



THE *talking trinity*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS



MARCH
2021



Holy Week and Easter at Trinity Presbyterian Church



Lent and Easter
40 Days of
Contemplation



Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021
10:30 a.m.
Online Worship Service



Maunday Thursday

April 1, 2021
7:00 p.m. ZOOM Service
Prayer Vigil to Follow



EASTER SUNDAY

March 28, 2021
10:30 a.m.
Online Worship Service

Plan to attend the (virtual) Trinity Prayer Vigil, starting at 8 pm on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, and continuing through 7 am on Good Friday. This year, you'll be able to pray in the comfort of your home. To reserve a half hour or hour prayer time, contact Anton Ahrens at antonf58@att.net or 785-232-2060.



Dear Trinity Family,

At the Session meeting on February 24th, the Session unanimously voted to continue with online worship for the foreseeable future. The Session will re-evaluate this decision at the May Session meeting.

Several factors were considered with this latest decision:

1. Availability of vaccines.
2. Ensuring the safety of the pastor and worship staff and volunteers.
3. The unpredictable nature of this pandemic, especially with the rise in COVID-19 variants.
4. The size of our sanctuary and HVAC system.

We understand that our community longs to see each other in person and that many of you may feel disappointed or frustrated that we are not returning to worship as quickly as we hoped. We share in that frustration. We also celebrate the ways that Trinity continues to “be the church” outside of the building. Our commitment to mission, service, education, and fellowship has fostered a year of spiritual growth. Many committees are also planning additional ways for us to connect virtually, so please keep an eye out for new fellowship opportunities!

Psalm 30 reminds us, “*Weeping may stay all night, but by morning, joy!*” [CEB] These are tough days, but we hold on to the promise that joy is on the way!

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact Reverend Meredith.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Meredith, on behalf of the Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church



Romans 10:14

¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

I recall years ago when I heard the word "Evangelism" my thoughts went to that individual standing on a street corner, usually with a Bible in hand, speaking to anyone passing by about the word of God.

While some are quite comfortable either being that person or listening to that person it is not something that compelled me to action. However, by seeing for myself the actions and commitment of people I knew, or that friends knew, or others that I was somewhat aware of, instantly motivated me to both listen, and eventually take action.

I once heard the quote: "What you do, speaks so loudly I can't hear a word you're saying." In other words, SHOW me so that I can see, and I can learn.

At Trinity we have an Outreach Committee (formerly known as Evangelism) that continues to connect with our members, our visitors, and our community. HOWEVER, it is not JUST those people that have an opportunity to be part of the Outreach of Trinity.

Especially during the events of this past year, it is even more important to stay connected, build on friendships, family, and expand your circle of acquaintances. Remember how much you enjoyed saying hello to someone at Church on Sunday that you only saw occasionally? Do you miss that? Well, we all do. And we ALL can do something about it.

It is as easy as picking up your device, phone, tablet, laptop, or even a pen and paper and RECONNECT with another person from Trinity. We have such a great opportunity as a Church Family to help and support each other. How important might a quick call or note just checking in be for someone? Heck, how great might it be if YOU received that call or note?

Outreach is part of what we are commissioned to do. It is embedded in our Mission Statement, and I encourage all of you to take a step toward outreach by contacting 1 – 2 – or 3 of your friends, fellow worshipers, or individuals and see how they are doing, exchange expressions of care and relish in each other's fellowship. Smiles and warm greetings are contagious.

Until we can all meet face to face, in person, this is something we CAN do.

Live and fulfill the Mission of Trinity and begin your own Outreach ministry today.

Michael M Langfitt - Chair

"Glorify God, Share Christ's Love, Make New Disciples"



MISSION COMMITTEE

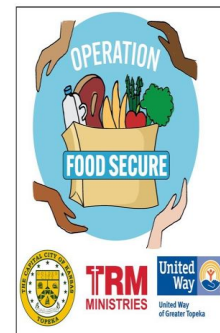
On Thu, Feb 18, 2021 at 11:49 AM from Peggy McAdoo: "Just delivered 553.6 lbs of soup and crackers to Doorstep - nearly doubling any of Trinity's previous donations for Souper Bowl. Represents over 10% of Doorstep's goal of 5000 lb which was reached!!! Way to go Trinity!!!"



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION WEDNESDAYS

Feb 24
Mar 3, 17 & 31
Apr. 14 & 28

TIME 1 PM FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED GET HERE EARLY!



Trinity Presbyterian Church
 4746 SW 21st
 (21st & Sims St.)
 North Parking Lot
No Income Requirements

BUY THE CASE

As we all know, these times are very hard and a lot of people do not have the finances to obtain the food and nourishment they deserve. Many turn to DOORSTEP for food. The Mission Committee is once again organizing the **BUY THE CASE** program to purchase food in bulk to help fill the Doorstep pantry.

This program was a big success last year and gave all members the ability to help obtain food for Doorstep without having to take it to the church. With the help of the Apple Market, the price of the food is discounted, and not taxed so our dollars go further to buy more food.

To participate this year: Use the order form on the next page. Please fill it out by entering the quantity and cost of any of the listed food items you wish to donate. The completed form and your payment for the total amount of your order can be mailed, or brought to the church.

Checks must be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church with "BUY THE CASE" in the memo line and sent in with the order form.

If you choose to bring payment and form to the church, the time frame to do it is between 12:30p-4p M-F. Call first so we can watch for you to buzz you into the lobby. Then, you can just slide your envelope under the office door. If you have security code to let yourself into church lobby, you can come at any time of day and slide the envelope under the office door.



AS ALWAYS, YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS PROJECT IS MUCH APPRECIATED!

THANK YOU FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Buy The Case

Help fill the Doorstep pantry

Listed below are cases of food you may purchase at the discounted & no-tax price from **Apple Market** through the **Mission Committee**. Please select the product you want to buy, and put the **quantity** of cases. The price per case listed times the quantity would be filled in the **Total** column. Then list the **Total amount** enclosed at the bottom. Send it in and we will take care of getting the food to Doorstep.

If you are sending a check, make it payable to "Trinity Presbyterian Church", and put "Buy The Case" in the memo section of the check and list the **check number** on this form

Case	Case price	Qty	Total	Case	Case price	Qty	Total
Canned Fruit	\$12.39		\$	Cream of Mushroom Soup	\$12.59		\$

Egg Noodles	\$18.99		\$	Jelly	\$15.69		\$
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Macaroni	\$8.99		\$	Peas	\$13.29		\$
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Pork n Beans	\$12.59		\$	Spaghetti Sauce	\$11.99		\$
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Case	Case price	Qty	Total
Corn	\$12.29		\$

Hamburger Helper	\$11.79		\$
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Peanut Butter	\$20.49		\$
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Rice	\$13.99		\$
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Total amount enclosed \$ _____

If a check, check # _____

Your name: _____

Place this order form, and payment in an envelope and send or take it to:

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Sugar: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...

One can't step inside any store and not see the aisles full of sweets... sodas, other drinks, delectable bakery items and other fast foods, which most of us tend to gravitate towards. With March being "National Nutrition Month," this illustration presents a unique way of showing a sampling of how much SUGAR we might consume in our diets. This illustration brings it into perspective very quickly! We have an obesity epidemic found among all sectors of our population. These images compare healthy as well as unhealthy foods. It is important to remember that fruits and vegetables add healthy fiber, which lowers the glycemic index of the food, which lessens the "sugar high." Fruits and vegetables also provide very important phyto-nutrients like vitamins, minerals, enzymes, carotenoids, flavonoids, etc.— all necessary for healthy minds and bodies!

Each cube represents a teaspoonful.



https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/pkrhc/the_amount_of_sugar_in_food_expressed_in_sugar/



PRAYER CONCERNS as of Feb 28, 2021

Sympathies:

Craig (& Iris) Neuenswander's Grammie, Dee Myers, passed away at age 103

Concerns:

Audrey & Jacob Barnard and Marilyn Leinacker
Brad Stipcak

Carol Shannahan

Carolyn Burns

Cheryl Lindstrom

Chuck Pullen

Doug Meenen

Elaine, Mike & Vicky Alexander

Helen Rhodes

Jace Raines

Jan Allen

Joyce Adcock

Jessie Zimmerman

John Eddy

Judy and Carl Rundell

Kay Wildman

Olive Ubel

Pat Thomblison & Kathleen Thompson

Pam Oroke

Rose Fritz

Ross Freeman

Ruth Jenkins

Our troops overseas

Becky Jones' friends, Janice Pechacek & Cheryl Becky

Jones' friends, Janice Pechacek & Cheryl Arney;

Becky Schooler's sister-in-law, Jill; Brad Stipcak's

brother, mother, Beverly & elder brother and sister-

in-law, Brian and Jaime Stipcak; Carol Shannahan's

friend, Janet; Carmen Raines' friend, Mark; Carolyn

Burns' sister-in-law, Carol Jessop; Carrie & Art

Lancaster's daughter, Grace Ray; Cathy

Headworth's mother's (Laura Rolph) sister, Jniece

Bell; Douglas Phenix; Elise Higgins' father-in-law,

Bill Ward; Gerald and Joyce Adcock's Aunt Norma

Jean; Iris Neuenswander's sister, Rosalee; Jaron

Marcus' mother, Sherilyn; Kay & Ralph Howard's

stepbrother, Max Hall, & niece Marsha Albright &

husband Doug; Kay Wildman's niece, Renee

Wohletz; Lettie Karlson's friend, K.C; Maddie

Mellies' stepfather, Dave Leinweber; Marilyn

Leinacker's daughter, Lisa; Martha Miller's father &

mother, Robert & Phyllis Cordell; Mary Nestor's

sister, Kay Fessler; Nelson Spaulding's daughter,

Deborah Harris; Ruth & Jim Jenkins' 8-year old

great, great niece, Kenzie, sister, Donna's grandson,

Chase, friends JP & Peter; Sally White; Toni Farrell-

Higgins' mother, Loretta Farrell; Wendy Pullen's

friend, Gerald Manchester; Zimmerman family



01-Mar	Madison Meenen
02-Mar	Lot Weckerling
02-Mar	Kay Graham Scott
05-Mar	Scott Ashleg
05-Mar	Cathy Newland
06-Mar	Renee Mulegwa
07-Mar	Janis Holliwell
07-Mar	Martha Peterson
07-Mar	Linda Dolezal
09-Mar	Ryan Kemp-Pappan
10-Mar	Alex Wales
11-Mar	Greg Lee
14-Mar	Portia Maxon
15-Mar	Kari Hachiga
18-Mar	Rhonda Ross
19-Mar	Wendy Pullen
19-Mar	Jamie Merklein
22-Mar	Martha Benignus
26-Mar	Laura Rolph
26-Mar	Jim McCormick
27-Mar	Consolata Ndichu
27-Mar	Donna Whipple
28-Mar	Bruce Voigt
28-Mar	Beverleg Lutz
28-Mar	Camden Chooncharoen
29-Mar	Judy Rundell
29-Mar	Natalya Thomblison
30-Mar	Robert Burtch
31-Mar	Cathy Headworth

Happy Anniversary



3/13	Jerry & Cathy Newland
3/14	Ralph & Kay Howard
3/23	Cory & Dana Schoffelman



Thank you for the calls, cards and meal following my knee surgery and the death of my brother in law. Your support is greatly appreciated.
Doug Meenen

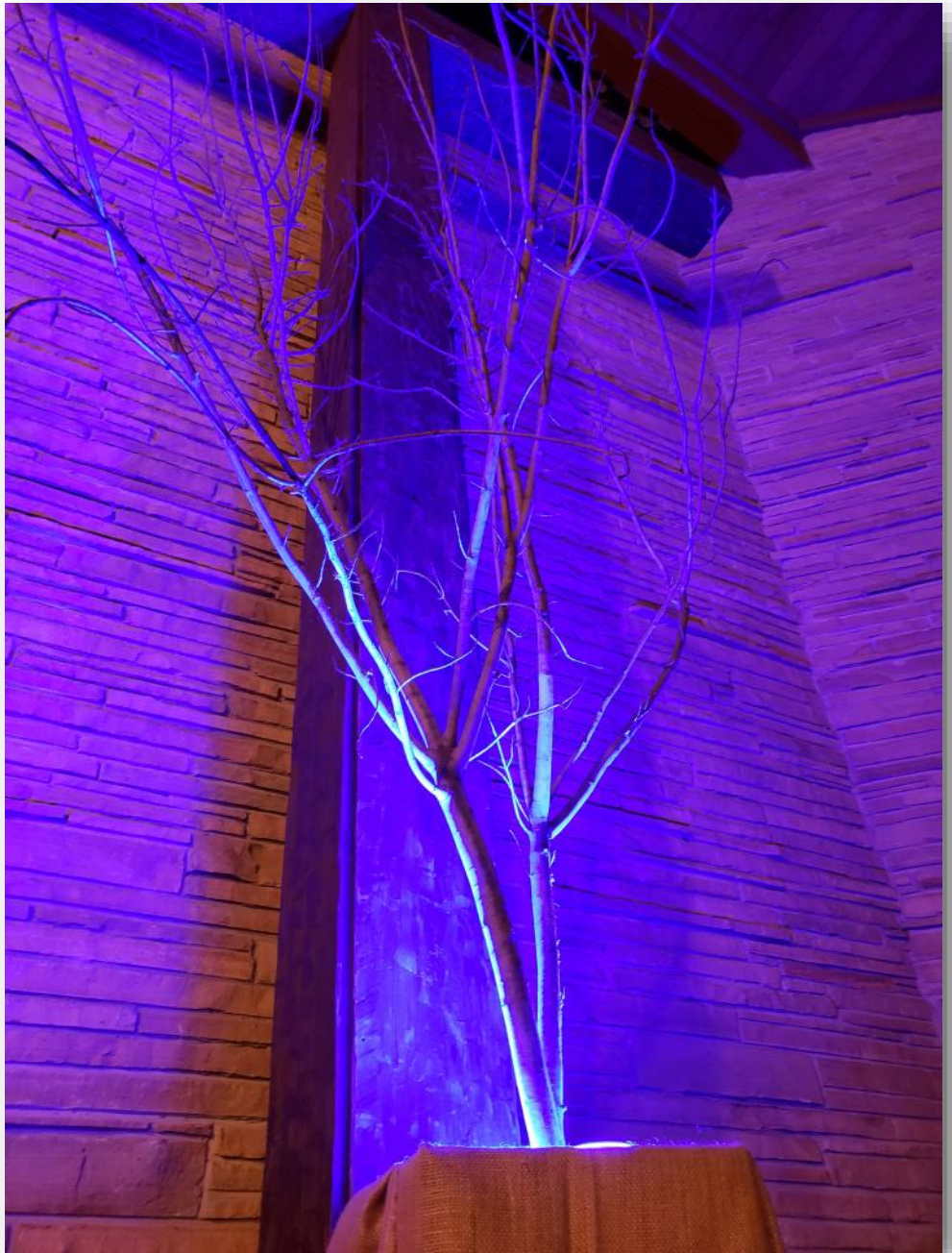
SANCTUARY LENTEN DECOR

Lent and Easter is upon us, and Jurahee Shriver has provided the “dead tree” décor that she did two years ago. To fully appreciate the symbolism of the tree as she has designed it, she has written down her thoughts leading to the construction of it and they are presented here:

Hey, Jurahee. Why is there a dead tree down front in the sanctuary?

“The lifeless tree foreshadows the pain and joy that is yet to come during the season of Lent. As the season progresses, we get to reflect, examine, repent and question as Jesus did during his life. The tree transforms into the cross where decisions are made and becomes the symbol for resurrection. The tree also symbolizes the “Judas Tree” where, upon the arrest of Jesus, Judas hangs himself and the branches of that tree never again grow straight, but always twisted so it can never be used for a cross--

according to ancient stories. On Easter Sunday, the arms of the cross hold bright drapery to signal the end of self-examination and Lent. Then the joy of resurrection for us all begins.”



PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

A New Resolution Part 3: Matthew 25

Over the last two months, we have explored how we at Trinity support the Matthew 25 initiatives, "Eradicating systemic poverty" and "Dismantling structural racism." By doing justice, we increase the "Vitality of our Congregation"- the third emphasis of the Matthew 25 initiative.

Congregational vitality is built by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world. We at Trinity have always valued being engaged in our community- our church family and the larger Topeka community. During this pandemic, you have cared for your church family by calling and writing, by providing food and support to those brothers and sisters who are grieving. We have also provided support to our community, through continuing support to Doorstep, Let's Help and The Rescue Mission. Trinity's Mission Committee initiated "Operation Food Secure" to provide food directly to hundreds of families. The "Souper Bowl" is another Mission initiative that meets immediate community needs.



Trinity's *long term vitality* moves us to expose and change systems that support systemic poverty and structural racism. That's what Topeka JUMP has done since 2012: working to reduce the number of families who are waiting for affordable, decent housing, initiating a ride to work program to job sites not on a bus route, reducing in the number of fellow Topekans who are killed each year by gun violence, and ensuring effective treatment and follow-up for our many friends who suffer from addiction to alcohol and drugs. Let's affirm our commitment to be a Matthew 25 church. There is only one requirement- to share our stories about how service changes our community and ourselves. Find out more at [Presbyterian Mission Agency Become a Matthew 25 church | Matthew 25 in the PC\(USA\): A bold vision and invitation | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)



Topeka JUMP (Justice Unity and Ministry Project)

Trinity's justice ministry, Topeka JUMP, continues to research the issues of Affordable Housing, Transportation, Violence, Predatory Lending and Mental Health/Addiction. This research includes meeting and contacting city staff and various officials, such as the Mayor, City Council members and state legislators to gain support for the issues.

In addition, JUMP has also been planning for its Nehemiah Assembly, which will be virtual on April 26th at 7:00. Trinity's Network Members will soon be contacted to start the process of who they will invite to the Nehemiah (Will it be you?). They will also meet virtually on March 7 to get issue updates and finalize their invite list for the Nehemiah Assembly. On April 12, Trinity's Network Members will join with all JUMP Network Members (representing a total of 28 congregations) and attend a virtual Rally as their final preparation for the Nehemiah Assembly.

Trinity members are asked to put the Nehemiah Assembly (April 26th 7:00) on their calendars. By attending the assembly, you will be working for change and to seeing justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

"What does the LORD require of you? To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

TOPEKA JUMP! JUMP FOR JUSTICE!

TOPEKA JUMP NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY

**Monday, APRIL 26 7:00
(Virtual)**

**To hold our public officials
accountable. We will be pushing
for more affordable housing and
other important items**



LIVING GREEN

LIVING GREEN

LIVING GREEN

As we watch the birds this winter and anticipate more joining them this spring, please remember our help in caring for them is important. The total bird population has dropped drastically. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology study reports that nearly 3 billion fewer birds are in North America compared to 1970 - a nearly 30% loss. That's more than 1 of every 4 birds in the last 50 years which means we are seeing far fewer everywhere than we did when we were children. Just in the last decade the study shows a drop of 14 % -- as more and more habitat is lost to human development, the climate changes, pesticides are used more and more extensively by large industrial farms, and our outdoor cats kill them or they fly into skyscrapers.

However, not all news is bad. Waterfowl as a group have increased population, thanks largely to wetland conservation efforts. Raptors, such as the bald eagle, have also gradually gained after the ban on DDT in 1972, showing that we can take steps with wildlife management, habitat restoration, and political action



to save species in steep decline.

Grasslands very near to us are among the most threatened biomes on the planet. Loss of habitat to agricultural and urban development, along with liberal pesticide use is causing a greater than 40% loss in bird populations in the last couple decades.

To help--- Keep your cat indoors! Outdoor cats kill 2.4 billion birds in the U.S. and Canada each year. Cats are healthier living indoors and live longer while saving birds.

Lawns and pavement don't offer places to survive migrations and raise young. **Reduce your lawn size by planting more native plants in your yard.** Native plants add beauty and provide shelter and nesting areas for

birds. The nectar, seeds, berries, and insects sustain hungry birds and other wildlife. *(More ideas next month!)*



DOORSTEP UPDATE

Below is a list of items currently needed at Doorstep in the food and clothing rooms.

If you can help, please bring **clothing and household donations** Mon/Wed/Fri from 9am – 2pm to the South door.

Food donations are accepted Mon – Fri, from 9am – 2pm, South door.



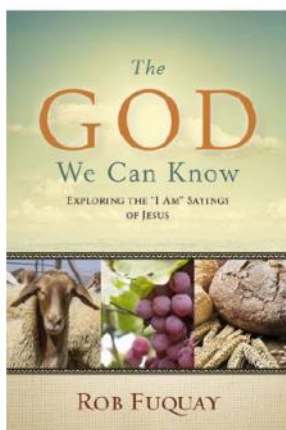
Clothing Room Needs:

Queen Sheets
Twin Sheets
Pots & Pans
Size 4 Diapers

Food Room Needs:

Jelly – any flavor
Canned Fruit – Any kind
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Canned Beans – any variety

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - ADULT'S



Please join us in Adult Sunday School
for our exploration of the "I Am" sayings of Jesus

On February 21st we will begin our study of

The God We Can Know by Rob Fuquay

This Zoom class begins at 8:45 with sharing and prayer, but you can enter the Zoom any time after 8:35. Class will conclude by 10:00.

You are invited to join Adult Sunday school via Zoom every Sunday at 8:45. It's great learning and fellowship in a time where both can fill our hearts. If you are interested in joining us and getting a zoom invitation, please email Carol Thomas at ctmshm@gmail.com.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY - FRIDAYS

We are currently studying the book *THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION- How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way To Be Christian* by Brian D. McLaren. Join us on ZOOM, Fridays at 1:30p.m. Email Carol Thomas at ctmshm@gmail.com for an invitation to join.

TUESDAYS WITH THE WORD

Tuesday mornings at 9:00am. This is a Zoom fellowship and Bible study time with Pastor Mere. We use the Wired Word as a resource. Join us!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*

February 17 - April 4, 2021



*Write checks to Trinity Presbyterian Church with OGHS on the memo line

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

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.

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





Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st Street
Topeka, Ks 66604-3592
785-272-2620

www.trinitypresbyterian.net
office @trinitypresbyterian.net
www.facebook.com/TrinityTopeka

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



OGHS-SDOP

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting, and enabling by participating in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Since the end of WWII, churches have joined together with hopes of bringing stability to others and a sense of unity within the Christian community. In 1950, One Great Hour of Sharing was first used with a goal to show Christ's love in communities who may feel as though there is no hope.

Typically received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing helps give assistance to over 100 countries while raising over \$20 million annually.



OGHS: Increasing Access to Nutritious Food and Farming

Food is a Necessity

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



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

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

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering started February 17 and runs through April. 4. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Please consider supporting these efforts.*

*Write checks to "Trinity Presbyterian Church"
with "OGHS written on the memo line.

Or, you can also give to the OGHS offering through our website. If you go to www.trinitypresbyterian.net/give, there is an option to give to any of our special offerings.

THANK YOU.

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