



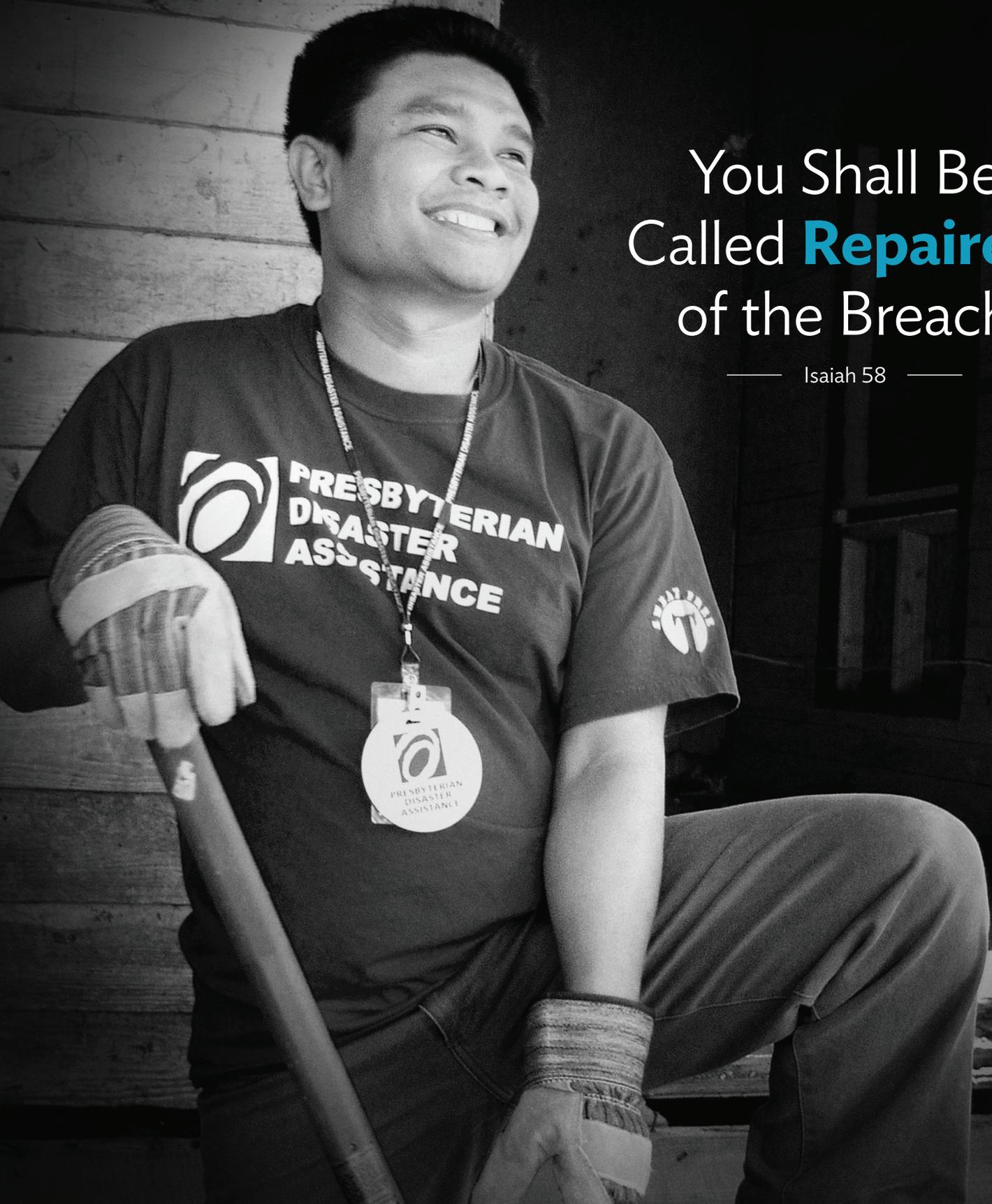
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

2017 LEADER'S GUIDE

MARCH 1 - APRIL 16

You Shall Be Called **Repairers** of the Breach

— Isaiah 58 —





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

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, received during the season of Lent (March 1 - April 15), makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

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



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger 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 racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills
- Receives 32% of funds raised



Thank you for your support of
this life-changing offering.
Please encourage your
congregants to give generously.

HISTORY

Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster.

What started as an hour-long radio appeal has evolved over the years, varying from eight to 29 participating denominations, and has become the most participated-in Offering in the PC(USA).

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than 100 countries.

THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

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



WHAT'S IN A LEADER'S GUIDE?

This tool was created for you.

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. 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 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.**

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES, YOU'LL FIND:

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OUR OFFERING AT WORK

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.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

- » **International aid:** 15 countries received aid and support after catastrophic events, including the violence in South Sudan, earthquakes in Ecuador, flooding and drought in Malawi, response to religious minorities fleeing ISIL, and ongoing assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons related to Syria.
- » **National aid:** 25 states received help following natural and human-caused disasters, including flooding in South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, and Louisiana; wildfires in California and the Pacific Northwest; ongoing response to Superstorm Sandy; and various public violence incidents.
- » **Ecuador:** The April 16, 2016, and subsequent May 18 earthquakes in Ecuador left over 600 people dead and directly affected 500,000 people. PDA assisted in providing 2,000 families with basic humanitarian needs of food, water, shelter, and medical care in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.
- » **Syria:** PDA assisted in providing immediate humanitarian care to the tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who sought safety through various European countries, and continued to provide relief and education for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries and internally displaced people remaining in and returning to Syria.
- » **South Carolina flooding:** South Carolina endured what has been described as a 1,000-year flood. At its height, more than 400 roads, 150 bridges, and two major interstates were closed. PDA opened five new volunteer villages that have hosted more than 2,500 volunteers assisting with the cleanup and rebuilding.
- » **Superstorm Sandy:** Ongoing response includes six PDA-related sites serving communities in New York and New Jersey. More than 9,600 people have volunteered their time and efforts.

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



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

- » **International development:** More than 308,000 people who were living in extreme poverty in more than 30 countries now have increased food security and livelihoods, and stronger leadership and organization through international development work. [Take a Reflection-Action Trip.](#)¹
- » **National development:** 65 grant partners in the United States have impacted local and national change in maintaining effective safety nets, addressing worker and immigration issues for the working poor, and developing robust and healthy alternative food systems that address rural and urban poverty in sustainable ways. [Do a mission trip or volunteer with a US partner.](#)²
- » **Policy and law:** Millions of people are directly impacted by programs that drive changes to laws and corporate practices that affect hunger and poverty. Activities include successful congressional petitions to maintain funding to safety net programs like SNAP and WIC, as well as campaigns with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and other farm and food workers to encourage companies to pay a better living wage and monitor working conditions. [Join a campaign action.](#)³
- » **Environmental action:** 190 Earth Care Congregations are leading the way in Biblical reflection and action to lessen carbon footprints and create more sustainable ways to live as a community. [Become an Earth Care Congregation.](#)⁴
- » **Fair trade:** 1,088 congregations participate in Eco-Palms; 1,619 congregations purchased over \$1 million worth of fair trade products—predominantly coffee—to increase farmers' income in 40 cooperatives. [Switch to Fair Trade for Coffee, Palms, and Clothes.](#)⁵
- » **Hunger action programs:** Partnered with hunger action enablers in 29 presbyteries to leverage \$1.6 million for local, national, and international hunger work.

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

¹<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/trips/>

²<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/meet-our-partners/>

³<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/nationaldevelopment/fair-food/>

⁴<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

⁵<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/enough/fair-trade/>



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, including the focus areas of New Orleans, Detroit, Baltimore, and Los Angeles. In 2016, National SDOP entered into partnerships with the projects below. Projects focused on literacy, worker-owned cooperatives, capacity building, prisoner reentry, farming, advocacy, tenant rights, skills development, and youth-led initiatives. 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.

National SDOP Projects:

- Somali Bantu Community Mutual Assistance Association of Lewiston/Auburn, ME
- Damayan Cleaning Cooperative, New York, NY
- Wayside Outreach and Development Inc., Brooklyn, NY
- Equipping, Encouraging & Empowering Workers in Vredenbug, AL
- VEGGI Farmer's Cooperative, New Orleans, LA
- Families & Criminal Justice, Los Angeles, CA
- Radio Indigena (Indigenous Radio Station), Oxnard, CA
- Stitching up Detroit, Detroit, MI
- Community Tenants Association, San Francisco, CA
- Street Vendor Project, New York, NY
- Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, Poughkeepsie, NY
- New York State Youth Leadership Council, New York, NY
- Bolitas Harvesters Association, Immokalee, FL
- Flint Democracy Defense League, Flint, MI
- We the People of Detroit, Detroit, MI

International Partners Awarded Grants:

- Belize: SDOP continues to work with economically poor communities in Belize. In 2016, SDOP partnered with Maskall Agriculture Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited, Belize District and Los Pequeños Agricultores y Ganaderos de Nago Bank Cooperative Society Ltd, also in Belize District. (In 2014 and 2015, SDOP funded Sandy Beach Women's Cooperative, Stann Creek District; Trio Farmers in Development Cooperative, Toledo District; and Seine Bight Village Council, Seine Bight Village).
- West Africa Initiative (a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and various ecumenical partners)
- The Presbyterian Church of Rwanda
- SDOP's intermediary partner CE-Mujer in the Dominican Republic

Highlighted Projects:

- » **Jobs Not Jails, Holyoke, MA:** The project is a campaign led by community members to have investment in jobs, education, and mental health reform instead of development of more prisons. The community is organizing to identify policies that need to be changed and working with pro bono legal assistance to introduce new legislation.
- » **Capital Park Women's Empowerment Project, Columbus, OH:** The project is to create a cooperative sewing program to create designer bags, with training in marketing of these products for a community of refugee Somali women.
- » **We the People of Detroit (Detroit Water Crisis Hotline), Detroit, MI:** An advocacy project to provide short-term water supplies for members to avert a public health crisis, restore water to affected and high-risk members, and implement policy to ensure fresh clean water is delivered to low-income residents at an affordable cost.
- » **Providence Student Union (PSU), Providence, RI:** The project is to build the participant base for Providence Student Union, an organization of high school students who recognize, investigate, and formulate ways of bettering their schools.
- » **Mid Council Self-Development of People Funded Projects:** 16 Mid Council Committees partnered with 28 local projects totaling \$158,744 in grants.

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



BEFORE THE OFFERING



Plan

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

- ❑ **Set dates to receive the OGHS Offering** with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on Palm Sunday (April 9) and/or Easter Sunday (April 16), 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. Feel free to pair as you like.
- ❑ **Distribute the fish banks** and use the *NEW* 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 new pieces are sure to help your educators during this busy time. Visit presbyterianmission.org/pgcdownload to download.



Be creative

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

- ❑ **Create an eye-catching display** in a prominent place, which can include the posters, fish banks, photos from past involvement with OGHS projects, and thank you letters.
- ❑ **Plan special congregational events**, such as church and school activities. Popular events include dinners or mission fairs highlighting OGHS-supported ministries, and events promoting "PDA Blue Shirt Sunday" on March 5, and "SDOP Sunday" on April 2.
- ❑ **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 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
- » **Presbyterian Giving Catalog Activation Kit**
The Activation Kit contains resources to promote One Great Hour of Sharing in your congregation by using the Presbyterian Giving Catalog
- » **The newest (and all past) lesson materials**
Gracie the Fish children's lessons on Christian love, sharing, and compassion
- » **Downloadable bulletin inserts**
Repairers of the Breach and *Loose the Bonds*
- » **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**
"Is this not the fast I choose?", Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People

ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

- » **Presbyterian Hunger Program Bible Study:** This one-session Bible study will give participants the opportunity to reflect on the biblical call to work as partners with people who have been made poor to address hunger and its causes. You can download the Bible study and watch videos at pcusa.org/hunger/biblestudy.
- » **PHP Post:** Download current and previous issues of the Hunger Program's quarterly journal. Each issue focuses on one hunger- and poverty-related topic and includes updates about PHP programs, as well as reflections, scripture, and activities. You can download the PHP Post at pcusa.org/phppost. Email jenny.oldham@pcusa.org to sign up to receive 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? Become a certified Earth Care Congregation, and take the "Earth Care Pledge" 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.
- » **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 go to find volunteer opportunities and information on how to donate.

(continued next page)



ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

- » **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 a review of PDA responses from the previous year in a magazine-style format sent annually. Email pda@pcusa.org to request the complimentary magazine.
- » **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's 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 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 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.

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

Standing Orders

Presbyterian Distribution Service
800-524-2612
pds@pcusa.org



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 (*Repairers of the Breach* and *Loose the Bonds*) this year, so feel free to use 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/2017-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.

THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE

† Through your congregation

✉ Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10

🖥️ presbyterianmission.org/give-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.



Complete the evaluation form you will receive through email, and 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.





MINUTE FOR MISSION

“Is this not the fast I choose?”

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING HELPS US ANSWER GOD’S CALL

The Christian season of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer.

But this isn’t the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. Isaiah calls us to “loose the bonds of injustice,” to “let the oppressed go free,” to “share bread with the hungry” and to “invite the homeless poor into our homes.” We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down. One way we answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Our gifts to this Offering helped “loose the bonds of injustice” for Olga Pedraza and others like her who received support in accessing a job after a prison sentence and beating drug addiction. Self-Development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. By investing in those like Olga who have reformed their lives after prison, we help reduce the number of people who end up back in prison.

Our gifts helped alpaca farmers in Peru whose livelihoods were threatened by the poisoning of their water sources. What began as an apparent need for assistance with irrigation grew into a partnership between these farmers and the Presbyterian Hunger Program to support a host of environmental initiatives. Environmental degradation and climate change are primary threats to the world’s hungry and vulnerable, and the Hunger Program’s work is part of our response.

Gifts to the Offering also rebuilt 40 apartments and houses destroyed during the Syrian civil war, so that those made homeless by its violence could return to a home of their own. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided essential support to refugees throughout this crisis, including education for refugee children, emergency supplies for refugees journeying to new lands, and assistance for US congregations receiving refugees into their communities.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing will do much more than these few examples. They will join congregations all over the country as we seek to answer God’s call and make a difference in the lives of many more people. As we respond through our sharing, Isaiah 58 also provides a promise. As we respond to injustice, feed those who are hungry, and provide places for those without homes, our “light will break forth,” and we shall be called “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in.”

Please give generously.

Let us Pray: *God, your call to us is both great and challenging. May the gifts we share bring justice and help to those in need, and may your light break forth in our lives and in the lives of those served through our shared ministry. Amen.*



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program

RESTORING STREETS IN SYRIA

In 2012, civil war broke out in Syria, where ISIL's presence continues to create violence and fear. More than 250,000 people have been killed, and 13.5 million others have had to leave their homes to seek safety in Lebanon, Europe, and the United States.

Thanks to our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) was able to respond to this refugee crisis soon after it began. Working with churches in the region, primarily the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, PDA helps Syrian refugee children in Lebanon continue their education and provides refugee families food, shelter, and heating oil. Across the denomination, PDA assists efforts by congregations to resettle Syrian refugees. Their welcoming hands bear witness to our biblical imperative to extend hospitality to the stranger and the foreigner.

But One Great Hour of Sharing gifts do more than help refugees build new lives in a new country—they enable PDA to assist displaced Syrians seeking to return to the country they love. Though the threat of ISIL remains and the civil war still rages, a number of Syrians are replanting their lives in their homeland. Some live in Homs, where more than 40 houses and apartments have been rebuilt through a partnership between PDA and the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon. This project allows families to begin the long process of building new lives.

PDA's director, Laurie Kraus, recently met with a displaced couple—an engineer and pediatrician—whose apartment was rebuilt. “Their block is dark at night. There is no one else in their building or on their street,” Kraus says. “The wife goes out at 3:00 in the morning to make house calls on children. They're living like pioneers at a frontier outpost, because they believe it's the only way to bring back their city.”

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing played a part in bringing hope to this family in Syria. With our contributions to this important offering, more homes will be rebuilt, and the streets of that dark city block will again be filled with light, with people living in peace. Our gifts support this continuing work and the many other essential ministries made possible by our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Please give generously.

Let us Pray: *God of restoration, you call us to support the world's most vulnerable. Help us provide assistance to those who have become refugees through violence and war, so your restoring love would be made known to all. Amen.*



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Hunger Program

JUSTICE FOR ALL IN GOD'S CREATION: CARING FOR PEOPLE MEANS CARING FOR THE EARTH

In Huancavelica, Peru, alpaca farmers worried about the parched pasture land surrounding this mountain town. Their families' livelihoods were at stake, and Jed Koball, a Presbyterian mission co-worker, thought an irrigation system funded by a US congregation could restore the grazing land to health.

The farmers graciously accepted the offer but also suggested the system alone wouldn't solve the problem. They pointed out that mountaintop ice caps that feed springs and lakes to the north were receding due to climate change, corporate farms on the desert coasts were piping lake water down the mountains, and mining activity was contaminating the groundwater. That encounter with our partners teaches us that the long-term environmental issues threatening the community must be addressed alongside hunger and poverty concerns. Indeed, Jed came to recognize that God's creation throughout the world is at serious risk and interconnected with social concerns.

"Global warming is the greatest threat humans have ever faced," Jed says. "Communities like this are feeling its impact right now."

Jed was appointed by the PC(USA) to work with Joining Hands Peru, a ministry of the Presbyterian Hunger Program linking churches and organizations in Peru with US congregations and presbyteries to work on hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation. "The ministry of Joining Hands Peru is advocacy oriented," Jed explains. "We are learning about and participating in public policy discussions at local, national, and even global levels."

Numerous congregations stand alongside Joining Hands Peru. The environment "is not a left or right

issue," says Ellie Stock, a retired teaching elder who worships at Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. "It's a life issue." Second Presbyterian is a certified Earth Care Congregation through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. These congregations commit themselves to environmental stewardship in worship, education, facilities, and outreach activities.

Following Jesus's words, our church is committed to holistic mission: to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. One Great Hour of Sharing funds the Hunger Program's work, and invites you to be involved in sustainable development, advocacy, and education on intentional living.

As the Peruvian farmers remind us, responsible care of God's earth is a crucial element in ending poverty and hunger. In the United States, Peru, and around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing gifts help preserve and restore creation and thus help impoverished people sustain and improve their livelihoods. Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference for God's earth and God's people now and in the future.

Please give generously.

Let us Pray: *Creator God, you call us to care for creation and all who dwell in it. Help us protect creation so vulnerable people can share in the fruits of your abundance. Amen.*



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Self-Development of People

ACHIEVING POSITIVE CHANGE: SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE GRANT HELPS OPEN DOORS FOR EX-OFFENDERS

Olga Pedraza was looking forward to a new life and career, but her chances seemed to be fading. Jobs are scarce in Holyoke, Massachusetts, where Olga lives. This city of 40,000 people is filled with abandoned factories that once fueled the local economy.

But the job search is especially tough for people like Olga who have a prison record. After serving time on a drug-related charge and beating drug addiction, she completed training to help others overcome substance abuse. Olga was excited to start her new career as a counselor, where she could draw from her own experience to aid in others' recovery.

But the job required a driver's license, which Olga didn't have. Her driving privileges had been revoked upon her conviction, and the state demanded more than \$4,500 to have them restored, money she had no realistic hope of raising. However, rather than plunge into despair, she went to work to remove this burden for both herself and other people. She joined Neighbor to Neighbor, an organization that works with other groups to promote investment in jobs and education rather than prison. This coalition began a campaign called Jobs Not Jails, which strives to change public policy to decrease incarceration rates and help reintegrate ex-offenders into society. Not long after Olga got involved, the coalition scored a major legislative victory: On March 20, 2016, Gov. Charlie Baker signed a law repealing automatic suspension of driving privileges for most drug offenses and abolishing the fine that accompanied it. Finally, Olga now works as a counselor.

"More than 7,000 lives are being transformed, thanks partly to a grant from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People," says Lena Entin, an

organizer with Neighbor to Neighbor. "This victory means that stories like Olga's will be repeated over and over again." Self-Development of People works with grassroots groups in the United States and internationally that seek to change structures perpetuating poverty, oppression, and injustice. Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing enable SDOP to participate in the empowerment of people like Olga.

In Holyoke, our gifts are helping to stop the school-to-prison pipeline through changes in both policy and attitudes. "We're educating people to shift public views on mass incarceration, so people will start calling for change," Entin says. From 1973 to 2009, the US prison population grew from 200,000 to two million, and people of color are disproportionately incarcerated, so standing against mass incarceration is a matter of neighbors helping neighbors. One Great Hour of Sharing enables Presbyterians to extend neighborliness across the United States and around the world to impoverished and oppressed people.

Please give generously.

Let us Pray: *Liberating God, we thank you for helping oppressed people gain freedom. Embolden us to work to change structures that restrict freedom and keep people from experiencing the fullness of the life you want for them. May we celebrate our freedom in Christ by working for the freedom of others. Amen.*



2017 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ORDER FORM

WAYS TO GET ADDITIONAL COPIES OF RESOURCES (All materials are FREE unless otherwise noted):

-  Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service at **800-524-2612** between 9:00 am – 5:30 pm EST or **email pds@pcusa.org**; or visit the Church store at **pcusastore.com**
-  Mail this form to Presbyterian Distribution Service, **3904 Produce Road, Ste. 104, Louisville KY 40218**
-  Fax this order form to **502-569-8030**
-  Download copies online at **presbyterianmission.org/oghs**

Qty.	PDS#	UOM	Item
___	12138-17-101		Poster (Limit 2)
___	12138-17-102	P25	Brochure/Envelope Mailer
___	12138-17-103	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Repairers of the Breach</i>
___	12138-17-104	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Loose the Bonds</i>
___	12138-17-107		Leader’s Guide
___	12138-17-110	P25	Place Mat
___	12138-17-125	P25	Children’s Coin Box
___	12138-17-175	P25	Offering Envelope

Spanish Materials:

___	12138-17-131		Poster (Limit 2)
___	12138-17-133	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Reparemos la brecha</i>
___	12138-17-134	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Rompamos las cadenas</i>
___	12138-17-151	P25	Offering Envelope

Korean Materials:

___	12138-17-141		Poster (Limit 2)
___	12138-17-143	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>무너진 곳을 보수하는 자</i>
___	12138-17-144	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>묶임을 풀다</i>
___	12138-17-152	P25	Offering Envelope

PLEASE ADD APPROPRIATE SALES TAX FOR ORDERS BEING SHIPPED TO CA, KY, NY, AND PA.

Ship to: (Please use a street address—FedEx cannot deliver to a PO box.)
Church: _____ Attention: _____
Address (FedEx cannot ship to PO boxes): _____
City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____ PIN/Customer I.D.#: _____
Date materials needed: _____

- Bill me (shipping and handling will be included). Will bill to listed shipping address unless told differently.
- Check or money order enclosed (include 10 percent of the order total for priced items: \$5.25 minimum, \$65 maximum). All orders will be shipped FedEx unless otherwise requested. Special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.



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Presbyterian Distribution Service
3904 Produce Lane, Suite 104
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