

OGHS Sample pastor letter

Dear members,

In Isaiah 58, the author is addressing a people who have returned to Jerusalem, where the Temple—God’s house—was in shambles. And in that rubble, the prophet challenges the people, not to rebuild the building or to restore their religious rituals, but to care for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable—the prophet called the people to *become* the house of God. We are called to become, as Isaiah promised long ago, “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in.”

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we *become* the household of God and extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat.

Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of God’s people, and you will hear about just a few of these individuals over the coming weeks. These stories will connect you to those whose lives have been changed by your gifts.

I’d also like to invite you to visit the OGHS website (www.pcusa.org/oghs) to find out more information on how your gift helps people all over the world, and offer prayers for the people and projects who receive this support. We will be having a potluck on **???**, where the children will read a new story about Gracie the fish, and then **???** will lead a discussion of how, by making relatively small changes in our lifestyle, we can radically increase our gifts, which will make huge differences in the lives of our sisters and brothers.

That brings me to my challenge. I challenge each of you to give strong consideration to increasing your gift to the offering—you’ll see how giving opens your heart to God’s work in your own life. I hope that you’ll join us on Sunday, **???**, and that you’ll join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Yours in the love and grace of Jesus Christ,

Rev. _____