



**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>



# GPMC MISSION TRIP

New Orleans, Louisiana

*February 18 – 24, 2024*

## WE HAVE A PLAN

GPMC has partnered with Thrivent and Habitat for Humanity to build homes in Lafitte, Louisiana, a city rebuilding after Hurricane Ida. Join us Sunday, February 18 – Saturday, February 24, see the itinerary below.

### **Sunday, February 18: Welcome**

Arrive at Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY) by 3 pm, check-in to the hotel, and enjoy a team dinner!

### **Monday, February 19 & Tuesday, February 20: Build**

Spend the day on the build site, breaking for lunch, snacks, and water. You'll have free time and team activities in the evenings.

### **Wednesday, February 21: Enjoy**

A free day exploring the cultural melting pot of New Orleans.

### **Thursday, February 22: Build**

Spend the day on the build site, breaking for lunch, snacks, and water. You'll have free time and team activities in the evenings.

### **Friday, February 23: Celebrate**

Spend the morning on the build site and celebrate the week's accomplishments at a farewell dinner.

### **Saturday, February 24: Goodbyes**

Continue your journey independently, or depart for home.

Thrivent and Habitat have prepared a construction package for us of \$1,240. GPMC Outreach will cover 1/3 of this price for members of GPMC. The total core price (including air) is expected to cost \$1,650. The donation Outreach will make to Habitat for Humanity on your behalf will total \$550 per GPMC member. As a GPMC member, your expense will be about \$1,100 depending on your own transportation choices. Options for fundraising are available through Habitat.

*What's included:* Lodging and meals from dinner Feb. 18 through breakfast Feb. 24, transportation between the airport, hotel and worksite, construction materials, a donation to Habitat for Humanity, and one NOLA outing.

*What's not included:* Transportation to and from New Orleans. As of September 1, there are direct flights from Detroit with prices starting at \$410. It is up to you if you would like to extend your trip on either end.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **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. Please note that 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?**

*In August 2021, Hurricane Ida, a category four hurricane with winds up to 150 mph, struck Louisiana. A million people lost power, water levels rose as much as nine to fourteen feet above ground level, and thousands of homes and other buildings were damaged. It's estimated the storm caused \$55 billion in damages. As we have learned from prior trips, the ones most severely affected are often the ones least able to afford this devastation. Years later, displaced people are still in need of 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 in terms of distance, time, and money.*

### **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! At 7 pm on November 1 and February 7. We want you to attend these to be prepared for the trip.*

# TRIP RESERVATION DETAILS

*Reservations open Sunday, September 10.*

To secure your spot on the trip, return this form with a \$100 deposit (payable to GPMC) to Sue Acton's mailbox in the church lobby.

Remaining deposit schedule (*payments are non-refundable*):

- \$250 directly to Habitat for Humanity by November 1
- \$340 directly to Habitat for Humanity by December 1 for GPMC members; \$890 for others.

Church members will have priority through Sunday, September 24. If the trip has space remaining, it will then open to non-members. Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received until we reach our maximum number of travelers or December 1, whichever comes first.

For more information or questions, contact:

- Sue Acton, [sacton@gpmchurch.org](mailto:sacton@gpmchurch.org)
- Mary Mobley, [murraymt@comcast.net](mailto:murraymt@comcast.net)

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## NEW ORLEANS RESERVATION FORM

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*Full Name*

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*Birthdate*

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*Cell Phone Number*

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*Email Address*

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*Street Address*

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*City, State, Zip Code*