



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



You
shall be
called
repairers
of the
breach

— ISAIAH 58

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH
OUR NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED
AROUND THE WORLD BY
PROVIDING RELIEF FROM
NATURAL DISASTERS, FOOD
FOR THE HUNGRY, AND
SUPPORT FOR THE POOR
AND OPPRESSED.

2019

LEADER'S GUIDE
MARCH 6-APRIL 21



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Thank you

for promoting and supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an Offering that responds directly to the needs God has called us to fulfill in Isaiah 58. Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports programs in over 100 countries.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

If you need help or have questions, contact us at specialofferings@pcusa.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing — the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.



2019

LEADER'S GUIDE
MARCH 6-APRIL 21

THIS TOOL WAS CREATED FOR YOU. YOU PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE.

Research shows that when church leaders encourage their congregations to support initiatives like the Special Offerings, their members give significantly more. This guide will walk you through effective ways to promote and celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing. But don't feel limited! Your enthusiasm and creativity are invaluable to this cause.

You have likely received a shipment of materials.* These are intended to help your church members understand the work funded by their gifts and motivate them to contribute again. Please distribute these items and help us share this message.

In this Leader's Guide, you'll find:

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Three easy ways to stay up-to-date on all things Special Offerings.

 pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings

 facebook.com/specialofferings

 twitter.com/pcusa_so

 Text **SHARING** to **56512** to receive a link to resources to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit www.pcusa.org/oghs



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (March 6 – April 21), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

One Great Hour of Sharing, makes a difference in the world.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

- + Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees
- + Receives 32% of funds raised

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- + Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- + Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

- + Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues
- + Receives 32% of funds raised

1 OUR OFFERINGS AT WORK

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It enables our congregations and mission partners to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event. Find an interactive world map with OGHS recipients at www.pcusa.org/oghsmap.



International aid:

In the first half of 2017, 20 countries received aid and support after catastrophic events, including the Super Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines, China and surrounding areas; emergency response following earthquakes and a tsunami in Indonesia; flooding in India; volcanic eruption in Guatemala, violence and famine in South Sudan; and ongoing assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons related to Syria.

National aid:

28 states received help following natural and human-caused disasters, including flooding in Montana, Ohio, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Hawaii and more; tornadoes in Alabama, Virginia and Iowa; wildfires in California, and Colorado; ongoing response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria as well as Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Matthew; and various public violence incidents.

Fall 2017 Hurricanes:

PDA has established a three-year \$10.4 million budget for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. As of August 1, 2018, over \$2,500,000 in grants have been disbursed; 2,743 PDA volunteers served disaster impacted communities in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico through PDA — supported host sites; 50 deployments of 132 National Response Team members totaling more than 1,000 days in the field.

Syria:

With the support of PDA, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon has opened five schools in Syrian refugee camps, which are hosting over 300 students. Homes in Homs are being rebuilt so that displaced families who fled their embattled city can return to begin the hard work of rebuilding their shattered city and broken neighborhoods.

South Sudan:

PDA is working with Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency, the humanitarian arm of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, to provide large-scale emergency relief projects for South Sudanese displaced persons and refugees, as well as supporting livelihood and food security, peace building, and education for civil society.

Find out more about the ongoing work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at
presbyterianmission.org/pda.

1 OUR OFFERING AT WORK

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

PHP works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes. As a part of this mission, PHP gave over 125 grants totaling more than \$1.1 million, impacting communities across the United States and 21 other countries in 2017. You make this work possible through gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing! Find an interactive map with OGHS recipients at www.pcusa.org/oghsmap.

More and Better Food

- 23 Hunger Action Advocates served 1,600 congregations in presbyteries around the country, providing food relief to more than half a million people
- 126,610 pounds of local, organically-grown food distributed across the U.S.
- 19 granaries and peasant homes built internationally
- Nearly 2,000 pounds of native, quality seeds distributed to farmers
- 380,000 students now have access to healthy, regionally-sourced and fair food—due to partner work that passed the Good Food Purchasing Policies in Chicago

Solidarity with People

- Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) groups helped to generate \$20 million in Louisville and Knoxville for affordable housing
- In Ohio and D.C., nearly 2,000 housing units built for homeless veterans and low-income citizens
- 52,000 daily riders saved \$13 million through reduced fares and free transfers in North Nashville, a historically-Black community
- 5,316 clergy, wage theft monitors, human rights trainees, organizers, policy advocates, and indigenous leaders attended intensive trainings in the U.S.

- 27,000 signatures collected for international campaigns
- 5,600 loans distributed for income generating projects and cooperatives
- In Tennessee, 42 housekeepers improved their collective annual wages by \$65,700 and four cleaning workers recover \$2,400 in stolen wages.

More Livable Environment

- More than 1,000 congregations ordered Eco-Palms and 834 Presbyterians purchased nearly \$150,000 of Fairly Traded coffee
- Over 200 certified PC(USA) Earth Care Congregations worked holistically to care for God's creation in their own communities
- 94,804 trees and seedlings planted around the world
- 51 water catchment systems, wells and hand pumps for food production and food security
- 30 toilets built for sanitation, health, and safety
- 47 open field farms and gardens created by international grant partners
- 165 acres of land released back to communities

Find out more about the ongoing work of Presbyterian Hunger Program at
presbyterianmission.org/hunger.

1 OUR OFFERING AT WORK

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People continues to work with low-income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2018, National SDOP has entered into partnerships with the projects below (as of 10/2018). Projects focused on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, immigration/refugee issues and capacity building. Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception. Find an interactive map with OGHS recipients at www.pcusa.org/oghsmap.

National SDOP Projects:

- Street Vendors Association of Chicago (SVAC), Chicago, IL
- Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Cano Martin Pena, San Juan, Puerto Rico, (a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Hunger Program)
- The Gainesville Health and Wellness Center of West Alabama, Gainesville, AL
- New-American Parent Support Group (NPSG), Clarkston, GA
- Homes for All Nashville, Nashville, TN
- Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), Oxnard, CA
- United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance (U.T.O.P.I.A) Seattle, Auburn, WA



International SDOP Partners:

- Small Scale Sustainable Development West Africa Initiative, Liberia, Sierra Leone, (a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and various ecumenical partners)

Mid Council (Synod & Presbytery) Self-Development of People Funded Projects:

2018 Mid Council SDOP projects are yet to be funded. In 2017 SDOP Mid Council Committees partnered with the local projects below by awarding them grants:

- Dexter-Linwood Cordon Phase I, Detroit, MI
- Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, Grand Rapids, MI
- Urban Farmers to Entrepreneurs, Cleveland, OH
- Forest View Tenants Association, Iowa City, IA
- Arabic Outreach Center, Des Moines, IA
- Circle of Parents, Saint Paul, MN
- South Sudanese Bead/Basket Project, Saint Cloud, MN
- Local Solutions to End Poverty: Candidate Forum and Accountability Session, Duluth, MN
- Street Voices of Change, Minneapolis, MN
- Vaughn and Friends Alumni Association, Chicago, IL
- Work with Dignity Earned Sick Leave Campaign, Baltimore, MD
- Alianza Agricola Project, Rochester, NY
- ROCovery Fitness Project, Rochester, NY
- Adelante Student Voices Project, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Project Genesis, God's Disciples, Peekskill, NY

- Proyecto Faro (The Lighthouse Project), Stony Point, NY
- Second Chance of Northwest Florida, Panama City, FL
- Exploring Educational Opportunities-Black Male Leadership Initiative, Philadelphia, PA
- African Women's Empowerment Program, Philadelphia, PA
- Metanoia Community Development Corp: Youth Entrepreneurship Program, North Charleston, SC
- Operation Fresh Goods, Charlotte, NC
- Brookland Park Young Leader Project, Richmond, VA
- Gospel Fit Challenge, Freeport, NY
- Seeds of Unity by Saving Our Sisters Now, Pittsburgh, PA
- Opening Closed Doors, McKeesport, PA
- Growing Prosperous, Pittsburgh, PA
- The Lighthouse Garden, Princeville, NC
- Healing Arts Space Project, Los Angeles, CA
- Small Steps Lead to Big Rewards, Pine Hill, AL



PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY / CCD

Highlighted Projects:

Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Cano Martin Pena, San Juan, Puerto Rico,

(a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Hunger Program). Fideicomiso members collectively own land which is managed for the benefit of all District residents. This innovative community land trust was designed by the communities to regularize land tenure and avoid gentrification. The grant makes it possible for the group to hire a community facilitator.

Exploring Educational Opportunities-Black Male Leadership Initiative, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This is a project comprised of economically poor African American young men. They seek to advance themselves educationally, personally and economically through lectures, workshops and field trips. The project is meant to fill a cultural gap in learning and exposure that is perpetuated by poverty and racism.

Small Scale Sustainable Development West Africa Initiative, Liberia, Sierra Leone,

(a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and various ecumenical partners). The initiative seeks to improve the food security and economic status of communities, families and individuals through technical training, follow up technical support and small grants for project activities.

Find out more about the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) at

presbyterianmission.org/sdop.

2 PROMOTING OGHS: BEFORE THE OFFERING

PLAN

Life is easier when a plan is in place. If you make arrangements ahead of time, promotion will go more smoothly, be less stressful, and you'll make the most of every opportunity to motivate your congregation to share and support OGHS.

- + **Set dates to receive the OGHS Offering with your session.** Congregations commonly receive the Offering on Palm Sunday (April 14) and/or Easter Sunday (April 21), though any date is appropriate.
- + **Commit to an ambitious goal with the session.** Aim higher than the sum raised last year.
- + **Unpack your shipment of materials** and review the next page to find other tools and resources to help you develop your plan.
- + Call Customer Service at **800-541-5113** or email **customer_service@presbypub.com** to order any additional materials you may want or need.
- + **Recruit a church member to read a Minute for Mission.** Inform those preparing the Minutes for Mission of the examples available on the website. Feel free to pair as you like.
- + **Distribute the fish banks** and use the children's Sunday school curriculum during lent for a fresh approach to this year's One Great Hour of Sharing. You can download a children's Sermon, two lessons with activities, and ideas to connect worship and the congregation. Written by Jenna Campbell, these pieces are sure to help your educators during this busy time. Visit presbyteriangifts.org/pgcresources to download.
- + **Use the Gracie the Fish story** with your Sunday School class.

BE CREATIVE

Your creativity and voice are important parts of this process. We'll never know your congregation the way you do. What kind of activities do they love?

- + **Create an eye-catching display** in a prominent place, which can include the posters, fish banks, photos from past involvement with OGHS projects, and thank you letters.
- + **Plan special congregational events**, such as church and school activities. Popular events include dinners or mission fairs highlighting OGHS-supported ministries, and events promoting "PDA Blue Shirt Sunday" on March 10, and "SDOP Sunday" on April 7.
- + **Create a plan for involving your children** in promoting the Offering through a skit or other worship activity. A new option is having your youth choose one of the OGHS-supported gifts from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to present to the congregation, sharing how this gift can make a difference for others.
- + **Think about how you can integrate all of the worship resources** into your service holistically—rather than as add-ons—to emphasize the central role our witness in the world plays in our own discipleship.

RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

Hopefully you'll find this guide answers most of your questions. However, there are other great ways to learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing and stay in touch with the Special Offerings. Your standing order contains the foundational materials you'll need to promote the Offering. Our website has even more. Visit us for the following OGHS materials at presbyterianmission.org/oghs/resources.

OGHS MATERIALS

- + **Worship resource**
Contains a Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, Litany of Dedication, Invitation to the Lord's Table, Prayer after Communion, Blessing, and Charge
- + **Presbyterian Giving Catalog Starter Kit**
The Activation Kit contains resources to promote One Great Hour of Sharing in your congregation by using the Presbyterian Giving Catalog
- + **The newest (and all past) lesson materials**
Gracie the Fish children's lessons on Christian love, sharing, and compassion
- + **Downloadable bulletin inserts** (2 versions available in English, Spanish and Korean)
Version #1: Repairers of the Breach
Version #2: Open Doors, Open Hearts
- + **Downloadable poster**
- + **Sample pastor's letter**
Source of reference when writing a letter to your members
- + **Facebook cover photo**
Cover photo can be used on your church's Facebook page throughout Lent
- + **Blog post content**
Brief article can be shared with your church through your blog or newsletter
- + **Minutes for Mission**
- + **One Great Hour of Sharing PowerPoint™ slides**, includes a customizable slide

- + **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People**

ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES:

- + **Informational Brochure:** This tri-fold brochure includes basic information about SDOP. It shares examples and pictures of established partnerships with low-income community groups, and the funding criteria for groups wishing to complete an application. It is written in a simple-to-understand format so, regardless of their familiarity with SDOP, individuals and groups will find it useful for a variety of settings. Visit www.pcusa.org/resource/sdop-informational-brochure to download.
- + **Mid Council (Local) SDOP Committee Brochure:** A trifold brochure for those interested in starting an SDOP committee. The brochure shares steps to be taken to start a committee and responsibilities of the committee.
- + **Sermons and Liturgy:** This is a thematic collection of sermons and liturgical materials celebrating the ministry of SDOP. Find these materials at www.pcusa.org/resource/sermons-and-liturgy.
- + **Sharing Our Blessings:** Watch a video (length: 3:20) expressing thanks to Presbyterians for the lives and communities they have changed through the SDOP ministry. Watch the video at pcusa.org/resource/sharing-our-blessings.
- + **SDOP Impact Report:** This resource includes domestic and international projects funded with the support of the One Great Hour of Sharing by SDOP. It gives ideas on how to interpret and support the SDOP ministry and One Great Hour of Sharing.
- + **Hunger Action Congregations:** If your congregation is doing hunger-related work in one or more of these areas — Hunger Alleviation, Development Assistance, Hunger Education, Lifestyle Integrity, Corporate and Public Policy Witness, Worship — your church is eligible to be a Hunger Action Congregation. Learn more at bit.ly/hungeractionform.

- + PHP Post:** Download current and previous issues of this hunger-justice journal. Each issue focuses on hunger and poverty related topics and includes updates about PHP programs, reflections, scripture, and activities. You can download the PHP Post at pcusa.org/hunger. Email php@pcusa.org to sign up to receive a paper copy of the PHP Post.
- + Earth Care Congregations:** Is your church active in earth care or interested in becoming more involved in being stewards of God’s creation? Take the “Earth Care Pledge” and become a certified Earth Care Congregation by completing activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. You can learn more and download additional resources at pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.
- + Social media @PDACares:** Follow PDA on Facebook and Twitter so you can be among the first to know where PDA is responding and share posts to keep your congregation informed.
- + PDA.pcusa.org:** The PDA website has resources from prayers and hymns; bulletin inserts and Bible studies; videos and documentaries on immigration detention, public violence and PDA responses, to study

guides and supplemental information you can use to dive deeper. This is where you can find volunteer opportunities and information on how to donate.

- + Rapid Information Network (PDA-RIN):** Share in the Presbyterian response to national and international emergencies by signing up for the PDA Rapid Information Network. Receive bulletins about relief efforts delivered to your email inbox. Subscribe at pcusa.org/subscribe.
- + Mission Mosaic:** Read stories of disaster recovery from around the world. The Mission Mosaic is an annual report of PDA responses from the previous year in a magazine-style format sent annually. Email pda@pcusa.org to request the complimentary magazine.
- + PDA Blog:** In this blog you will find stories of hope, action alerts, project updates and more.

**CONTACTS:
GET IN TOUCH
IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS
OR NEED HELP!**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)
Cameron Stevens
800-728-7228, x 5839
cameron.stevens@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/pda

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)
Jennifer Evans
800-728-7228, x 5819
jennifer.evans@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/hunger

Self-Development of People (SDOP)
Margaret Mwale
800-728-7228, x 5792
margaret.mwale@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/sdop

Special Offerings
502-569-5047
special.offerings@pcusa.org
<http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>

Standing Orders
Presbyterian Customer Support
800-533-4371
customer_service@presbypub.com
pcusastore.com

3 PROMOTING OGHS: DURING THE OFFERING

- + **Hang the Offering poster in a prominent location**, if you have not already created a display.
- + **Place a folded insert in the Sunday bulletin every week.** There are two inserts which you can use interchangeably or however you wish. We suggest using the same insert for multiple weeks if you are promoting all month.
- + **Put Offering envelopes in pew racks every week.**
- + **Present Minutes for Mission**, and encourage your members to give generously, with reminders of the goal you set with the session.
- + **Use the worship resources** found on the website, and **focus on the Offering** in a sermon.
- + **Involve children and youth**, and ask them to hand out bulletin inserts as an alternative to placing them in pews.
- + **Promote the Offering on your church Facebook page** with the OGHS cover photo. (Can be downloaded at presbyterianmission.org/oghs)
- + **Use the downloadable art, graphics, and copy** in your church newsletter, blog, or website.
- + **Enclose the brochure/envelope in your church mailing**, along with a letter from the church pastor (surveys show this makes a significant difference in congregant giving) for members who might have missed the Offering collection. (See sample letter on website.)
- + **Remind parents** to encourage their children to fill up their OGHS fish banks.
- + **Use the Place Mat** as a family daily devotional.

THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

-  *Through your congregation*
-  *Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10*
-  *presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs*

In addition, members can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Gifts may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



PHOTO: SOUL FIRE FARM

4 PROMOTING OGHS: AFTER THE OFFERING

THANK YOUR CONGREGATION

for their generous gifts, and share the total raised. Celebrate meeting or exceeding your original goal! Remind them of the causes they have supported: hunger, thirst, disaster recovery, refugee assistance, education, and community development.

SEND IN YOUR CONGREGATION'S FUNDS

At the direction of the 220th General Assembly (2012), congregations are encouraged to remit OGHS gifts directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, with "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line.

Your contribution can be mailed to:

Mid Councils

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643751
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751

Congregations

(through normal receiving agency, usually the presbytery, or)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700 Pittsburgh
PA 15264-3700

The Agency will record and notify presbyteries of congregational donations.

UPDATE YOUR CONGREGATION

Throughout the year on how the money is being used, and remind your members they can contribute to the Offering all year.

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US!

We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted One Great Hour of Sharing.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THINGS SPECIAL OFFERINGS

by subscribing to the Special Offerings blog, "Liking" the Special Offerings Facebook page, and following Special Offerings on Twitter.

 pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings

 twitter.com/pcusa_so

 facebook.com/specialofferings

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

Here is a big question: What is “the church?” You might think that it is mighty strange for me, of all people, to throw out that question, but think about this: As the wider culture becomes less traditionally religious, the church — something we share as a congregation and individually hold dear in our hearts — becomes less understood, or misunderstood, by many. Like it or not, it’s a fact.

And as hard as it is to admit, sometimes we too fall into the trap of reducing “the church” to the buildings where people gather on Sunday mornings.

But let’s move past that idea of buildings, of structures. Of walls. Many of us learned in our childhoods that “the church” is the people — it is you and me. “Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors, see all the people.”

For those of us who are gathered today, this rhyme is a useful reminder that the church isn’t a building with a steeple (maybe) and some doors. The church is the people who come through the doors to worship.

But it is something more.

I think we might unlock something else in that simple rhyme. When we “open the doors” to “see all the people” we usually wiggle our fingers to remember the church as the people inside the doors. As we sit inside this building today, we need to open the doors and see ALL the people outside the doors: people whose homes and even loved ones have been washed away by hurricanes and floods, people trapped in systems of injustice and oppression, and people who will go to bed tonight hungry or without a roof over their heads.

The church’s makeup may be determined by opening its doors and welcoming people, but the church’s identity is defined by opening its doors and joining with the most vulnerable of God’s children in the world. The church’s identity reflects the call of Isaiah to become repairers of the breach. It is through One Great Hour of Sharing that Presbyterians come

together to open our doors to become the church with all the people we see.

We open our doors to join those dependent on outsiders for food, those who now receive seeds and silos to sustain a future for their children and communities; to partner with those whose land and livelihoods are threatened and who now receive legal aid and protection for the land that is rightfully theirs; and to work alongside those whose homes and loved ones have been lost to a catastrophic event, offering hands to help rebuild and prayers to help restore.

Let us open our doors, again and again, to see the vulnerable we’ve been called to stand with and to serve. Let us open our doors, again and again, to share through this offering the love of Christ by ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. Let us open our doors, again and again, to become, not THIS church on THIS corner, but CHRIST’S church in the whole world. Let’s open our doors. And let’s walk through those doors to share Christ’s love. Let’s give of ourselves, and let’s pray.

Let us pray:

*Mighty and merciful God,
in Jesus Christ you opened the doors to us.
Make us a church whose doors open
so that we go out to join in mission and
ministry with all our neighbors in need.
Through the gifts we offer to
One Great Hour of Sharing, may your
light break forth before us, and
may we be called repairers of the breach,
restorers of streets to live in.
(Isaiah 58)*

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING HELPS DAY LABORERS IN ARIZONA STRIVE FOR FAIR WAGES AND SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

Narciso, Feliciano, and Alberto labored hard on a construction project in the hot Arizona sun for several days. Though the work was demanding, the promise of payday kept these day laborers going. They had cupboards to fill and bills to pay.

But payday presented an unwelcome surprise for these men. They were paid for just one day of work, leaving each of them about \$300 short. They felt demoralized and helpless, but they did not have to suffer in silence thanks to the Southside Worker Center in Tucson, a ministry supported by One Great Hour of Sharing gifts.

Several members from Southside Presbyterian Church, which sponsors the worker center, and other advocates went to the job site and protested the treatment that the workers received. The workers were eventually paid through the intervention of the legal clinic at the University of Arizona's law school.

The center began in 2006 after workers expressed a need for a safe place to connect with employers, says Jimmy Wells, a board member. "It is workers organizing themselves with the support of the church," he says. "It really doesn't work unless the workers take leadership in the center."

Many workers have had limited opportunities to lead, but thanks to One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, workers have honed the skills necessary to manage the center. Using offering gifts, the Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People (SDOP) supported a Leadership Academy.

The Leadership Academy prepares workers to guide the center's initiatives related to wage theft, fair wages, and safety. Some eventually become members of the worker center's board.

"The Leadership Academy helps us identify key leaders who form the core of the work we do," Jimmy says. "Without the support [from One Great Hour of Sharing], I don't think we would have been able to do that."

SDOP's focus is consistent with the center's ethos: promoting justice and building stronger communities. "I really appreciate that the support is not about charity, about people doing things for other people," Jimmy explains. "It is much more about how we can create space and opportunity for people in marginalized places."

Members of Southside Presbyterian are examples of serving the most vulnerable we have been called to stand with and to serve outside the church doors. They have shown the way, but the gifts of Presbyterians to One Great Hour of Sharing people just like us — have helped provide the means. Let us all walk out our doors to repair the breach created by injustice.

Let us pray:

*Jesus, you preached that the laborers
deserve to be paid.*

*Help us to open our doors to give and serve
those who are mistreated
and go unpaid for their work.*

*As the prophet Isaiah promised,
may you be the vindicator
that goes before us, and
may your glory be our rear guard.*

Amen.

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING GIFTS HELP INCREASE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND FARMING

In a few hours, something is happening that many of us look forward to — yes, I’m talking about ... lunch or brunch. A place to gather for fellowship, laughter, and maybe a few moments of quiet during those first few bites. Food is a good, good thing.

While we give thanks to God for our food, we need to recognize lack of nutritious food is experienced by many of our sisters and brothers at alarming rates. Creating an opportunity for all people to become farmers, gain access to agricultural land, or manage farms are each ways we can secure healthy food systems for all.

Urban communities of color continue to experience diminishing access to fresh and local food. This lack of access to healthy foods, and affordable food prices, also contributes to higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related illnesses. According to the USDA, 21 percent of black households and 19 percent of Latinx households face low or very low food security compared to 10 percent of white households.

Leah Penniman is co-founder and co-director of Soul Fire Farm—a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program in upstate New York. She says, “Approximately 85 percent of U.S. food is grown by Hispanic and Latinx people, but they only make up three percent of farm management. On the consumer side, people with dark skin are four times more likely to live in a neighborhood without a supermarket or farmer’s market.”

This pattern doesn’t have to continue. Presbyterians, through their gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, support efforts toward giving everyone access to nutritious food by addressing the root causes of hunger.

Soul Fire Farm raises and sells organically grown vegetables and eggs and then sets prices based on the customers’ ability to pay. It is seeking to increase the number of people of color who are farm owners and/or managers. More than 1,000 people attend training opportunities at the farm each year.

Census data show that in 1910, African Americans operated 14.5 percent of the 6.4 million farms. The most recent census revealed that African Americans owned just 1.4 percent of the U.S.’ 3.2 million farms. This is no accident. In 1999, in a historical settlement, a judge found that farmers had been systematically denied federal loans solely because they were black.

As people of faith, we can move toward a more just and sustainable food system in which people of color gain access to the land, credit, and training necessary for successful farming. With One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, Presbyterians can nurture a new generation of food growers.

By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts help the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to engage in ministries that are moving us outside the walls of our churches to help build a more just world.

Let us pray:

*Creator God, in the beginning
you established a garden
for humankind to tend.*

*In our broken world, many go hungry
while many hands that would garden
go without access to land to till.*

*Move our church beyond the doors
through this ministry, sharing what
we have with those in need and
creating a world where all have dignity
and all can gather around the table
with enough to eat.*

Amen.

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS BUILD THEIR FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION

I want to tell you about a man named Andral — a family man who has prevailed through terrible circumstances. The 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti, and changed it forever, set Andral's life on a radically different course.

Andral lost his home and career in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital city. In Port-au-Prince and the surrounding region, an estimated 300,000 people lost their lives in the earthquake. You could say that Andral was one of the lucky ones — and he surely knows it.

He is a leader in his new community, which was built in the Central Plateau area with help from One Great Hour of Sharing gifts. Residents of the newly constructed community knew little about farming when they moved there, but Andral led them to embrace their new circumstances. He credits his education with giving him the skills needed to adapt to a profoundly different life.

"I look back at the earthquake and think that if I hadn't gone to school, my life would be much more difficult than it is now," he says. "Haitians will never thrive without a good education."

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, supported by One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, helped Andral and his community construct a school with classes through the sixth grade. The community recently added a room for the seventh grade.

"My dream is to keep expanding it to a high school and even a decent university, so our children don't have to travel to other cities for their education," he says. To attend high school now, students must walk five miles each way.

Andral and his neighbors live in an eco-village, a community designed to be socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable. It is one of four on the Central Plateau that benefited from One Great Hour of Sharing gifts. Children from the eco-villages are joined by students from the surrounding community

at the school. "Everyone has a right to an education," Andral says. "We are not going to reserve the school only for our children."

Andral is grateful for everyone who helped make his community and the school a reality. He dreams of gathering them in one room and thanking them. "I want to tell them what they have done for us," he says.

We appreciate Andral's kind words for the support that the church has offered him, his family, and neighbors but we know our work is not done. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterians across the United States have moved outside the walls of their church to help make new lives possible for those like Andral — those whose lives have been turned upside down by disasters of all kinds here and abroad. From Haiti to New Orleans to Puerto Rico and elsewhere, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance makes a commitment to long-term recovery — often lasting for years because we give generously to this offering. With your gifts, lives are changed, and hope is restored.

Let us pray:

*God of comfort and hope,
draw near to those
experiencing disaster.*

*As your faithful servants,
move us beyond our doors
through these gifts and
through this ministry, so that,
in the words of Isaiah,
"healing shall spring up quickly."*

Amen.

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRESBYTERIAN GENEROSITY HELPS SAVE A COMMUNITY IN PUERTO RICO FROM THE THREAT OF DISPLACEMENT

Even before Hurricane Maria ravaged communities along the Martín Peña Channel in Puerto Rico last year, residents were facing another threat that could have completely disrupted their way of life.

Plans to dredge the polluted channel and improve the waterway promised to dramatically increase property values in this section of San Juan near the financial district, airport, and universities. However, people living along the channel were looking at displacement rather than economic gain. Residents of these settlements did not have deeds to their dwellings, and land speculation and gentrification threatened to displace them — including families that had lived there for five generations.

Thanks in part to the generosity of Presbyterians — gifts from congregations just like ours received for One Great Hour of Sharing — the community formed the Martín Peña Channel Land Trust, which acquired title to a 200-acre area that is home to 1,500 families. While the trust owns the land, individuals can obtain deeds that give them surface rights to their homes.

Lyvia Rodríguez, executive director of the land trust, explains, “Gifts from One Great Hour of Sharing ensure that a new generation of residents have the opportunity to live along a restored Martín Peña Channel.” A community facilitator is helping families through the tedious process of acquiring deeds for their homes.

“The hurricane destroyed 75 houses, and over 1,000 houses lost their roofs,” says Mariolga Juliá Paceco, special projects coordinator for the land trusts. “We were able to supply tarps, first aid supplies, food, and water.”

One of the lesser known effects of a disaster is the confiscation of land from poor people in the name of “progress,” mainly under the guise of “recovery” and “redevelopment.” In New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina ... in Haiti after the earthquakes ... in too many places where people have already suffered tremendous

loss. Our church is present not only in efforts to recover from wind and rain damage, but also in solidarity to resist those who claim they are there to “help” but are really there to help themselves.

One Great Hour of Sharing ministries — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—are working alongside the land trust. Presbyterians have helped assuage the fears of families who are protected by the Martín Peña Channel Land Trust by looking beyond our own doors, our own walls. Paceco says, “We are grateful for the generous giving and for this help.”

Let us pray:

*God of mercy, help us look past the walls
and doors of this church.*

*Help us to open our doors
to walk alongside the vulnerable
to whom we have been called.*

*As we share through this Offering,
may all your children feel
the love of Christ and share in
the justice, compassion, and joy
you offer.*

*Keep us unsatisfied with being
THIS church on THIS corner,
so we shall be known as
CHRIST’S church to the whole world.*

Amen.

6

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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING.**

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