

Why Mission Trips?

From the first century to today, Christians have believed that service to others matters. Whether we are reaching out across the street or around the world, our members can provide resources to improve the lives of others. Along the way, we find that we also benefit, spiritually and in community with others. We learn from distant communities and grow in compassion for people everywhere.

Note: This trip does not take away from our local mission. Our focus continues to be our local mission, both in time and funds.

Why New Orleans?

August 29, 2021 was when Hurricane Ida, a category 4 hurricane with winds up to 150 mph, struck Louisiana. A million people lost power, water levels rose as much as 9 to 14 feet above ground level and thousands of homes and other buildings were damaged. Ida's storm cause an estimated \$55 billion of damage in Louisiana alone.

As we know from our earlier trips, some of those least able to afford this devastation are also the ones most severely affected. One year later, many displaced people still need shelter.

Why Habitat and Thrivent?

We will work with experienced mission partners who have proven track records in hosting groups and building homes. Thrivent is a not-for-profit member-owned, fraternal benefit financial organization founded by Lutherans. They have a focus on charity and volunteering. Thrivent has allied with Habitat for Humanity since 2005, building homes around the US and around the world. Because of their contributions, we can participate in a powerful rebuilding effort in an affordable way. This disaster recovery effort is accessible to GPMC members in terms of distance, time, and money.



GPMC – MISSION TRIP NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 4, 2023



Habitat
for Humanity®

thrivent®

WE HAVE A PLAN

What: We have partnered with Thrivent and Habitat for Humanity to build homes in Lafitte, Louisiana (south of New Orleans) due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Ida in 2020.

When: January 29 – February 4, 2023. These are the core dates of the mission trip. We will gather Sunday afternoon, work four weekdays and have a NOLA themed outing as part of the trip. Departures Saturday are appropriate.

Where: The trip begins at New Orleans International Airport on Sunday afternoon.

Cost: Thrivent and Habitat have prepared a construction package for us of \$1,270. GPMC Outreach will cover 1/3 of this price for members of GPMC. The total core trip (incl. air) is expected to cost \$1,500. The donation Outreach will make to Habitat to Humanity on your behalf will total \$500 per GPMC member. Your net expense will be about \$1000 depending on your own transportation choices. Options for fundraising are available through Habitat.

What's included: Lodging and meals from dinner Sunday, January 29 through breakfast Saturday, February 4. Transportation between the airport, hotel and worksite, construction materials, a donation to Habitat for Humanity and one NOLA outing.

What's not included: On this trip, transportation to NOLA is up to you. New Orleans is an easy, direct flight from Detroit with prices from \$200-225 and up (as of early September 2022). It is up to you if you would like to extend your trip on either end.

-----FAQs-----

Do I have to be skilled in construction? It helps but is NOT required. All you need is a generous heart and a desire to make a difference. Habitat will provide a construction leader who will coach us all along the way, every day. We will work approximately six hours per day.

Do I have to be fully vaccinated? Yes, Habitat policy.

Will there be meetings ahead of time to plan, learn, and build community? Yes, plan for these remaining dates: November 9, and January 11. We want you to attend these to be prepared for the trip.

NOLA MISSION TRIP RESERVATION FORM

Reservations open September 11, 2022
Trip is planned for 12 - 19 travelers

Return this form with your \$100 deposit, payable to GPMC, to Sue Acton's mailbox. This will ensure your place on the trip.

You will make a **second deposit of \$250** directly to Habitat on October 13.

A **final payment of \$420** will be made directly to Habitat on or before December 1. Payments to Habitat are not refundable.

Church members have priority through Sunday, September 25. The trip will be open to non-members if we are not fully reserved.

Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received until we reach our maximum of nineteen travelers or December 1, whichever comes first.

For more information, contact Mary Mobley at murraymt@comcast.net or Sue Acton at sacton@gpmchurch.org.

New Orleans RESERVATION FORM

Please provide the following, with your deposit, to reserve your place:

Full Name _____

Birthdate _____

Cell Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Address _____