

Your Gifts Make these Ministries Possible

Detroit (SDOP) You are connecting the Chadsey-Condon Community Organization with training opportunities and important legal advice as they are adapting to life in a redeveloping neighborhood. As they learn about gentrification, community organizing, and self-advocacy, they will be able to protect their homes and help shape the community around them to avoid being displaced from their neighborhood.

Washington, D.C. (PHP) You have helped low-income families and communities of color continue to thrive in their neighborhoods by partnering with Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), a Congregation-Based Community Organizing group, which advocates for affordable housing and for the dedication of public land to be future affordable housing sites.

Syria and Lebanon (PDA) Since the Syrian War began in 2011, you have been responding to the needs of refugees through the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon. These partners, with your support, have provided education for children in Lebanon's Syrian refugee camps, completed rebuilding projects and provided emergency grants to respond to the most recent crises.

U.S. (PDA) You provided emergency and long-term support for those experiencing human-caused disasters. This includes responses to multiple public violence events and the ongoing response to the Flint Water Crisis.

Panama (SDOP) You are helping construct a rural aqueduct in a remote area, bringing a spigot of safe, clean water into 52 homes and one school. A 1500-gallon cement tank container will take in water from several safe supply routes and then distribute it to and through the community using newly-installed pipelines.

Puerto Rico (PDA, PHP, SDOP) Through Organización Boricúa de Agricultura Ecológica de Puerto Rico, you are helping to train a new generation of farmers and climate-conscious citizens. As the region continues to recover from devastating storms in 2017, you are equipping residents so that sustainable and healthy food sources can recover quickly after future hurricanes.

D.R. Congo (PHP) Communities near mines receive help monitoring the impact of mining on the community and in managing royalty payments for local development because of your support and partnership with the Platform of Civil Society Organizations Working in the Mining Sector (POM).

PDA, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
PHP, Presbyterian Hunger Program
SDOP, Self-Development of People



Each day at or after a meal time, gather around this map activity. Consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill (a “gift”) in your fish coinbank or a jar, and end by saying the prayer of the week or one of your own.

For more locations and ministries, go to pcusa.org/oghsmap or scan this code.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

pcusa.org/oghs

Wednesday: Read Isaiah 58:6-8, 12. What are we asked to do? What will we be called (v. 12)? What can we do to be repairers and restorers today?

Thursday: Our Gracie Fish coinboxes will hold many gifts of money this season, but what other kinds of gifts can we give? What gifts can you give or share?

Friday: Find where you live on the map and identify which OGHS site is closest to you. What problems are being solved there?

Saturday: Sunday is PDA's Blue Shirt Sunday. What does PDA do to show God's love? Choose something blue to wear or bring to church to celebrate.

Seeing Others

Prayer: God, open my eyes so I can see the many blessings you've given me. Open them more and move me to share, so each of God's children can feel love and care. Amen.

Lectionary: [Genesis 2:15-17](#) [Psalm 32](#) [Romans 5:12-19](#) [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Sunday: After a natural disaster, it may be hard to find places to cook or buy meals. Say a prayer of thanksgiving and give a gift for each meal you ate today.

Monday: Over 23 million Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy groceries. Give a gift for each grocery store nearby.

Tuesday: Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost in a storm. Give a gift for each electrical outlet in the room you are currently in.

Wednesday: What did you use water for today? Using the map, find Flint, Michigan. What is the disaster there? After learning more, say a prayer for Flint.

Thursday: On the online OGHS map, look at the U.S. states where PDA is working. Pray for each by name and give a gift for each state you've visited.

Friday: If you can read, you are more likely to be healthier. Learn a new word today and give a gift for every letter in your name.

Saturday: Find the international locations where PDA is serving. Pray for these countries and give a gift for each.

People on the Move

Prayer: For homes, for families, for friends, for food, we're thankful, Lord. To us you've been good! On all who feel scared, sick, hungry, not loved, pour out your rich comfort and peace from above. Amen.

Lectionary: [Genesis 12:1-4a](#) [Psalm 121](#) [Romans 4:1-5,13-17](#) [John 3:1-17](#)

Sunday: Most people around the world don't have access to the many varieties of fruit and vegetables we have. Give one gift for each type of fruit in your house.

Monday: Climate change is forcing farmers worldwide to either adjust their farming methods or move away. Give a gift for each type of animal you saw today.

Tuesday: When families move, building a new community of friends and neighbors can be hard! Make a card or gift for someone new in your church or neighborhood.

Wednesday: Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Give a gift for each toddler you know.

Thursday: When roads are closed and electricity is off, going to see a doctor can be hard. Give a gift if you've been able to see a doctor in the past year.

Friday: It is estimated that 1 in 5 kids in the U.S. will experience hunger this year. Give at least one gift if you have not experienced hunger this year.

Saturday: Tomorrow is SDOP Sunday! Visit pcusa.org/sdop to learn how old SDOP is, what they do, and give 4 gifts, one for each letter in their name.

The Power of Water

Prayer: Creator of the rivers and oceans, who washes us clean and refreshes us daily, help us to be like a cup of cold water to others in your name: refreshing, cleansing, and relieving.

Lectionary: [Exodus 17:1-7](#) [Psalm 95](#) [Romans 5:1-11](#) [John 11:1-45](#)

Sunday: Where does your water come from? Many people carry buckets of water long distances to their homes every day. Give a gift for every faucet in your home.

Monday: Find Panama on the OGHS map. What problem is SDOP solving there? Every time you drink water today, say a prayer of thanksgiving.

Tuesday: Social barriers are like locked doors that hold people back and keep them from thriving. Give a gift for every door that can lock in your home.

Wednesday: If you could start a business of your own, what would it be? Give a gift for every good business idea you hear from those you are with.

Thursday: Rainwater is rare in some places, so special collection systems are built to catch the water so it can be used for growing plants. Give one gift for every day it rained (or snowed) in the past week.

Friday: Changing weather patterns mean old ways of farming don't work in some areas anymore, so farmers need to be taught new techniques. Give one gift for every farm you've visited.

Saturday: Over 780 million people around the world can't get safe water to drink every day, not to mention water for cleaning and cooking. Give a gift for every glass of water you've had today.

In the Shadow of the Valley of Death

Prayer: God, you promise to protect me and take care of me, so even if things get really bad, I can trust in you. Give faith to all who have doubts today, so they can know peace in you. Amen.

Lectionary: [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#) [Psalm 23](#) [Romans 8:6-11](#) [John 11:1-45](#)

Sunday: In some places, people walk for hours to go to church where they find support and encouragement from friends and family. Give a gift for every time you went to church this month.

Monday: Hunger-related causes kill tens of thousands every day around the world. Give a gift for meals you've had today.

Tuesday: Some people can't find jobs and care for themselves because they don't have access to a car or the right bus route. Give one gift for every wheel in your garage that helps you get places.

Wednesday: Poverty can make people feel like they are taking three steps forward as they progress, but falling two steps back with surprise expenses or problems. Give a gift for every set of steps in your home.

Thursday: The most vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Say a prayer for children impacted by disasters, and give a gift for every flashlight in your home.

Friday: Sometimes people need help advocating for their rights — like lawyers fighting for those impacted by uranium mining in New Mexico. Say a prayer for those who advocate for the poor.

Saturday: Tutors can help people prepare for school and get jobs. Those jobs provide income for families who might otherwise struggle. Give a gift for your favorite teacher and say a prayer of thanks for them.

Finding Hope

Prayer: In a world full of sin that can often suck us in, open our hearts to receive what yours starts:

An unending flow of joy and, also, hope for that day without sin.

Lectionary: [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) [Psalm 130](#) [Romans 5:12-19](#) [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Sunday: In Uganda, Batwa women have found hope as they learn to farm so they can grow food for their families. Give a gift per plant in your house.

Monday: In Baltimore, teens find hope as they get help selling things they make, like T-shirts, so they can stay off the streets and away from gang violence. Give one gift for every T-shirt you wear this week.

Tuesday: Immunizations give us hope for a day when certain diseases will no longer cause sickness and pain. Check your immunization record, make appointments for any missing shots, and give a gift.

Wednesday: In Papaye, Haiti, hope is seen in the leaves of the moringa tree: a superfood that can help many hungry people! Give one gift for every tree at home.

Thursday: Give a gift for every year you have been in school and find 3 books you can donate so another person can read and learn.

Friday: Learning new languages can be hard! Give 5 gifts for every language your family members speak. Find a neighbor or friend who speaks a different language and learn how to say “hello” to them.

Saturday: In Oregon, a bicycle program gives hope for youth and the planet by teaching teens how to maintain and repair them. Give a gift for every bicycle or eco-friendly vehicle your family has.

Continuing the Journey

Prayer: God, you call us to grow, go out, and serve. Open our eyes, ears, and hearts, so our hands and feet can “repair the breach,” sharing clothes, feeding the hungry, and giving the homeless a home. Amen.

Lectionary: [Matthew 21:1-11](#) [Romans 5:12-19](#) [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Sunday: Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by disasters. Give a gift for each blanket in your home or find some blankets you can donate.

Monday: Teaching healthy food choices and food safety can change the health of an entire community! Find some healthier foods you can donate to a food pantry or soup kitchen.

Tuesday: Find a location on the OGHS map you have not learned about yet. Spend some extended time learning about and praying for the ministry and people there.

Wednesday: Communication can be incredibly difficult after a disaster, especially if the internet isn't working! Give a gift for every computer in your home and call, email, or text a loved one.

Thursday: God's love is shown in so many ways. Find three things you can do today or tomorrow to share God's love.

Friday: Clean water is a precious resource all over the world. Find some ways you can conserve or use less water every day and commit to doing at least 1 for a month or more.

Saturday: People who are homeless have nowhere to keep food. Give a gift for every time you opened the refrigerator today and research opportunities to help the homeless.