



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.

2018

LEADER'S GUIDE
FEBRUARY 14–APRIL 1



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

Praise from Our Churches

“Our small congregation gives freely from the heart. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is an opportunity for us to participate by giving our gifts and supporting the good work that the Offering does. It is one way that we show love and dignity to those in need.”

*— Rev. Neill McKay
University Community
Presbyterian Church –
Fairbanks, AK*



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.



2018

LEADER'S GUIDE
FEBRUARY 14-APRIL 1

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 ministry made possible 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:


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

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

 pcusa.org/blogs/WeeklyOfferings

 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 (February 14 – April 1), 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

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!

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

National aid:

25 states received help following natural and human-caused disasters, including flooding in North and South Carolina, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Michigan and New York; wildfires in California, Tennessee, Texas and Kansas; ongoing response to Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Matthew; and various public violence incidents.

Flint water crisis:

PDA is assisting in Flint by supporting the annual Fresh Flint Festival, a free event for the community to support city residents while promoting fitness, nutrition, and healthy living as a means to mitigate the effects of lead poisoning. The festival is designed to unite the community in compassion and renew commitment and hope for the future.

Fall 2017 Hurricanes:

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria devastated islands in the Caribbean and communities in the U.S. PDA will be doing long-term recovery and is expected to assist the affected areas for at least 3-5 years, if not longer.

North and South Carolina flooding:

In October 2015, the South Carolina coastline was pummeled by heavy rains and flooding. A year later, Hurricane Matthew caused havoc in North Carolina damaging thousands of homes and businesses. There were flooded areas in both states that had never flooded before. PDA has 6 volunteer host sites that have hosted over 3,400 volunteers to assist with cleanup and rebuilding.

International aid:

In the first half of 2017, 11 countries received aid and support after catastrophic events, including the violence and famine in South Sudan, flooding in Peru and Colombia, cholera prevention and food security in Haiti, drought in Malawi and Kenya, and ongoing assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons related to Syria.

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 OFFERINGS 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 160 grants totaling more than \$1.2 million, impacting communities across the United States and 37 other countries in 2016. 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.

55,115 pounds of grain distributed through community food banks

16 grain storage facilities built or repaired in Sierra Leone and Cameroon

50 fuel efficient stoves constructed and installed in family homes in Guatemala

500 chicks raised by families around the world

Solidarity with People

2,600 people around the world regained access to their lands that had been forcefully taken from them.

187 training sessions were held to build grassroots capacity in communities around the world.

Since the Fair Food Program was implemented in 2011, more than **\$25 million** has been paid out to farmworkers in Fair Food Premiums; **135,000** farmworkers have received “Know Your Rights” materials; and **1,100** farmworker complaints have come in through the 24-hour complaint hotline, **100%** of which have been resolved.

\$9.1 million was compensated to hundreds of victims of sweatshop fires and their families in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Cincinnati became the first city in Ohio to pass a wage theft ordinance, which will provide additional protection for more than **33,000** low-wage workers.

More Livable Environment

1,088 congregations ordered **192,560** Eco-Palms

More than 1,000 Presbyterians purchased at least **79,000 lbs** of Fairly Traded coffee

191 certified PC(USA) Earth Care Congregations worked holistically to care for God’s creation in their own communities

93,020 planted trees, **128** nurseries and **40** family gardens in partner countries

12 wells and hand pumps built or repaired in communities in Sierra Leone and Liberia with limited access to clean water



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

1 OUR OFFERINGS 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 2017, National SDOP entered into partnerships with the projects below. Projects focused on literacy, worker-owned cooperatives, 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 world map with OGHS recipients at www.pcusa.org/oghsmap.



Find out more about the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) at presbyterianmission.org/sdop.

National SDOP Projects:

Picture the Homeless, East Harlem, NYC, NY

Women in Agriculture Association, Atlanta, GA

Union Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes (UPVA), Popular Union of Street Vendors, Los Angeles, CA

Southside Worker Center, Tucson, AZ

Youth on the Move, Pine Apple, AL

Coalition for Police Accountability, Oakland, CA

Youth Rise Organizing Institute, Austin, TX

Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services, Inc., Rochester, NY

Brandworkers, Long Island City, NY

International SDOP Partners Awarded Grants:

Barranco Fisher Folk Cooperative, Barranco Belize

Ce-Mujer, SDOP's intermediary partner CE-Mujer in the Dominican Republic

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:

2017 Mid Council SDOP projects are yet to be funded. In 2016 SDOP Mid Council Committees gave out a total of \$158,169 in grants to local projects:

Central Community Revitalization project, Detroit, MI
Cooking with a Purpose, Detroit, MI
Creative Crafting Collective, Kalamazoo, MI
King Capital Ent LLC/Recording Studio, North Randall, OH
Urban Farmers' to Entrepreneurs, Cleveland, OH
We Are One, Cleveland, OH
Tenant Coalition Training of Fargo-Moorhead Area, Moorhead, MN
Community Voter Registration Training, Moorhead, MN
Community Coffee Center, Worthington, MN
South Sudan Cultural/Language Camp, St. Cloud, MN
Learning Voting Registration Process to Become a Better Citizen, Moorhead, MN
The Myth of Race, The Reality of Racism, Duluth, MN
Inner City Fatherhood Gallery, Brooklyn Park, MN
Launch Retreat, Chaska, MN
Leadership for Social Justice Literacy Campaign, St. Paul, MN
Wellness, Invitation, Relationship & Community (WIRCC) Center, Minneapolis, MN
The Crochet Queens of Facing Forward, Chicago, IL
Father's Rights, Chicago, IL
The Lunch Room/Free Lunch, Chicago, IL
Journeys that are Unique & Shared Together (J.U.S.T.) Project, Forest Park, IL
Youth Exploring Purpose College and Scholarship Workshop, St. Louis, MO
Baltimore Youth Organizing Project, Baltimore, MD

Glenwood Life Recovery Garden, Baltimore, MD
Jubilee Arts – Youth in Business Project, Baltimore, MD
Youth Empowerment Summer Camp, Baltimore, MD
Conkey Cruisers Free Neighborhood Bicycling to Better Health Voyage, Rochester, NY
Project Genesis/Gods' Disciples, Peekskill, NY
Hudson Valley Immigrant Organizing, Newburgh, NY
Bicycle Mechanic Certification, Redmond, OR
The Genesis Youth Organizing Internship Project, Oakland, CA
Second Chance of Northwest Florida, Panama City, FL
Exploring Educational Opportunities-Black Male Leadership Initiative, Philadelphia, PA

Highlighted Projects:

Barranco Fisher Folk Cooperative, Barranco Belize—This group of economically poor young adult villagers designed this project to increase their capacity to work together as fisher folks by cultivating a conservation.

Women in Agriculture Association, Atlanta, GA—A cooperative owned farmer's association promoting their locally grown farm products within the community.

Youth on the Move, Pine Apple, AL—This youth-led after school project prepares low income youth in Wilcox County, AL to meet the challenges of living in a severely depressed county.

Tenant Coalition Training of Fargo-Moorhead Area, Moorhead, MN—This group of low-income refugees seeks to become economically self-sufficient and to improve their financial skills.

The Genesis Youth Organizing Internship Project, Oakland, CA—This project is comprised primarily of low-income minority youth seeking to disrupt School-to-Prison Pipeline related problems in Oakland, CA.

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 25) and/or Easter Sunday (April 1), 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 PDS at **800-524-2612** or email **pds@pcusa.org** 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 and in the back of this booklet. 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 Rev. Meg Rift, these pieces are sure to help your educators during this busy time. Visit presbyterianmission.org/pgcdownload.

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 February 18, and "SDOP Sunday" on April 8.
- + **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.

OGHS MATERIALS

- + **Worship resource document** 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
- + **Overflowing Generosity Language** The *Overflowing Generosity* Activity serves as a community-building experience for your congregation or small group. By gifting water-related items in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, your community can come together to provide access to clean, safe, and life-giving water for those who need it. Visit www.pcusastore.com to order your free kit (item 12112-17-981).
- + **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)
- + **Bulletin Inserts**
"Repairers of the Breach"
"This is Church"
- + **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** Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,

Self-Development of People, Your Gifts at Work and This Is Church

- + **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People**
- + **One Great Hour of Sharing power point slides**, includes a customizable slide

ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

- + **SDOP Informational Brochure:**
This tri-fold brochure includes basic information about the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (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.
- + **Sermons and Liturgy:**
This is a thematic collection of sermons and liturgical materials celebrating the ministry of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People. 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 Self-Development of People ministry. Watch the video at pcusa.org/resource/sharing-our-blessings.
- + **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 go to 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.



PHOTO: MIKE FITZER

**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
specialofferings@pcusa.org
<http://specialofferings.pcusa.org>

Standing Orders

Presbyterian Customer Support
800-533-4371
customer_service@presbypub.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/resource/2018-one-great-hour-sharing-facebook-header)
- + **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: ACT PAUL JEFFREY

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:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh PA 15264-3700

The Agency will record and notify presbyteries of congregational donations. *Congregations may continue to remit to their normal receiving agency if so desired.*

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

“This is Church”

Have you ever taught a child to fold their fingers inside their hands and say the rhyme, “here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people?” The wiggling fingers teach children, and adults, too, that the church is not the building — the steeples, windows, or structure, but people gathering to worship God.

There’s something else in the children’s rhyme. As the child breaks open their hands to reveal the people,” they move their fingers back and forth, often as fast as they can. This simple move reminds us that the church is the energy and actions that share the love of Christ.

- + When a disaster strikes, people give, volunteer, and pray so that those impacted receive help and hope, *this is church*.
- + When poverty and violence cause hunger and people join together to respond to the need and address its root causes, *this is church*.
- + When injustice falls on those who are vulnerable and people join hands with one another and lift their voices against the interests of power, *this is church*.

The church is the Holy Spirit’s transforming power emanating into the world sharing the compassion, justice, love, and peace of Christ. Presbyterians join the movement of the Spirit into every corner of the Earth — and in this season, through our church-wide One Great Hour of Sharing.

- + *We share* — and church happens with women who were once trafficked for domestic labor and now own their own cooperative business.
- + *We share* — and church happens with people through land rights training and improvements to farming methods.
- + *We share* — and church happens with those whose homes have been washed away by flood, as the arms of comfort wrap around them, and hands pick up shovels to assist.

The church is happening right now, all around us — because we share Christ’s love.



Let us pray:

*God of Compassion,
move your church into the world
with imagination and love.
May the gifts we give and
the kindness we offer
be shared with the most
vulnerable of your children.
Amen.*

This Minute for Mission is available online to download/print for your convenience. presbyterianmission.org/oghs/resources

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

“Restore Streets to Live in”

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONDS QUICKLY TO HURRICANE-RAVAGED PUERTO RICO

Even before Hurricane Maria made landfall in September, Edwin González-Castillo and other Presbyterian leaders in Puerto Rico received promises of help from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

Edwin, the stated clerk of the Presbytery of San Juan, says PDA lived up to its word quickly. Days after the storm hit, the first wave of PDA grants arrived and immediately pressing community needs were being met.

In the presbytery, funds were distributed among each of the 15 congregations, and the presbytery matched PDA’s initial funding for community assistance. Desperately needed items such as food, water, diapers and medical supplies were swiftly in the hands of hurricane survivors. “We were able to help families who had lost almost everything,” Edwin says. Maria’s 150 mph winds destroyed homes, infrastructure and vegetation across the island and resulted in the death or injury to many. In addition, Maria left millions without electricity or drinkable water.

Your generosity helped PDA respond immediately after three major hurricanes pounded the United States and/or the Caribbean, a devastating earthquake shook Central Mexico, and raging wildfires wreaked havoc across the Pacific Northwest. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts enabled PDA to mount responses that were timely, nimble and effective.

In Puerto Rico, Presbyterians never doubted that PDA would respond fast, and they know that PDA will remain for the long haul, Edwin says. “The help PDA brings is long-term, and we are grateful that when other groups leave Puerto Rico we will still have PDA giving us a hand.”

Puerto Rican Presbyterians appreciate the prayer support and encouraging words they have received from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). When people from the mainland ask them about providing tangible help, Edwin says Puerto Rican Presbyterian leaders have a standard reply: “We tell everybody the best way to help us is through PDA.”

The hurricane response has elevated Presbyterian visibility in Puerto Rican communities, and Edwin expects that denomination’s name recognition will continue to grow as the recovery efforts continue.

“In many places here, Presbyterians are not very well known, but through things like this, when we attend disasters and when our communities get the kind of help PDA is helping to provide, the Presbyterian name becomes familiar and people see that our church is here to help,” Edwin says.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing enable our church to bear this kind of caring witness in Puerto Rico and around the world. Please give generously.

Let us pray:

*Gracious God,
we pray for the survivors of disasters.
Comfort them as they struggle with
unspeakable grief and the monumental
task of rebuilding their lives.
Help us to extend neighborly love
to them wherever they live.
Amen.*

This Minute for Mission is available online to download/print for your convenience. presbyterianmission.org/oghs/resources

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

“Share Your Bread with the Hungry”

GRANDMOTHER OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO FARM THE LAND THAT FEEDS THE CHILDREN IN HER CARE

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Najjuma, a 56-year-old widow in Uganda, grows enough food on eight acres to feed the three children and eight orphaned grandchildren in her care. Without the crops that spring from this soil she carefully tends, Najjuma has no means to support these children.

However, while Najjuma was providing the nurture her children and grandchildren needed, her in-laws ordered her to leave the land her husband had inherited.

Fortunately, Najjuma learned that laws were in place to protect widows like her. Your One Great Hour of Sharing Gifts empowered Najjuma to exercise her lawful right to remain on the property.

Thanks to training programs held by Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE), a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Najjuma knew the law was on her side. She successfully appealed for help through local land governance structures. Yet too often widows aren’t aware of their rights, says Sylvia Nalubega, program officer for ARUWE.

“When widows do not know their entitlement to their property or if the husband doesn’t leave a will, many times they are evicted and have nowhere to go,” Sylvia says. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts helped Najjuma avoid this fate.

“Najjuma depends on the land for her livelihood,” says Agnes Mirembe, programs manager for ARUWE. “It is everything to her. Her income is tied to the land.”

In addition to benefitting from ARUWE’s legal aid clinics, Najjuma also learned more efficient farming techniques from this group. She planted two acres of corn and beans that serve as demonstration plots for

her neighbors. She freely shares how she was able to increase crop yields and take better care of her children and grandchildren.

Yet Najjuma could have been without a place to plant even a single seed, a plight that would have spelled disaster for her family. Your One Great Hour gifts helped keep this from happening.

In Uganda and around the world, Presbyterians are being faithful to the biblical mandate to care for people who live on the margins. Through your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, Christ’s concern for “the least of these” is being expressed and lives are being transformed.

Let us pray:

Gracious God,
We pray for the widows in Africa
who struggle to provide for their families.
We give thanks that you walk with them
in their quest for justice, and
we hear your call to come alongside people
who live on the margins.
May we be faithful to your summons.
Amen.

This Minute for Mission is available online to download/print for your convenience. presbyterianmission.org/oghs/resources

5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

“Loose the Bonds of Injustice”

THE FRONT PORCH CAFÉ SERVES AS AN ENTRY WAY TO HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION

Self-Development of People

The Front Porch Café in Akron, Ohio, serves up healthy portions of food and friendship for people needing a new start in life.

At the Front Porch, individuals recovering from addiction or re-entering society after spending time in prison can eat a good meal, grow and learn alongside others who share their struggles, and receive guidance on housing and employment opportunities.

When Diretha joined the Front Porch community five years ago, she had been sober and drug-free for a year, but a decade of unemployment threatened the sustainability of her success. She volunteered at the café and attended its support groups. The staff helped her develop a resume and interviewing skills.

These efforts helped Diretha land a job at a catering company, where she has worked for four years. She continues to live a life free from alcohol and drug abuse.

Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts contributed to Diretha's transformation. The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) made a grant that helped renovate and equip the building that houses the café after Eastminster Presbytery's Committee selected the project for funding. SDOP partners with economically poor people in projects they present, control, own, and are the direct beneficiaries.

The Front Porch Café is part of South Street Ministries, which serves youth and adults in one of Akron's poorest and most racially diverse neighborhoods. “We get people from the church, the recovery world, and the neighborhood who come in just for a place to gather,” says Joe Tucker, the ministries' executive director. By purchasing one of the Front Porch's

reasonably priced meals, neighborhood patrons support its witness to hope.

“We give people a lot of hope and redirection,” Joe says. “We tell people, ‘Hey look, half of our staff are in recovery or in re-entry themselves—we know what it's like. What you are wanting to do is absolutely doable. We believe in Christ, and we will pray with you.’ The consistent reminder of hope is probably the deepest area we have.”

Diretha continues to attend a support group at the Front Porch and its weekly worship service. “If I hadn't gotten involved with the Front Porch, there is a chance I would have started using again and been in prison or even died,” Diretha says.

Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts help people move themselves from the depths of despair toward vistas of hope. Please give generously.

Let us pray:

*Transforming God, we pray
for people who struggle with addiction.
We give thanks for ministries
like the Front Porch Café that help
people overcome this challenge and
begin new lives. May we join them
in bearing witness to Christ's desire
that all people experience
freedom and hope.
Amen.*

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5 MINUTE FOR MISSION

Gifts at Work

YOUR GIVING REPAIRS THE BREACHES THAT SEPARATE PEOPLE FROM LIVES OF WHOLENESS.

When the forces of chaos and calamity rip the fabric of human life, your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are there to sew it back together.

Your generosity fulfills a vision rooted in the biblical witness and beautifully stated in Isaiah 58:12. The prophet writes: “You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing ministries bridge the divides that tear apart the lives of individuals and communities.

In Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory that was devastated by Hurricane Maria last year, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance promised help to the island’s Presbyterian leaders even before the storm made landfall. Days after Maria hit, the first wave of PDA grants arrived and immediately pressing community needs were being met. Desperately needed items such as food, water, diapers and medical supplies were in the hands of hurricane survivors swiftly. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing made it possible for PDA to act promptly in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida and other places when disasters struck in rapid succession last year. In addition, PDA will continue working in these communities long after other groups leave.

In Akron, Ohio, Diretha’s recovery from drug addiction was threatened by more than a decade of unemployment. She says her decision to join the Front Porch Café community helped her get a job and remain drug-free. The Front Porch consists of individuals who struggle with drug addiction or who seek to re-enter society after spending time in prison. At the Front Porch, they can eat a good meal, learn and grow among others who have experienced similar struggles, and receive guidance on employment opportunities. A Self-Development of People grant, made possible by One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, helped renovate and equip the building that houses the café.

“If I hadn’t gotten involved with the Front Porch, there is a chance I would have started using again and been in prison or even died,” Diretha says. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing gifts contribute to positive change that lasts.

In Uganda, Najjuma, a 56-year-old widow, depends on eight acres of farmland to feed three children and eight grandchildren left orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. However, her in-laws ordered her to leave the land her late husband had inherited. Thanks to training programs held by Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE), a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Najjuma knew the law was on her side. She successfully appealed for help through local land-governance structures. Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts helped Najjuma continue to farm the land and improve farming techniques in order to feed her children and grandchildren.

In places far and near, your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts repair breaches that pierce the wholeness that God wants for everyone. Please give generously.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we pray for those who are separated from the fullness of life that you desire for all people. Strengthened by your love and mercy, may we bridge the gaps of injustice that keep people from experiencing lives of wholeness and fulfillment. Amen.

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6

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

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

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.