

First Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends,

Each year it is my task to remind you of the opportunity we have to make a real difference in the lives of people around the world through the One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering which we receive throughout Lent and on Easter. I can say it no better than it has been said by Sara P. Lisherness in a letter to congregational leaders:

“Last year was a historic year for weather-related disasters. In March we witnessed the destruction left in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan. This island nation continues to face multiple challenges as it recovers from the disaster. The National Weather Service reported that there were close to 1,500 tornadoes across the United States, including a rare tornado in Massachusetts. Heavy rain and melting snow caused historic flooding in the Ohio Valley and wiped out thousands of acres of farmland in the Upper Midwest. In the Southern Plains, drought, heat wave and wildfires caused unimaginable devastation.”

“Yet, in the midst of all the upheaval, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was there for those in need because of your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.”

“Following the earthquake that struck Haiti, through a shared grant project, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program provided seeds and tools for thousands of Haitian farmers, enough to grow food for hundreds of thousands of displaced Haitians. This grant allows Haitians to participate in their own recovery and makes use of indigenous seeds and grain. In the United States, “Self-Development of People partnered with the South Plaquemines Parish United Fisheries Cooperative in Louisiana to create the Step One-Recovery project. This business provides economic development opportunities to address poverty in the Louisiana fishing industry.”



“Through your gifts and the gifts of other congregations across the church, OGHS will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God’s abundance in surprising ways. Thank you for supporting this offering.”

The First Presbyterian Church of Salem has a history of generously contributing to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Please continue to support this effective and compassionate means of responding to human need both locally and globally. This offering sustains a number of important ongoing projects. Also, because of our gifts, we can be sure that whenever and wherever disaster strikes there will be resources available to respond with the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Thank you!
Meta

**“Sharing Brings Joy.
To Others, to God, and to Us.”**

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