YOU SHALL BE CALLED REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

— Isaiah 58

Providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

MATTHEW 25
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!
One Great Hour of Sharing — the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

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:

1. Our Offerings at Work | Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, page 5
   Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People
2. Promoting OGHS: Before the offering, page 9
3. Resources and Materials, page 10
4. Promoting OGHS: During the offering, page 12
5. Promoting OGHS: After the offering, page 13
6. Minutes for Mission, page 14
7. Resources order form (*if additional resources are needed), page 19

THREE EASY WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THINGS SPECIAL OFFERINGS.

- pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offering
- facebook.com/specialofferings
- twitter.com/pcusa_so

Text OGHS to 91999 to support these vital ministries.
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 (February 17 – April 4), 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
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 pcusa.org/oghsmap.

In the first half of 2020 (1/1/20–6/30/20) PDA granted $4.1 million as 487 grants in the United States and 57 countries. Of that, $2.5 million was for COVID-19 response.

**Domestic Response**

- Prior to COVID-19, PDA deployed National Response Team (NRT) members who would travel into presbyteries following a disaster. Now, NRT members are virtually deployed to support presbyteries as they prepare for or respond to a disaster.
- PDA is supporting the South Carolina Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (SC-PDAT) as they work to strengthen cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration among the five South Carolina presbyteries. Their goal is to build local capacity throughout the state to prepare for and respond to disasters. PDA has been working with a similar network in Florida (FLAPDAN) since 2005.
- Additionally, PDA is supporting presbyteries in disaster-prone areas as they recruit, train and prepare volunteers who are willing to respond to a nearby disaster. These “commuter volunteers” will provide their own transportation to the work site and return home the same day, eliminating the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the close quarters of a Volunteer Host Site.

**International Response**

- Internationally, PDA is working with ACT Alliance, Presbyterian and community-led partners to respond to natural disasters. PDA is assisting partners in developing protocols for how to safely respond to disasters in a COVID-19 environment.
- PDA is working with Presbyterian World Mission and the Presbyterian Hunger Program to extend COVID grants to partners outside PDA’s existing network.

**Refugee Ministry**

- In February, PDA Associate for Refugees and Asylum, Susan Krehbiel, joined the Southern Border Travel Study Seminar organized by Presbyterian Peacemaking. Krehbiel served as a resource person for the 20 Presbyterian participants as they reflected on their two days at the U.S./Mexico border and actions they could take. In the same trip, Krehbiel met with five local partners across Southern California to learn more about their ministries and how PDA and the PCUSA can support them.
- PDA’s refugee ministry is adapting to the requirements of COVID-19 precautions, participating in and hosting webinars and other online gatherings, such as virtual town halls and ecumenical meetings.
- PDA developed guidance on asylum accompaniment in a COVID-19 environment.

For more information about PDA’s refugee ministry, visit pcusa.org/PDA/refugee
**Story ministry**

- In January, PDA’s newest feature-length documentary, *Flint: The Poisoning of an American City* launched on streaming services and video-on-demand. It is available on Amazon Prime, Google Play, Apple TV+ and Video on Demand across major cable providers.

- Over 50 screenings of *Flint* were canceled due to COVID, so PDA hosted their first virtual screening and panel in May to discuss water justice in a time of pandemic and how many communities are fighting COVID-19 without access to safe, affordable drinking water. This panel brought together faith leaders who are working in their communities, from Detroit and Flint to the Dakotas to Georgia. Faith leaders shared their stories and experiences and participants learned how to be involved with water justice.


For more information about PDA’s story ministry, visit pcusa.org/StoryProductions

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**Emotional and Spiritual Care**

- Due to the pandemic, PDA ramped up the Emotional and Spiritual Care program. PDA is working with the Presbyterian Mental Health Ministries office and the Mental Health Network, which was established after the 223rd General Assembly.

- Recorded and live Building Resilience webinars are available for general audiences and faith leaders in English and Spanish.

- PDA has presented many Faith Leader Support webinars for Presbyterian leadership and faith partners.

- Emotional and Spiritual Care tips are shared regularly on social media.

- In January, a full-day resilience program was offered to volunteers working in long-term recovery from the 2019 Woolsey fires in Los Angeles.

**COVID-19 Response**

- PDA is grateful for partnerships with the Presbyterian Mission Agency Executive Director, who made $300,000 available for Matthew 25/Continuity of Ministry Grants, in addition to World Mission and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, who PDA continues to work with to ensure a comprehensive response globally and in the U.S. The PC(USA) office of Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People helped frame the parameters of the grant program and ensured that congregations of color and those systemically excluded and affected would be made aware of the opportunity to extend their mission through these grant funds.

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

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) works to alleviate hunger and eliminate root causes. In 2019, you helped PHP give 94 grants totaling over $1 million, impacting 20 countries, including the United States. This included $161,000 that specifically went to alleviate famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Northern Nigeria. PHP partnered with 17 presbytery Hunger Action Advocates, 175 Hunger Action Congregations and 234 Earth Care Congregations across the country in 2019. Thank you for your financial contributions, time, energy, and prayers!

More and Better Food

People have sufficient money, seeds, land, water, equipment and training to feed themselves and their family. Better food also means everyone in the food production process is treated fairly.

• Over 1,388 chicken, pigs, rabbits, goats shared with families
• 453 beehives in communities around the world
• 63,500 seedlings and over 63,000 kilograms of seeds distributed
• More than 42 farms created around the world

Solidarity with People

The solidarity work we do with vulnerable communities includes changing unfair structures and passing of more just policies — around wages, labor, trade and job opportunities.

• Over 17,000 people trained nationally and internationally
• Over 23,000 people mobilized on advocacy campaigns
• $190,000 recovered in stolen wages for hospitality workers in the U.S.
• 109 acres returned to families in Sri Lanka and more than 55 households avoided eviction from their land in Uganda

More Livable Environment

Caring for Creation is a necessity to end hunger and poverty and the reverse also is true: the pollution, extraction and harm done to the environment significantly worsens social and economic conditions for people who are hungry.

• Planted over 51,000 trees across multiple countries
• Provided 40 water pumps, one well and seven water tanks
• Presbyterians purchased more than 63,000 pounds of fair-trade coffee
• 1,097 Presbyterian congregations purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods

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

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People works with low-income communities to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2020, National SDOP entered partnerships with the projects below. Projects focus 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, projects in economically poor communities around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges.

Find an interactive map with OGHS recipients at pcusa.org/oghsmap.

The projects and grants:

**National**
- South Sudan Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND
- Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign, Philadelphia, PA
- Boricuá Organization for Agro-ecology of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- New Jersey Parents’ Caucus (NJPC), State of New Jersey (3 Counties)
- Put People First PA, Philadelphia, PA
- Refugees Helping Refugees, Rochester, NY
- Dismas House of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA
- Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, Sacramento, CA
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network, Pasadena, CA
- Proyecto Pastoral, Los Angeles, CA
- Bakuumba Botik Co-op, San Diego, CA
- Economic Development at Koinonia, Americus, GA
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Chicago IL
- Print Collaborative, Cleveland, OH

**International**
- Colonense International Performing Arts Foundation, Colon City, Panama – works with primarily Afro-Panamanian youth who are street artists, often homeless and at-risk. Seeks to provide stability, training, mentorship and support for those who may be addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. To provide sustainability, project members plan to launch a bakery and café to sell baked goods locally. They also plan to create crafts from recycled materials to sell to tourists, launch a line of printed t-shirts, and start a mobile kiosk.
- Group of Women of Value, Panama City, Panama – A catering service providing high quality products at affordable prices and employment and training to group members. Additional funds are to buy a food truck to allow them to continue with their services.
- The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), Guatemala City, Guatemala
- Interchurch Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS), Managua, Nicaragua

Find out more about the ongoing work of Self-Development of People (SDOP) at presbyterianmission.org/sdop.
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 (March 28) and/or Easter Sunday (April 4), 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, lessons with activities, and ideas to connect worship and the congregation.
- **Use the Gracie the Fish story** with your Sunday School class.
- **Visit our website, pcusa.org/oghs/resources**, for recordings of minutes for mission, worship resources and video testimonial.

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?

- **Make a promotional board or display!** If you don’t know where to begin, take a look at an idea from the Special Offerings team by visiting pcusa.org/oghs-display. You can also call 800-728-7228, ext. 5047 to speak with a staff member who can help you with ideas for your own promotional boards. Whether building on these ideas or coming up with your very own, remember to tag us on Facebook when you post pictures of your congregation’s OGHS display.
- **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 February 21, and “SDOP Sunday” on March 14.
- **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

- **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: Because Water is Life

- **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

- **Minutes for Mission**

- **One Great Hour of Sharing PowerPoint™ slides**, includes a customizable slide

- **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

- **Video**
  Testimonials and recorded minutes for mission

**ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES:**

- **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 pcusa.org/hac.

- **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.

- **Climate Care Challenge:** Consider accepting the “Climate Care Challenge” a new Presbyterian Hunger Program challenge offered for individuals to commit themselves to caring for God’s world in a time of climate change. Learn more at pcusa.org/ccc.

- **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.

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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.

pcusa.org/PDA: 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. 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. Read it at pcusa.org/pdablog.
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.
+ Create a display or bulletin board. If you don’t know where to begin, take a look at an idea from the Special Offerings team by visiting pcusa.org/oghs-display. You can also call 502-569-5047 to speak with a staff member who can help you with ideas for your own promotional boards. Whether building on these ideas or coming up with your very own, remember to tag us on Facebook when you post pictures of your congregation’s OGHS display.

THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

Through your congregation
Text OGHS to 91999 to give
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 a gift at any time throughout the year.
OR
Gifts may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.
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.
Email specialofferings@pcusa.org.

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.

[file]

pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings
twitter.com/pcusa_sofacebook.com/specialofferings
BECAUSE WE SEE

The pandemic has stretched the Church in many ways — but we are still very much here. Although it was surely hard at first, we have expanded our thinking, and our doing, in new and innovative ways to close the distance, and be together. We have continued to worship. We have continued to build and shape community; we have continued to take care of one another. And on top of all that, we have continued to come together to serve those in need; both here in our own community and all over the world through our participation in special offerings and in the spirit of shared mission. Despite the difficulty, struggle and loss, the Church continues to declare its presence in the world, through different means, certainly, but toward the same purpose.

The Church has found life and vitality in a bevy of different places, too: online, in parking lots, on social media, and even on the phone. This reminds us that the Church has always existed beyond the doors of our own, and all buildings. Although we value our community and time together, and we surely miss those bonds when we are physically apart, the plain fact is the Church is not the building. Scripture reminds us time and again that God’s people belong with those in need, releasing people from the bonds of injustice and with the hungry whom we are to welcome into our homes, as Isaiah’s 58th chapter puts it. The Church finds itself with those who are thirsty, imprisoned, and suffering illness, as Jesus says in Matthew 25.

“When did we see you?”

“When did we see you?” — in a time of need, in a time of weakness? In a time of hunger, in a time of thirst?

Even without a pandemic, it is a truth, a reminder, that in every time and season, the Church finds itself and its Savior through relationships with those in need. We belong in this place, not just to help address those needs, though that is surely part of it. We belong there, also, because it is through relationships with those whom we see experiencing hunger, oppression, thirst, imprisonment, or illness, we might be transformed, too, as we become/experience/create/live the Church, together.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest way Presbyterians come together to do mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need. Through these gifts, we declare that the Church belongs with people whom we see suffering from the terrors of howling winds and natural disasters; those from whom we see COVID-19 took futures and livelihoods, and the whole cultures threatened as a result. The Church finds itself with those whom we see are thirsty because of too few water wells, and with those who are thirsty because of a lack of political will and the failure of powers and principalities to act in order to secure safe water for everyone. The Church belongs always, and forever, with those struggling for justice, righteousness and peace.

We give to One Great Hour of Sharing because of where the Church belongs, of who the church is. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing so that our Church will continue to become, as Isaiah said, “repairers of the breach” alongside those experiencing great need. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray::

Savior, do not meet us where we are, but find us where you are instead: with those experiencing injustice, hunger, thirst and great need. Amen.
BeCAUSE WE GROW

Trinity White Plume just turned 13. Like the gardens she has newly learned to plant and tend, she is growing in extraordinary ways.

Where Trinity lives on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota — roughly the size of the state of Connecticut — there is but one grocery store. Moreover, Oglala Lakota County, where the reservation is located, has the lowest per capita income in the country and consistently ranks as the poorest county in the nation.

During the pandemic, what was already a food desert has become even more so, heightening the challenge of food accessibility for Trinity’s family and all the families living in Pine Ridge. Thanks to gifts from One Great Hour of Sharing, the garden projects of Owe Aku (pronounced OH-WAY AH-KOO) are making a difference.

Owe Aku is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that puts people in charge of their own food supply, nutrition, health and well-being by reclaiming ancestral wisdom and teaching Lakota history and culture. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partners with Owe Aku through the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), supported by gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Or the Lakota, there is a strong spiritual connection between the land and the people. “Although traditionally we’re not an agricultural people, we have evolved into wanting to preserve the land, and preserve the people on the land, by beginning our garden project,” said development director Kent Lebsock. “We thought the best way to do this is with the families, and especially young people.” And thus was born Ama’s Freedom School, which encourages youth to learn not only about growing food, but also about the medicinal and ceremonial plants that have been used for generations.

Trinity is a young, emerging leader with the potential to carry the program forward for many years. She attends and assists with every class and workshop put on by Owe Aku, and, in turn, she and the other students have begun to teach their families. Trinity is also proving herself to be gifted in other areas that benefit the reservation by helping with bookkeeping and other office work.

“I want to learn my traditions from Ama’s Freedom School so that I can keep them alive for the future generations,” she says. With our support, we believe that she indeed will continue to grow and make a difference.

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing helps address the root causes of hunger in places around the world — places like the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and others where food security is a serious need. Please give generously, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray:

God who plants gardens and tends people,
make us gardeners with you and all those who need food.
May what we give, what we preserve and what we grow make lives of nourishment for all.
Amen.
When Manuel Nazario casts his net into the water these days, his catch is far less plentiful.

In the remote area of Bolivia near the Paraguay-Argentina border, Manuel and the members of his indigenous community are finding that fishing, their traditional livelihood, is now in severe jeopardy.

The Capirendita (pronounced CAP-IR-EN-DITA) community is grappling with the devastating impact of climate change, irregular rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, disease and mining pollution. As a result, their age-old ways of life and their means of economic support are increasingly threatened. The degradation of the environment and the mounting lack of access to water threatens their very survival.

Manuel has emerged as one of the leaders in his fishing community. A born innovator and community organizer, he is now leading the families in Capirendita toward the promise of a better way, in partnership with a local organization called CERDET (Center for Regional Studies of Tarija). Together they are working to develop irrigation systems and to collect and store rainwater for safe drinking.

Because of gifts received through One Great Hour of Sharing, like the gifts you and I will make to this Offering here in our congregation, CERDET is building infrastructure to address the communities’ critical water shortage. Their goal is to create 500 meters of pipes to transport safe well water to those in need. Manuel will be responsible for carrying out the excavation work on the underground piping system. Our gifts will also support the distribution of plastic containers to collect and save rainwater.

One Great Hour of Sharing helps us address critical water needs in places like South Sudan, training technicians to dig water wells for their communities and on maintenance, hygiene and sanitation. And in places like Detroit, our gifts have joined We the People of Detroit to secure access to water for those who have had their water shut off during the pandemic. Imagine not being able to wash anything during the pandemic!

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to share God’s love by becoming “repairers of the breach,” joining with people in need to build God’s house, together. Together we are making a better world for those in need no matter where they are. Please give generously, for when we all do a little — it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray::

Meet all the needs
for which the world thirsts,
O God.

May your spring of justice,
compassion and peace
spring up quickly,
and may it spring up quickly
in us.

Amen.
“Mama O” is a survivor, a healer.

Her moment of greatest need led her to Black Women’s Blueprint, a civil and human rights organization headquartered in Brooklyn, New York. Since 2008, Black Women’s Blueprint is specifically focused on the needs of Black women and girls. At 65 years of age, Mama O is among the eldest survivors of sexual violence in the organization.

Despite living with the lifelong trauma that results from sexual violence, Mama O is a pillar of strength for other survivors, both young and old. Our One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are helping Black Women’s Blueprint in its vital mission to take action on social justice issues and to deliver educational resources and support services to women like Mama O. Through their work, they seek to address the unique struggles of Black women and girls within the context of the larger racial justice concerns of Black communities.

“Their healing creativity is a gift for the whole world. Mama O is a testament to the resilience and strength of Black women in the face of adversity. Through all of Mama O’s ups and downs, she returns to community, holistically and ever-present,” said Sevonna M. Brown, the organization’s associate executive director. “She has continued to contribute creative healing arts and spiritual intercessory prayer on behalf of our survivor communities, carrying us through transitions, challenges and triumphs.”

The Rev. Alonzo Johnson, coordinator for the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, the organization’s partner, says, “Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, Black Women’s Blueprint continues to be out in the community addressing issues of trauma and providing things like food and housing assistance that people need in order to be whole.”

Mama O is just one example among the many women who now bless and lift up others, an ongoing benefit of the organization’s partnership with the PC(USA), for which Brown is especially grateful.

“We want to share our gratitude for the continued leadership that the One Great Hour of Sharing and Self-Development of People partnerships have shown over the years,” said Brown. “We are hopeful that times will grow brighter, and that we will come out on the other side of this with more wisdom, care, compassion and strategies for healing our communities and walking hand in hand towards a future of greater possibilities and opportunities to center survivors as the key to community thriving and justice.”

Thanks to our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, programs like Black Women’s Blueprint are lifting up women just like Mama O. Every gift makes a difference in the life of someone who deserves God’s love and support; someone who deserves our love and support. We are the Church, together. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray:

May our healing spring up quickly, as the prophet Isaiah proclaims.

May these gifts, God our physician, be a balm and medication for your people and your world.

Amen.

presbyterianmission.org/oghs
Life during COVID has been challenging. That feels like an understatement, right? At times, we have all felt disconnected, confined. Missing family, missing friends. Lonely. Worried about the groceries holding out. Unsure of what the future may hold. Imagine feeling all of those things but living in a place or in a situation that was already challenging each and every day without the added pressure of the pandemic. A place where access to food is day to day. Access to vital health care is questionable. Finding clean water is a daily struggle. A place where you are denied racial justice or plagued with outright violence and oppression.

But one thing remains steadfast and true: We are the Church, together, no matter where we are, and the Church belongs with those struggling for justice, righteousness and peace for life.

Because food is life ... gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are helping the people of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota through a partnership with Owe Aku — a grassroots, nonprofit organization that puts people in charge of their own food supply, nutrition, health and well-being by reclaiming ancestral wisdom and teaching Lakota history and culture. The Pine Ridge Reservation is a food desert, located in the county with the lowest per capita income in the nation. The pandemic has dramatically amplified the desperate need for food security.

Because water is life ... gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are helping the families of Capirendita in a remote area of Bolivia face a more hopeful future by building infrastructure to address the communities’ critical water shortage. Their goal is to create 500 meters of pipes to transport safe well water to those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts will also support the distribution of plastic containers to collect and save rainwater.

Because survivors are key to shaping lives focused on justice for all ... gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are helping Black Women’s Blueprint in its mission to take action on social justice issues and to deliver educational resources and support services to women, including those who have suffered sexual and other forms of abuse. Their work seeks to address the unique struggles of Black women and girls within the context of the larger racial justice concerns. They’re not just addressing issues of trauma but they’re also providing things like food and housing assistance that people need in order to be whole.

The Special Offerings of the PC(USA), including One Great Hour of Sharing, offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts that place us in service and partnership with those who have least. Our gifts directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest way that Presbyterians come together in mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need.

Because we are the Church, together ... we give to One Great Hour of Sharing because of where the Church belongs, of who the church is. Please give generously so that our Church will continue to become, as Isaiah said, “repairers of the breach.” And as we always say: When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray:

God of life,
be with us.
May we see you in the lives of all we meet,
and may we offer ourselves
in kindness and kinship
to all those in need.
Amen.
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IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

QUESTIONS?
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One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four annual special offerings. The four church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering—play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns, and offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ’s love for the whole church.