



FEMA REPRESENTATIVES FROM. Across the nation have spent the last six weeks in Webster County helping residents who were impacted by historical spring floods apply for financial assistance as they repair/rebuild their homes. Locally, Lisa Preston served as the liaison between residents and the federal workers. Preston and members of the Onton community provided meals, worked to encourage residents to meet with FEMA to secure assistance and worked with volunteers who came to the area to help residents clean up their homes following the flooding.



# Onton UMC, Residents Helping Flood Victims

Sometimes, the smallest community makes the greatest impact, and that is what the Onton Community and Onton United Methodist Church have done in Webster County over the past several months. Spearheaded by Lisa Preston, the church and one of the county’s smallest communities has come together to support flood victims, support FEMA workers and host dinners and lunches for volunteers and victims of flooding.

Residents in the Onton area and areas of Sebree were hit heavily by rising water starting in April, and when the Green, Tradewater and Ohio Rivers hit flood stage and beyond, the crisis continued to grow throughout the county. That’s when church members stepped in. At first, they were helping their own because many of the families affected by flooding are from that area and attend Onton UMC, but as damage was assessed and it became necessary for the FEMA Disaster Recovery team and many Christian outreach services to respond, it became necessary for the county to find a location where all residents could seek assistance. That place was the basement of Onton Methodist Church.

For days area residents and good Samaritans dropped off cloths, bedding, household supplies, paper prod-

ucts and cleaning materials for residents, and as county EMA director Jeremy Moore and FEMA representatives assessed damages, Preston was working to feed those who had been displaced and help them find shelter. When FEMA needed a permanent place to “call home” for several weeks, it was Onton UMC that offered their basement as a base for FEMA workers.

Since the aftermath of the flooding, over 1000 people have been fed including flood victims and their families, volunteers and FEMA personnel. On the first Saturday, 83 people were provided meals and as the days moved on Preston and members of the church cooked, cleaned and washed dishes so both victims and workers could be fed—some days the number being fed was well over 100.

The church also served as a location for picking up cleaning supplies and other equipment needed to try to make home habitable once again.

On May 19, eight Federal Emergency Management workers arrived in Onton, set up computers, put out printed material and started helping flood victims assess and mitigate their damages. For nearly six weeks, those individuals have worked with flood victims throughout the county. In total 94 cas-

es were opened at the Onton location, but local residents could also register on-line or by phone for financial assistance through the federal government. FEMA workers from Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Florida, Texas and Montana have spent six weeks resolving some difficult issues for local residents. They spent late last week trying to follow up with some individuals who still have unmet needs, FEMA worker Edita O. Samson said on Friday.

Along with FEMA, representatives from the Small Business Administration, Kentucky disaster assistance and mitigation specialists were also on hand to assist residents as they made personal claims, and while individuals worked on-site at the church, another team of FEMA personnel spent days canvassing the county talking with residents impacted by flooding. The work FEMA has done with local residents was 12 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure families has access to information regarding housing repairs, serious needs, displacement assistance, personal property, medical, and transportation needs.

Once an individual filed for assistance and submitted their necessary information, a FEMA team member visited the location of the property to assess

the damages and report back to the agency. Within ten days of the inspection, the filer knows whether assistance will be available to them.

As assessments were made, crews from churches and agencies across the country arrived with volunteers to help families clean their homes and begin work on making homes habitable.

In the Onton/Sebree area at least 30 homes were deemed uninhabitable, and according to Preston, some families are still displaced. Over the past eight weeks, over 160 cleaning kits have been given away and many other local churches have provided gift cards to area stores so residents can purchase building supplies and other necessities.

According to Webster County EMA director Jeremy Moore, to date FEMA has obligated \$400,000 to local flood victims, and the agency has estimated that the county has over \$2,000,000 in damages with an addition \$2.5 million in damages to government property including roads, bridges and drainage structures. During Monday’s fiscal court meeting both Judge/Executive Steve Henry and EMA director Jeremy Moore praised Preston and the Onton Community for their support of the county, their community residents and the FEMA employees

and volunteers. Moore noted that FEMA personnel expressed their gratitude and appreciation for support and meals provided by Onton.

On Friday, the next to last day for FEMA representatives to be at the church, Preston

said, had the church not provided a place for FEMA, many residents would not have been able to file locally, but luckily for Webster County, like a mustard seed, the smallest community has had the greatest impact in helping others.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Webster County Fiscal Court will start to accept bids on the following items at 9:00 A.M., prevailing time on Monday, June 23, 2025 at the Webster County Courthouse, Dixon, Kentucky. Bids shall be delivered to the office of Stephen R. Henry, Webster County Judge/Executive, P.O. Box 155 U.S. 41-A, South, Dixon, KY 42409, in a marked, sealed envelope. The bids will be publicly opened and read at the meeting of the Webster County Fiscal Court on July 14, 2025, which will begin at 9:00 A.M.

**Bid Specifications For Slaughters Elmwood Bridge Only**

**1) Bids for a 24 ft. wide by 60 ft. long steel bridge made from 588 Weathering Steel.**

**2) The bridge must have detailed drawings and installation instructions.**

**3) Bridge must meet KYTC standards and specs and the HS25 load capacity standard.**

The Webster County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids and to waive all formalities in the awarding of bids.

**Waggoner General Baptist Church**

**Come and Join Us in Welcoming Mr. Alex Buckman as the new pastor at Waggoner**

**Sunday, June 29**

**11:00 A.M. Worship and Message at**

**Waggoner General Baptist Church**

**204 Waggoner Chalybeate Road - Morganfield, KY**

**Lunch to follow at Camp Clark**

**2953 KY 983 - Dixon, KY**