



# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

### **Children's Message/Sermon Repairers of the Breach (Isaiah 58)**

We are in the church season of Lent—a 40-day time of preparation leading up to our celebration of Easter. For some, Lent means a time of deepening our practices of faith through prayer or study or action. For some, Lent means giving up something as a way to remember and focus on Jesus' sacrifice. For some, maybe some of you, Lent means One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks! And maybe all of the above come to mind when you think about this season of Lent.

I am really excited about the theme for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year; it comes from the 58th chapter of the book of Isaiah, and the phrase that they have chosen as our focus is “you shall be called repairers of the breach.”

I think you all know that repairers are people who fix things. A breach is a break, or a gap. So “repairers of the breach” are people who help to fix broken things, or close gaps.

When we fill our fish banks with coins, we are contributing, just a tiny bit, to fixing problems in our world.

One of our goals, as your church, is to help you learn to be repairers; but that is not so easy—in order to be a person who repairs things, you first have to learn about those things. A good repairer needs to understand how things work. Many people who make their living repairing things start as an apprentice. An apprentice is a person who is learning the skills of a trade.

I kind of like thinking of us in that way—we are apprentices, learning all that we can, so that as we continue to learn and share and be inspired, we might one day become repairers—more specifically, the kind of repairers Isaiah talked about—“repairers of the breach.”

So while your coins contribute to some really good work being done, perhaps even more important are the lessons and activities that we will do together to learn about what is being done. Over the next few weeks, I hope we all have a chance to learn about how some of the terrific projects that the OGHS offering supports do such a good job at repairing these breaches. There is need for people who can be repairers of the breach in our world, because, sadly, there are a lot of places in our world where there is brokenness.

I am very grateful that our church is always trying to serve people, to help them to fix broken things in their own lives and communities, all over the world—

- Helping people who are hungry through the work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program;
- Helping people after disasters through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance;
- Helping people who want to make their own lives better by creating opportunities through Self-Development of People.

So in these next few weeks, when you have your fish bank at home, filling it with coins and dollars, I hope you also spend some time learning about OGHS—the areas where people are helped, the projects that are supported and the ways that we can bring God’s love and hope to places in the world that need it.

Let’s Pray:

*Loving God,  
be with us this season of Lent.  
May we be helpers and learners  
as we, as a church, seek to be repairers of the breach.*  
**Amen.**

—*Becky D’Angelo-Veitch, Certified Associate Christian Educator,  
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