



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

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.

PHOTO: REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH, © SCOTT CLAUSE - USA TODAY NETWORK



# 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**

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**If you need help or have questions, contact us at [specialofferings@pcusa.org](mailto:specialofferings@pcusa.org).**

***Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
(PDA)***

Cameron Stevens  
800-728-7228, x 5839  
[cameron.stevens@pcusa.org](mailto:cameron.stevens@pcusa.org)  
[pcusa.org/pda](http://pcusa.org/pda)

***Presbyterian Hunger Program  
(PHP)***

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***Special Offerings***

800-728-7228, ext. 5047  
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***Standing Orders***

Presbyterian Customer Support  
800-533-4371  
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One Great Hour of Sharing — the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.



2022

LEADER'S GUIDE  
MARCH 2-APRIL 17

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

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. Research shows that when church leaders encourage their congregations to support initiatives like the Special Offerings, their members give significantly more.

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 resources and help us share this message.

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

- 1** Our Offerings at Work | Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People *page 5*
- 2** Promoting OGHS: Before the offering *page 9*
- 3** Resources and Materials *page 10*  
Contact *page 11*
- 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 *page 19*

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

 [pcusa.org/blogs/weekly\\_offerings](https://pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings)

 [facebook.com/specialofferings](https://facebook.com/specialofferings)

 [twitter.com/pcusa\\_so](https://twitter.com/pcusa_so)

 Text **OGHS** to **91999** to support these vital ministries.



# 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 (OGHS) — 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 2 – April 17), each gift to 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



MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

# 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 [pcusa.org/oghsmap](https://pcusa.org/oghsmap).

**In 2020, PDA granted \$6.5 million as more than 500 grants in the United States and 56 countries. Of that, \$3.5 million was for COVID-19 response.**

In 2020, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) not only continued our commitment to immediate and long-term response to natural and human-caused disasters and humanitarian response to refugees and asylum seekers, but also developed and supported a global response to COVID-19.

When it became clear that the world was facing an unprecedented outbreak, and that traditional fundraising and outreach would be difficult, we turned to the great cloud of witnesses whose work and generosity have grown PDA from its beginnings until the present day. When disaster strikes, many generous donors look at the big picture and send gifts to support both the immediate catastrophe and disasters still to come. Gifts to respond to needs not yet imagined gave PDA a modest nest egg of \$2.7 million that we pulled from reserves for a substantive COVID-19 response, here in the U.S. and globally. We knew the gifts would be small, to serve the broadest number of partners and communities. Decisions about how and to whom to award these grants became clear when we immersed our decision-making in conversations with presbyteries, longtime international partners and colleagues who, along with us, have committed to be a Matthew 25 church.

PDA worked with colleagues across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to create and implement more specific criteria and guidance to ensure support for communities pushed to the margins, with both COVID grants and PDA's existing grant programs.

Our Emotional and Spiritual Care ministry pivoted to provide resiliency trainings, respite retreats and other virtual spiritual support for faith leaders and communities. Webinar recordings are available online.

In 2020, PDA developed several resources, including an Advent Series, a Bible Study for One Great Hour of Sharing, and a Grassroots Screening Kit for Flint: The Poisoning of an American City. PDA's Refugee and Asylum Ministry developed four new resources to educate and guide congregations in their local refugee and asylum ministries.

Volunteers around the country could no longer travel to areas affected by disaster, so they supported their neighbors through our "Commuter Volunteer" program or assembled Gift of the Heart Kits.

With everyone stuck at home, streaming services provided much of our entertainment. Our documentary *Flint: The Poisoning of an American City* amassed more than 1 million streams on Amazon Prime. PDA's Story Ministry also worked alongside several offices in PC(USA) to develop *Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance*

Find out more about the ongoing work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at [presbyterianmission.org/pda](https://presbyterianmission.org/pda).

## OUR OFFERING AT WORK

### PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

In 2020, you helped PHP give **131 grants** totaling **nearly \$1 million**, impacting **20** countries, including the United States. This included **46 COVID grants** that were provided to congregations and organizations for addressing the food insecurity and other emergency needs emerging at the beginning of the pandemic. In 2020, PHP also consulted with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in order to **support \$420,000 in PDA grant funding** for **21** PHP international grant partners for emergency COVID-19 work and for the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon.

PHP embraces the PC(USA) vision of Matthew 25 that encourages us to see Christ in those who are hungry, thirsty, imprisoned and oppressed and to engage our work to “alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes” as a central way to live out our calling. PHP partnered with **14** presbytery Hunger Action Advocates, **182** Hunger Action Congregations and **264** Earth Care Congregations across the country in 2020. Through speaking and teaching, supporting grant partners, producing educational and worship resources, and hosting networks and congregational support programs, PHP works to eradicate systemic poverty, to dismantle structural racism and to build congregational vitality.

We approach this by looking to our partners — who directly experience the pain and injustices of these systems — for their perspectives and solutions. PHP then attempts to promote and amplify their campaigns and strategies by involving Presbyterians and by supporting organizing and movement building to coalesce the people power needed to make systemic change possible. Much of our work can't be quantified numerically or within the span of one year, because we know that long-term sustainable development, community empowerment and systems change takes many years. This report offers a few examples of the impact of your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing!



CISCOPE



### More and better food

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

- Over **3 million pounds** of food distributed across the U.S.
- **410 fruit trees** (papaya or tangerine) provided in Madagascar
- Supplied over 100 animals worldwide, including pigs, rabbits and goats
- 3 Stocked Grain Banks with 155 bags of millet in Niger and 1 Seed Bank in Democratic Republic of Congo
- **106 gardens and greenhouses** were created for schools, families, communities in Palestine, Cameroon, Haiti, Bolivia and New York

Find out more about the ongoing work of Presbyterian Hunger Program at [presbyterianmission.org/hunger](https://presbyterianmission.org/hunger).

### Solidarity with people

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

- **More than 54,300 people trained** in multiple countries in areas of land rights, farming, social development and addressing gender-based violence
- **\$98.5 million secured for affordable housing trust funds** in Topeka; Richmond; and Washington, D.C.
- **Over 30,000 masks** and other PPE distributed
- **51 sewing machines distributed to women-headed households** in Somalia and Yemen to increase and sustain their household income

### A more livable environment

Caring for Creation is a necessity to ending 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.

- **40** water pumps, **2** cisterns to harvest rainwater, **1** borewell and **1** sprinkler irrigation system
- Constructed **40** toilets/washrooms in India
- 646 Presbyterian congregations purchased **31,414 pounds of fair-trade coffee**
- **1,031** Presbyterian congregations purchased **eco-palms** for sustainable forestry and livelihoods
- In Peru, **advocacy efforts resulted in a multi-sector commission** that will address health care and environmental remediation from toxic metal poisoning.

Find an interactive world map with OGHS recipients at [pcusa.org/oghsmap](https://pcusa.org/oghsmap).

# 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 2021 (Jan – May), National SDOP entered into partnership with the projects below. Mid Council SDOP projects will be awarded later in 2021. Projects focus on advocacy; youth-led initiatives; skills development; farming; disabilities; 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](http://pcusa.org/oghsmap).

### 2021 National and International Community Partners Approved for Funding (Jan – May):

The projects and grants:

#### National Partners

- **The CASOE Group**, Inc, Detroit, Michigan, \$15,000.
- **Franklin County Workers Benefit Council**, \$10,000, Columbus, OH.
- **INDY/ALICE Ambassadors**, Indianapolis IN, \$14,500.
- **Action Aid Program**, Fargo ND, \$10,000.
- **African Immigrant and Minority Services (AIMS)**, Fargo, ND, \$10,000.
- **Community Treehouse Center**, Detroit, MI, \$15,000.
- **Healthy Planet Cleaning Cooperative**, Central Falls, Rhode Island, \$15,000.
- **Youth As Resources (YAR)**, Baltimore, MD, \$15,000.
- **Warriors on Wheels of Metropolitan Detroit**, Detroit, MI, \$15,000 – These low-income group members came together to create a project focused on grocery shopping and grocery delivery by and for its members. Group members will also offer assistance with light housekeeping and personal care to their fellow project members.
- **Cultivate South Park**, Seattle WA, \$15,000 – This low-income group comprised of artists, community organizers, activists and youth seek to establish and resource a community space to conduct classes and activities for the youth and other group members in need of connection and healing. They also plan to use the space to host initiatives that will lead to increased access to economic opportunity.

#### International Partners

- **Western Mopan Farmers Cooperative Society Limited**, Cayo District, Belize Central America, \$19,575 – The project's main goal is to produce agricultural commodities under a controlled environment, i.e., covered structures and secondly to supply the San Ignacio Market with a wide assortment of fresh agricultural commodities.
- **Sandy Beach Women's Cooperative**, Hopkins Village, Belize, \$24,000.
- **El Espino Agro Entrepreneurs**, Cocle, Panama, \$15,000 – The grant will be used to purchase equipment, tools, and seeds to produce crops for the participating families and for sale if there is a surplus of crops. The participating families all make the decisions for this project, and they all benefit equitably from this project.

Find out more about the ongoing work of Self-Development of People (SDOP) at [presbyterianmission.org/sdop](http://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 (March 2) and/or Easter Sunday (April 17), though any date is appropriate.
- **Aim for a higher goal** 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](mailto:customer_service@presbypub.com) to **order any additional materials** you may want or need.
- **Recruit a church member** to read a Minute for Mission or use the videos found online.
- **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](http://pcusa.org/oghs/resources), for recordings of minutes for mission, worship resources and many other helpful resources.

### 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](http://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 March 6, and "SDOP Sunday" on March 13.
- **Create a plan for involving your children** in promoting the Offering through a skit or other worship activity. Use items in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to present to the congregation, sharing how this gift can make a difference for others.
- **Challenge other congregations in your area.** Here is an example of how it can be done. [presbyterianmission.org/story/fishing-derby-baits-one-great-hour-of-sharing-participation](http://presbyterianmission.org/story/fishing-derby-baits-one-great-hour-of-sharing-participation).
- 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. These are available in English, Spanish and Korean.

### 3 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 [pcusa.org/oghs/resources](https://pcusa.org/oghs/resources).

#### OGHS MATERIALS

- **Worship resources**
- **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: *Connecting Us*
- **Downloadable poster**
- **Sample pastor's letter**
- **Facebook cover photo** – Cover photo can be used on your church's Facebook page throughout lent
- **Minutes for Mission** – both written and video
- **PowerPoint slides**, includes a customizable slide
- **Presbyterian Giving Catalog Starter Kit.** This kit contains resources to promote One Great Hour of Sharing in your congregation by using the Presbyterian Giving Catalog

#### 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](https://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](https://pcusa.org/hunger). Email [php@pcusa.org](mailto: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/ccs](https://pcusa.org/ccs).
- **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](https://pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).
- **Joining Hands:** If your congregation/presbytery is ready to engage more deeply whether by addressing U.S. policies that maintain global systems of oppression, reviewing mission network relationships or expanding your knowledge of systemic poverty in a globalized world, then contact Valery Nodem ([valery.nodem@pcusa.org](mailto:valery.nodem@pcusa.org)) or Eileen Schuhmann ([eileen.schuhmann@pcusa.org](mailto:eileen.schuhmann@pcusa.org)).
- **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](https://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](https://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](mailto: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](http://pcusa.org/pdablog).
- **Community Brochure/Informational Brochure:** This 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 [pcusa.org/resource/sdop-informational-brochure](http://pcusa.org/resource/sdop-informational-brochure) to download.
- **Church Brochure:** This brochure tailored for the church community shares basic information about SDOP including a brief history of SDOP and ways to engage with the ministry.
- **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 [pcusa.org/resource/sermons-and-liturgy](http://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](http://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.
- **Online OGHS Map:** [pcusa.org/oghsmap](http://pcusa.org/oghsmap)

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

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Cameron Stevens  
800-728-7228, x 5839  
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**Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)**

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**Self-Development of People (SDOP)**

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[pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com)

## 4 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 as well as the 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 [pcusa.org/oghs/resources](https://pcusa.org/oghs/resources))
- **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.** Read the Gracie stories and use the OGHS Curriculum found at [pcusa.org/oghs/resources](https://pcusa.org/oghs/resources).
- **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](https://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*



*[pcusa.org/give-oghs](https://pcusa.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.

## 5 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

You may remit OGHS gifts through your normal receiving agency or send directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, with "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line. Gifts can be mailed to:

#### Mid Councils

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

#### Congregations

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](mailto: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.

 [pcusa.org/blogs/weekly\\_offerings](http://pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings)

 [twitter.com/pcusa\\_so](https://twitter.com/pcusa_so)

 [facebook.com/specialofferings](https://facebook.com/specialofferings)

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### ‘UNSTABLE CONNECTION ...’

Those two words have taken on a deeper meaning in the past couple of years, haven't they? For many, the words "unstable connection," "weak connection" or worse, "lost connection," are synonymous for an online meeting that has become frozen or dropped off. These dreaded words, popping up on a phone or computer, mean whatever is being offered isn't getting through. It isn't able to be shared. The connection is in jeopardy.

But simply stated, we fundamentally need to connect. People need to connect.

Through our Church, we connect, in whatever way we are able, with one another, and celebrate the many ways God connects with us. During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with "those who have least" — that's how Matthew 25 puts it — and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is all about. Connecting. People who experience oppression, need, loss or lack, those are the people Jesus connected with, the Bible says, and they are the people we are invited to connect with today.

OGHS is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another, and with our neighbors in need. We join with people whose connections are, too often, unstable; people experiencing poverty, oppression, hunger and disaster. The Church offers gifts of prayer, understanding and support, by participating in ministries of poverty alleviation and natural and human-caused disaster relief, as well as self-development to ensure dignity for all.

Because of our gifts to OGHS, we connect with the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Together we unite to halt environmental degradation and its impact on the people of the Navajo Nation by assisting in a collaborative effort to secure access to clean water — and thus address the large numbers of birth defects,

miscarriages and types of cancer impacting our neighbors there.

We connect with the Resource Center in Matamoros at the southern border of the United States who accompanies our neighbors who are seeking asylum due to economic problems, violence and corruption. Together, we share food, tents and blankets as well as a place for refugees to have access to legal teams, medical teams and social support services.

OGHS connects us with the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication in Northern Nigeria, where cycles of conflict and food insecurity have been a tragic reality.

For over 70 years, the offerings of thousands of congregations like ours have come together to participate in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Through One Great Hour of Sharing ... we stabilize, we strengthen those who are weak, we connect.

*Let us pray:*

*Heal us, oh Savior,  
that we might understand  
and grow our relationships  
with all those in need.*

*Thank you for connecting us  
with one another  
and with you.*

*Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### STRENGTH THROUGH CONNECTIONS ... BRINGING THE PROMISE OF LIFE TO THE BORDER

As if coping with the pandemic wasn't difficult enough, last year pummeled native Venezuelan Paola M. and her family with devastating news. Her father was diagnosed with a rare type of stomach cancer for which a high-risk surgery was needed.

She says, "This news really brought us down because we didn't have the necessary financial resources, plus, the socio-political situation in Venezuela didn't allow us to access public health institutions for my father's treatment." A desperate internet search resulted in a name, Gabriela Zavala, and when Paola connected with Gaby, it made all the difference.

Paola said, "I was able to contact Gaby [Zavala] and explain the situation we were going through. She guided me by giving me some options, among them the option of immigrating to the United States where they could perform my father's medical treatment."

Gabriela, founder and president of the Asylum Seeker Network of Support, is also director of Resource Center Matamoros, a grassroots effort that has provided direct humanitarian aid to thousands of asylum seekers in Mexico. Gabriela and her team — many of whom were asylum seekers and refugees themselves — serve as caseworkers for families like Paola's, providing them with access to legal, medical and social support services.

Although their decision to seek entry into the U.S. was by no means an easy one, Paola saw it as their only choice. It entailed tremendous sacrifice, loss and struggle to make their way to Mexico to literally save her father's life.

Paola's family is just one of thousands who make treacherous journeys in search of help and hope. Each time we share welcome with the stranger, we connect with the 90 Scripture passages including Jesus' own words in Matthew 25. Susan Krehbiel, who works with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance helping congregations connect with and support refugees, is impressed by

the witness to Matthew 25. "It is at the core of the Resource Center mission to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and provide human connection," she says.

As the needs at the border continue to escalate, Gabriela is grateful for the generous gifts of Presbyterians, which help the Resource Center maintain its presence. She says, "A lot of times if it weren't for us, people would not have the resources they need to escape dangerous situations."

And I am grateful for Paola, Gabrielle, Susan and all of you as well.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience and sustainability. During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with those "who have the least" — that's how Matthew 25 puts it — and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing is all about.

Thank you for your generosity! For as we always say ... when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray:*

*Thank you, God,  
for each relationship you call us into.  
Thank you for neighbors,  
each with needs and gifts to share.  
Thank you for this church,  
the whole Church, together,  
and for Jesus Christ,  
Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### MAKING PROGRESS THROUGH OUR CONNECTIONS ...

Imagine living in a wealthy country, working, as a family to survive and still feeling like help never finds you. Unfortunately, many of us understand that experience all too well.

Ohel Swade ([O-HELL SWAH-DAE](#)), a farmer living in northeastern Nigeria, shares that experience.

The 52-year-old says, “I do nothing more than farming and my wife does petty trading so our family can eat. We live in a place where help never finds us.” And that is despite Nigeria’s annual ranking among Africa’s wealthiest nations.

Peter Michael Egwudah ([EGG-WOO-DAH](#)), program coordinator for the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE), says, “Even though Nigeria is one of the wealthiest, oil-producing countries in the world with an abundance of natural resources, the money doesn’t go where it needs to go, to the people.”

Together, we as the Church seek to address poverty with our neighbors here in ([NAME YOUR COMMUNITY](#)) and with our neighbors in places like Nigeria. Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing connect us with our siblings in Nigeria through CISCOPE as they serve Nigeria’s most vulnerable populations, especially women, by acting as an agent of change.

Peter goes on to say, “The people need something right now, like food and seeds, but we also need to get communities to a place where they can become agents of their own self development. We can train them in new agricultural techniques. We can also help amplify the voice of women to ensure they get a good return when they bring their produce to market. Whenever we go to communities, we always ask ourselves, what can we do to add value. We don’t want to just distribute food, but also equip them to help with their God-given plans.”

And that’s something we in our Church value as well. Valéry Nodem, who works with the Presbyterian Hunger Program, says, “Working with CISCOPE has been inspiring because they are addressing the root causes.

They are looking at short, medium and long-term development, working toward the Matthew 25 goal of eradicating systemic poverty.”

Peter says, “I thank the Presbyterian Church from the bottom of my heart on behalf of the people in the communities where we help because it is not easy for anybody to give a dollar to somebody that they have no relationship with. It speaks volumes about our humanity as a people.”

And I would thank Peter, and Valery, and the Swade family, and all of you as well.

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us all and is the single, *LARGEST* way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world, advancing the causes of justice, resilience and sustainability. During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus’ resurrection and connects us with those “who have the least” — that’s how Matthew 25 puts it — and that’s what One Great Hour of Sharing is all about.

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and for Jesus Christ,  
Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### BUILDING CONNECTIONS TO LAST ... ADVOCATING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

What does July 16 mean to you? If you are part of the Navajo nation, or have connections near Church Rock, New Mexico, that date might stir a heartbreaking memory of a preventable disaster that continues to have disastrous impacts.

Over 40 years ago, the earthen dam of a nuclear waste disposal pond broke near Church Rock and dumped tons of solid, radioactive waste and 90 million gallons of acidic and radioactive liquids into the Rio Puerco. The resulting contamination of the land, air and ground water affected nine Navajo municipalities.

The toxic and cumulative effects of this human-caused disaster have impacted the Navajo people for generations — especially in the form of such chronic health problems as asthma as well as a higher incidence of miscarriages, birth defects, and liver and pancreatic cancer. Each year, hundreds of Diné families and their allies come together near the tragic anniversary to pray, to heal and to act, together.

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us with these families through MASE, the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment. MASE's mission envisions respectful, peaceful communities cherishing a healthy environment.

I like to think that's a lot like our Church's mission, too. It is part of what led the Committee on the Self-Development of People to connect with MASE, reaching out "like the arms of the Church," as the Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson with SDOP puts it, to address the systems and structures that perpetuate oppression, leading to poverty.

Susan Gordon, MASE's coordinator, reminds us that "this is not short-term work. This is decades. And generations. Taking the long view has not prevented progress; the community took a very strong stand opposing new uranium mines on Navajo Nation and were instrumental in getting Navajo Nation to pass two fundamental laws. One prohibits new uranium mining and another prohibits the transportation of radioactive materials across the nation."

Uranium Legacy Action and Remembrance Day (July 16) connects the importance of lament, especially in the face of an intergenerational trauma, with the opportunity to educate and expose Navajo youth to the realities of environmental racism.

Today I am grateful for Diné neighbors, Gordon, and Johnson, for this church, and the Whole Church, together, for reminding us that this day and every day are part of the decades and generations where we seek change.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing connect us with people finding their voice and accessing their God-given power, and is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience and sustainability. During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with those "who have the least" — that's how Matthew 25 puts it — and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing is all about.

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the whole Church, together,  
and for Jesus Christ,  
Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

What if these were the days when Jesus was living with us? What if this were the moment God chose to connect?

Where would we find Jesus? Here, in our congregation? Look around. Or in our neighborhoods?

Perhaps Jesus would be among people classified as “essential,” who might struggle to feed their own families, while ensuring food makes it to others’ tables.

Perhaps Jesus would be working in a neighborhood, mostly ignored by governments and industry, except when there are resources to be exploited or removed.

Perhaps Jesus lives in any of the places, so impoverished in a world of plenty, that help and hope seem like illusions.

Or perhaps locked away, drowned out or disregarded so far from us that we never even know our Savior’s name.

What if this is the time? What if this is the place?

Our faith proclaims that God connects in each of those places, and in each person bearing God’s image. Our faith proclaims that God is among us, and that Jesus can be found among those most precious to God, those neighbors experiencing hunger, oppression or lack, even now, even among us.

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us with people coming together to respond to the needs in their neighborhoods. It is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another and unite with congregations in every corner of the Church and with partners all over the world. We connect in order to grow, together, while offering support that addresses shared needs in a particular context.

With God and with one another, we connect the story of Jesus who lived, healed and preached among those

who had least during his earthly ministry, through ministries that seek healing and wholeness in our world today. One Great Hour of Sharing connects us to proclaim that Christ is here! God is with us! Jesus is among those who have least, those who hunger and thirst, those who are sick or alone; with those seeking justice and righteousness with their neighbors and all who are in need.

Christ is here, and not here, alone. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray:*

*Connect us with our need.*

*Connect us with our offerings.*

*Connect us through*

*the gift of your love,*

*and your love for all*

*you have created.*

*Amen.*

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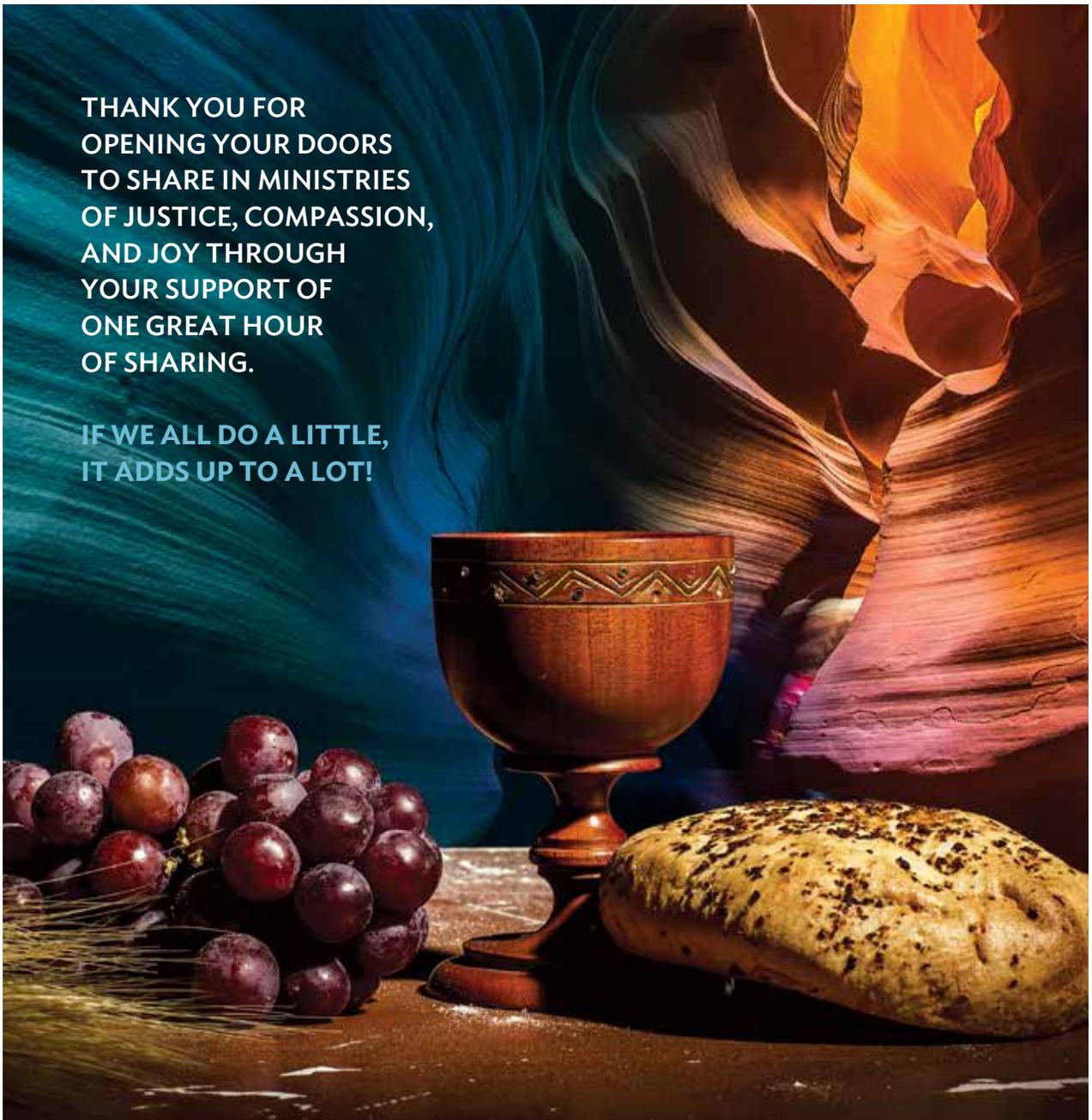
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OPENING YOUR DOORS  
TO SHARE IN MINISTRIES  
OF JUSTICE, COMPASSION,  
AND JOY THROUGH  
YOUR SUPPORT OF  
ONE GREAT HOUR  
OF SHARING.

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



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

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