

January 13, 2010

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

Our hearts are heavy with the devastating news of the earthquake in Haiti. It is hard to comprehend the magnitude of this event and the millions of lives it has and will affect. There are two immediate ways we can respond:

First, I invite you to be in prayer for the people of Haiti. The spiritual support will be vital to those affected by the earthquake. It has also been brought to our attention that one of our members was in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. As of this writing, the family has received no word about their daughter. We will want to hold the Caves' family in our prayers during these hours and days.

Secondly, we can begin to make available our financial resources. UMCOR is already in place to offer disaster assistance, however, they will need our help and support. This Sunday, a special offering will be received for disaster relief in Haiti. You can also make contributions for this relief effort through the mail or **electronically through our website by clicking here**. I should also note that over the years, First Church has had outreach relations with Haiti and specific mission programs. This was a particular interest and passion of Rev. David Lyons during his ministry at First Church. Please mark your financial gift for Haiti Disaster Relief and the money will be forwarded to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Thank you,
Keith Schroerlucke,
Pastor

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Here is an update and clarification regarding the Haiti earthquake and the Caves' Family. The person referred to above is actually, Diane Caves, Doug and Sherry's daughter-in-law. Diane was in Haiti working for the CDC (Center for Disease Control) out of Atlanta. At this point, we believe she was in the Hotel Montana that suffered severe damage during the earthquake. Rescue efforts are under way at this time and survivors are begin found. Efforts are being made to contact authorities and relief agencies but at this point there is no specific news. As a church family, we will continue to surround the Caves' family with our prayers and fellowship of love. With Sherry's permission, we will send updates to those on our elist as we have new information.

We have other church members who have family and loved ones in the area affected by the earthquake. As we receive permission from these families we will share updates with the congregation that we all might offer prayer and support at this critical time.

Thank you for being a caring congregation,

Keith Schroerlucke,
Pastor

