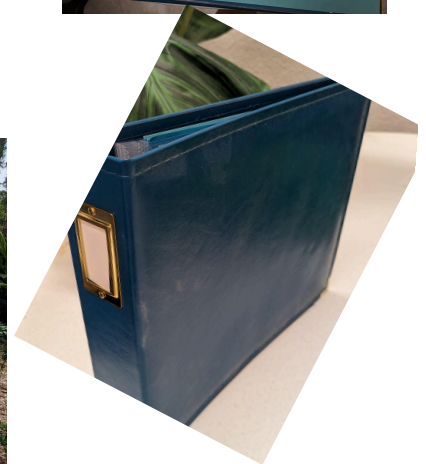
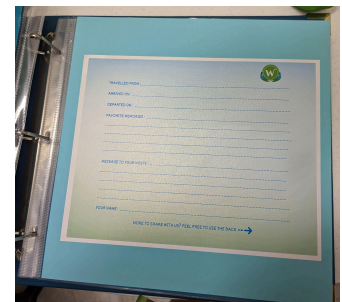
# Just for Fun!

## Fun - Off Campus

- For a walk, Ollie's pond is close by.  
18235 Avon Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/parks/all-parks/ollies-pond-park.stm>
- The county has community pools. Here is more information on those:  
<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/recreation-pools/pools/>
- We also all like the Nokomis Drum Circle if you're looking for something different. That beach is also known for its sharks teeth.  
<https://nokomisbeachbum.com/drum-circle.html>

## Fun - on Campus

- We have a sensory garden, which includes a color garden which is always in need of painted rocks! We'd love for guests to add to it!
- Please share your photos with us! Email to [disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org](mailto:disasterrelief@wintergardenpres.org) and please, tag us on facebook! [facebook.com/wintergardenpres](https://facebook.com/wintergardenpres)
- We also have a guestbook we'd love to have you sign!



## Our Partners

God has provided mightily in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian with an outpouring of support, collaboration, and new partnerships. And this new mission could not have happened without the help of partners who provide us with a bunkhouse trailer, construction coordinators, and other assistance. Without the support of these disaster recovery partners, we could not be where we are. We are grateful to God for bringing them to us.

- Community Foundation of Sarasota County: <https://www.cfsarasota.org/>
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (PDA): <https://pda.pcusa.org/>
- Missions on Wheels: [www.missionsonwheels.org](http://www.missionsonwheels.org)
- SBP: [sbpusa.org](http://sbpusa.org)
- The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church (FLUMC): <https://www.flumc.org/hurricane-ian>
- Praying Pelican Missions: <https://www.ppm.org/>
- ToolBank: <https://toolbank.org/>
- Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC): <https://www.itdrc.org/>

**Planning a Volunteer Work Trip with  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

# **More Spiritual Care Resources**