

Louisiana Churches Make Urgent Prayer Request Before Potential 'Catastrophic' Hurricane Ida Makes Landfall

Several churches in Louisiana canceled services ahead of the potentially catastrophic Hurricane Ida imminent to hit that area Sunday morning. But more importantly, residents are asking for the prayer they urgently need.

The Associated Press reported that "Hurricane Ida rapidly grew in strength early Sunday, becoming a dangerous Category 4 hurricane just hours before hitting the Louisiana coast while emergency officials in the region grappled with opening shelters for displaced evacuees despite the risks of spreading the coronavirus. As Ida moved through some of the warmest ocean water in the world in the northern Gulf of Mexico, its top winds grew by 45 mph (72 kph) to 150 mph (230 kph) in five hours."

The system was expected to make landfall on the same date, Aug. 30, that saw catastrophic Hurricane Katrina ravage Louisiana and Mississippi in 2005.

First Pentecostal Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, did not hold services and released this information on its Facebook page to help people trying to evacuate: "Praying for Louisiana #Ida. If you and your family are evacuating, visit for info on road conditions and traffic."

One of the church's Facebook followers, Veronica Auzenne, commented:

"LORD please turn this hurricane around and send back in gulf in the mighty name of JESUS."

Bethany Church, pastored by Jonathan Stockstill, released this message on Facebook:

PEACE + PROTECTION: We are praying for you & your family's peace and protection! We're praying that the Lord brings peace to your mind and guides you during this time!

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27).

"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith" (Matthew 21:22).

The Vineyard Worship Center in Kenner, Louisiana, posted this on Facebook:

"With the expected impacts of Hurricane Ida on Sunday and for the safety of our staff, volunteers, and church family we have decided to cancel our Weekend Gatherings. Please be safe and check on one another throughout this storm event. If we can assist you please reach out to us via text at 504-872-3816. Stay tuned to for more coverage on Hurricane Ida. {eoa}

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