****

**April 4, 2021**

**Time with Children**

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

**PC(USA) Special Offering**

[Prepare by searching the OGHS interactive map (link below) and identify an individual or community near you that received assistance from one of the three programs that receive the OGHS offering. Reference this organization and how close it is to where you live. Perhaps bring in a map to show the close proximity. OR be prepared to reference a time you were engaged in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program or the Self-Development of People.]

Resources:

1. OGHS Fish Box - assembled
2. Research interactive map on the OGHS website ([pcusa.org/oghsmap](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1L0boL9BNjxIHbZz73HkebEy7-Xw&ll=18.14380359370495%2C22.067637699999977&z=2)).
3. Map showing distance from your church to individual/community impacted by OGHS (optional).
4. Picture of individual/community that you will talk about (optional).

Good morning, children of God!

Christ is risen! (Wait for children to respond, “Christ is risen, indeed!”) Today is a joy-filled day when we celebrate that Jesus is alive! So, that is why one person will say “Christ is risen!” and everyone else, with lots of joy, will respond with “Christ is risen, indeed!” So, let’s all try that again. I invite the whole congregation to join. Christ is risen! (Wait for response.) That brought my heart so much joy!

There are a lot of ways we can celebrate the risen Christ. We sing special hymns and bring back “Allelujah.” We might release butterflies or put flowers on a cross outside. We may put special banners and flowers in the sanctuary. Another special way to celebrate is with the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering! People all over the United States are bringing their special offering to worship today or will send their offering electronically to their churches. You may have even assembled a fish box like this one and added coins and dollars to it during Lent as part of your spiritual practices.

But what happens to the offering after we give it? Do I (or Pastor) sit in the office and shake the boxes like maracas? No! That would be silly. Do we keep the money just in case of a rainy day? No, that would not help anyone. So, what do we do?

We send the offering to the Special Offerings at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to help with three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People. Each of these programs help individuals and communities in need.

I did a little research to find out if there was an individual or a community near us that received resources from the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. Guess what I found?! (Share what you found.) I think it would be wonderful to meet these individuals/communities, how about you? Maybe we can make that happen soon! [Alternate: Share your personal experience here.]

As we wait for that opportunity to happen, and as we continue to celebrate Easter Sunday, let us pray together and ask for a special blessing over the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering and all who have and will receive it. Just repeat after me:

Loving and Gracious God / thank you for the chance / to give not just coins and dollars / but also ourselves and our time. / We ask your blessing / on this special offering / for those who gave / and those who receive. / Bless the communities / and individuals / with safety / with food / with hope. / Amen.

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