

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 41, Issue 3

March 2024

## “GIVE ME THAT OLD TIME RELIGION!” ARE YOU SURE?

Fred Watkins

"Give Me That Old Time Religion" is a song that is often mistakenly called a Gospel Song and dates back to 1873. It has been revived and sung by various famous country singers, including Johnny Cash, throughout the 20th and into the early 21st centuries. Interestingly, the song is called a gospel song even though it does not mention God or Jesus in its lyrics. The phrase "Give Me That Old Time Religion" has become a common expression, often used when changes in liturgy, organization, or outreach are taking place.

The writings of Paul are the earliest in the New Testament. In his letters, we can observe the developing practices of the Christian communities. Later, the Gospels were written, possibly between 60 AD and 100 AD. These writings give us insight into the practices of worship and the way of life expected from a Christian as a member of the community.

By 120 AD, rules for Christians were established in *The Teachings of the Apostles*, also known as *The Didache*. Christians were expected to pray five different times throughout the day: in the morning, at noon (usually joining in corporate prayer at whichever home they were meeting in), in the later afternoon, at night, and at midnight. This practice gradually became more common over the early centuries of the church. Additionally, Christians were advised to pray the Lord's Prayer three times a day and to confess their sins to the group. These requirements, and others of the early church, lasted until the Reformation. Christians were to worship, pray, and fast on days other than in Lent. If you couldn't live up to the rules or behaved in a "non-Christian Way," the community dissolved its relationship with you and expelled you.

The Reformation brought changes in how Christians lived their daily lives among various groups, from Roman Catholic to Reformed, Lutheran, Anabaptist, and many others. These changes often continued some of the early requirements. Changes in the liturgy of worship occurred from the early New Testament Christians into this century.

Next time you hear someone say give me the old-time religion you will be able to explain that perhaps they didn't really want the "real" old-time religion. If you would like to learn more about the development of the Liturgy and why we use liturgy and what the different parts mean, you can join the Searchers Class 10 AM on Sunday mornings. By the time this article is published we will be into examining our liturgy.

You can find a copy of the Didache at <https://legacyicons.com/content/didache.pdf>



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



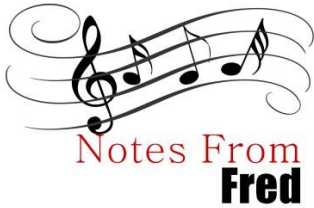
There are several options for you to grow in your personal faith here at Eastminster. We have three adult Sunday School classes. Two that meet every Sunday morning at the church and one that meets on Monday nights via zoom.

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Pastor Paul leads a study of the Gospel of Matthew called “Making Jesus My Teacher for Life.” The class meets each Wednesday in the Conference Room at 10:30 a.m.

**Navigator’s Class:** Taught by Blair and Cindy Garrett. The Navigator’s class grows spiritually through a weekly study of the Bible at Eastminster. The class meets in Classroom #15 from 10–11 A.M. each Sunday, in person and via Zoom. We study one book at a time, usually we cover one chapter each week. The format is to read and discuss each passage as a class. As we study the Word, we are walking and communicating with God as He guides and directs us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are called to discipleship by the Lord and through our studies, we gain the wisdom of God that gives us the ability to share our faith in Jesus Christ with confidence. Over the years we have studied the following Books of the Bible and other studies: Bible Studies include: Mark, Matthew, Luke, James, John, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Peter, Genesis, Job, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, The Acts of the Apostles, Romans, Exodus, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Hebrews and Ruth.

**Searchers Class:** Taught by Fred Watkins. The Searchers are currently exploring the history of Christian worship and examining the reasons behind its various components. Our objective is to gain a deeper understanding of how this knowledge can assist us in living as God's people. We discuss practical ways to incorporate what we learn into our lives. Our group is friendly and welcoming to young adults and seniors alike. We study a range of religious texts, including various books of the Bible. We meet every Sunday from 10—11 AM in the Conference Room.

**Gleaner’s Class:** Taught by members of the class. The Gleaners use *The Present Word* Curriculum. This curriculum is divided into four series, Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. The study is based on International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching. We are currently in the Winter Series, which is entitled Faith that Pleases God. There are three units in this series: Profiles in Faith, Learning about Faith and The Righteous Live by Faith. We meet Monday nights via zoom at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining the class, please email Vicki Cook at [vickilynncook1952@gmail.com](mailto:vickilynncook1952@gmail.com).



If you have been a faithful member of a congregation for any length of time, you have probably sung *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, #606 in our Presbyterian hymnal *Glory to God*. This hymn is often referred to as "the Doxology," even though there are many other doxologies. I grew up in an East Texas Southern Baptist Church, where the congregation sang this doxology every Sunday, as well as at church dinners and other occasions. It is the most commonly sung doxology in Western Christian Churches. The Eastern Orthodoxy sings others as well as this one sung to a different tune. I used to believe that the hymn dated back to the early churches of the 90s to 150s AD, but I now realize that this impression was incorrect.

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* is a hymn written by Thomas Ken (1637-1711), who was a bishop in the Church of England. Ken became an Anglican priest in 1662 and served as a rector in several parishes. He also worked as a chaplain to Princess Mary of Orange between 1679 and 1680 and later became chaplain to King Charles in 1683. In 1685, he was appointed Bishop of Bath and Wells. Throughout his life, he was involved with the royals.

In 1687, King James II imprisoned Ken in the Tower of London, as he refused to sign the Declaration of Indulgence. He did not want to promote King James II's Catholic faith. However, he was later acquitted of the charge. When King William III ascended to the throne, Ken refused to swear loyalty to him and resigned from his office. He spent

the rest of his life in the home of Lord Weymouth, at Longleat, Wilshire.

The date that Thoms Ken wrote the text for *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* is unknown. The first mention of the text is in 1674 as the final stanza of two longer hymns, *Awake, My Soul and with the Sun* and *Glory to Thee, My God, this Night*. It was later wedded to the tune from the Genevan Psalter 1531. This tune is widely used in most congregations.

In our *Glory to God* hymnal, this text is set to four tunes. We use two of them, #606 and #607. #607 is the music as it is used in the Genevan Psalter. #606 is the quicker version of the two. We use a variety of responses after the offering, even verses from hymns. On Communion Sundays, I always try to use #606.

#606 is great to sing at home or other places, to give thanks for grace before meals and other occasions since the Bible urges us to praise God all the time.





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

You Shall Be Called  
Repairers of the Breach

— ISAIAH 58

### *What is One Great Hour of Sharing?*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, received during Lent, has a seventy-eight year history as an ecumenical endeavor that now involves nine denominations and Church World Service. Founded in 1946 by Episcopal Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, a goal was set to raise one million dollars in one hour for World Relief.

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are under way in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In recent years Presbyterians have given about \$10 million annually.

Currently, the allocations used were determined by the 202nd General Assembly (1990):

- ◆ 32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- ◆ 32% to Self-Development of People
- ◆ 36% to the Presbyterian Hunger Program

Eastminster's One Great Hour of Sharing receipts will be evenly divided between Camp Gilmont and the denomination.

There are many opportunities and different ways to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing. Included with this newsletter is a One Great Hour of Sharing Calendar with interesting ways to begin your contribution. Truly, the calendar explains not only the needs but the daily reminders of just how blessed that we are.

The Offering will be received March 17, March 24, and March 31 Easter Sunday.

Please prayerfully consider this special offering. Thanks be to God.



OUTREACH  
COMMITTEE

Outreach met on Sunday, February 11, and there are a few things I want to tell you about:

We will be doing our Lenten Lunch Bag Drive again this year.

We will be having a potluck lunch after church on Palm Sunday, March 24, and making lunch bags for all the individuals and families that need extra. Plan on coming - it will only last 1 hour to 1½ hours. It was a big success last year and we hope to do even better. You will hear more about it in the following weeks.

We are continuing some of last year's efforts and replacing others. Charlotte has agreed to continue leading our school ministries. We are replacing Christmas Village, but aren't sure what we are replacing it with. We want ideas and input so we can start planning by the end of the summer. Please, please, please bring us your ideas.

More to come in future newsletters!

### *Books Wanted*

The Outreach Committee is looking for donations of gently-used books to fill the shelves at the Saturday Morning Breakfast.

We need paperbacks and picture books. We need books that make you smile and books that make you think. Books for kids of all ages would be wonderful.

There will be a box located in the Narthex for dropping off your donations.

Share your love of reading today. It will be so appreciated.



## *Covenant Committee Report*

The Covenant Committee met on January 25, 2024. For those of you who are unsure what that is, let me explain.

We share Pastor Paul with St. Mark Presbyterian Church. The close proximity of the two churches, as well as the size of each church, and the experienced congregations seemed to suggest that “pastor sharing” just might work. It has been a huge success and may serve as a model for other churches in the Presbytery.

Our representatives are Jim Lee, Fred Watkins, Sean Turner, and myself. St. Mark has provided four of their veteran members and Paul chairs the committee. The goal is to work together to reinforce each church’s successful autonomy and share some programming and ideas when possible. So far we have celebrated Shrove Tuesday at Eastminster (very successfully—60+ people in attendance and more than \$1,200 raised). We celebrated Ash Wednesday at St. Mark with our members and choir really showing up. Two other churches also participated: Celebration and Il Divina. Over 70 people were in attendance.

Easter Week we will attend the Maundy Thursday service at St. Mark and the Good Friday service will be at Eastminster. Both churches will celebrate Easter at their own locations. Easter Week flyers will be handed out.

Events planned for the Spring include a joint communion “Gospel Mass” and a joint choir/Eastfield Brass concert. We invited them to come visit Saturday Morning Breakfast and Pleasant Grove Food Pantry. They shared their food pantry success and their Fifth Sunday of the month sandwich making.

So far, the Spirit has blessed our efforts individually and collectively to make it work. Special thanks to Pastor Paul for his energy, enthusiasm, and faith. It takes all of us to make this work!

Tom Pappas



## **Shrove Tuesday**

What has 130 legs, is super generous, and consumes a record quantity of pancakes? If you guessed the 65 folks who supported the choir at the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, you’d be exactly right!

Led by Katie Karlen, the choir decorated the Fellowship Hall in Mardi Gras colors to welcome our guests for the evening. Tim Kreger, Sean Turner, and Bruce Turner returned to play chefs, and Michele Pappas contributed a table FULL of beautiful prizes for the game.

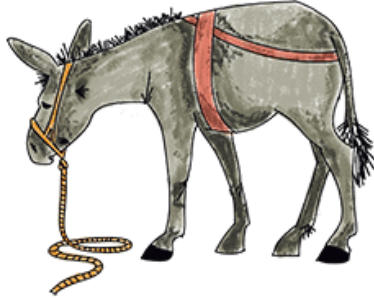
Best of all, the choir raised over \$1200 to go toward guest musicians in the coming year. Thank you to ALL who joined us for good food and fun.



## *Be the donkey*

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”



Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

## *Resurrection rumblings*

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the “earthshaking promise” of Jesus’ resurrection. Easter Sunday “shatters the power of fear,” he writes. “Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don’t remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new.”

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn’t forsaken us and is present among us.

“The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world.”

Jesus’ followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. “The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, ‘Do not be afraid.’”

## *Transformed*

Before becoming a Christian late in life, British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge denied that Jesus was God’s Son and had risen from the dead. If Jesus’ body was missing, he said, someone probably snatched it and abandoned it to the vultures, leaving the bones to whiten in the sun.

For Muggeridge, the turning point was encountering a living Lord. “If you should ask me by what authority I talk about the power of Christ to change human nature, I should reply to you simply ... because he has changed me,” Muggeridge said after discarding agnosticism. “I can look anybody in the face today — my friends, my colleagues and what, perhaps, is most difficult of all, the members of my family — and be sure that they know, as I know, that I am really and literally a new creature in Christ Jesus since the day when he came into my life.”

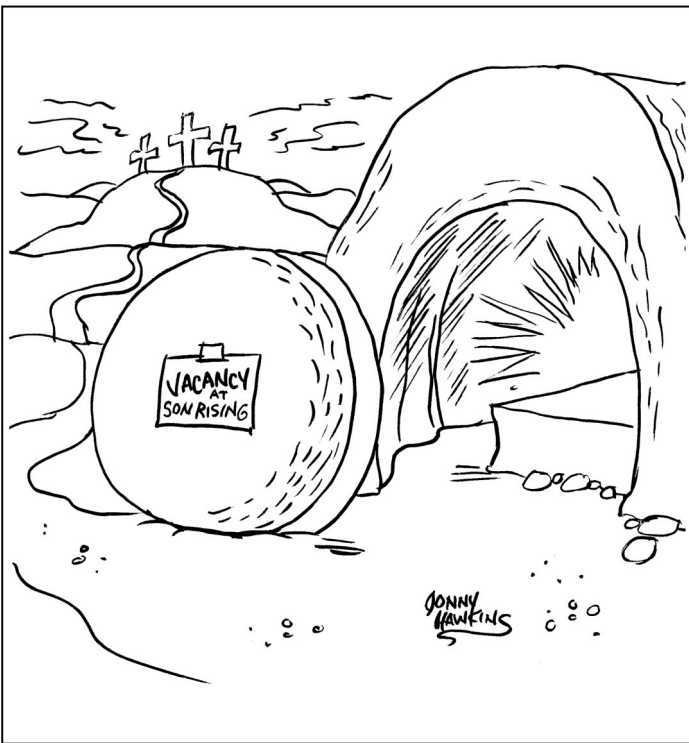
—adapted from *The Wired Word*



The “Christ hymn” in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue                      B. hands; feet  
C. arms; lips                            D. heart; mouth

Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11)



Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?  
He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of cell phone did Delilah use?  
Samson

How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?  
By his net income.

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?  
He only had two worms.

Who was the smartest man in the Bible?  
Abraham. He knew a Lot.

What animal could Noah, not trust?  
Cheetah

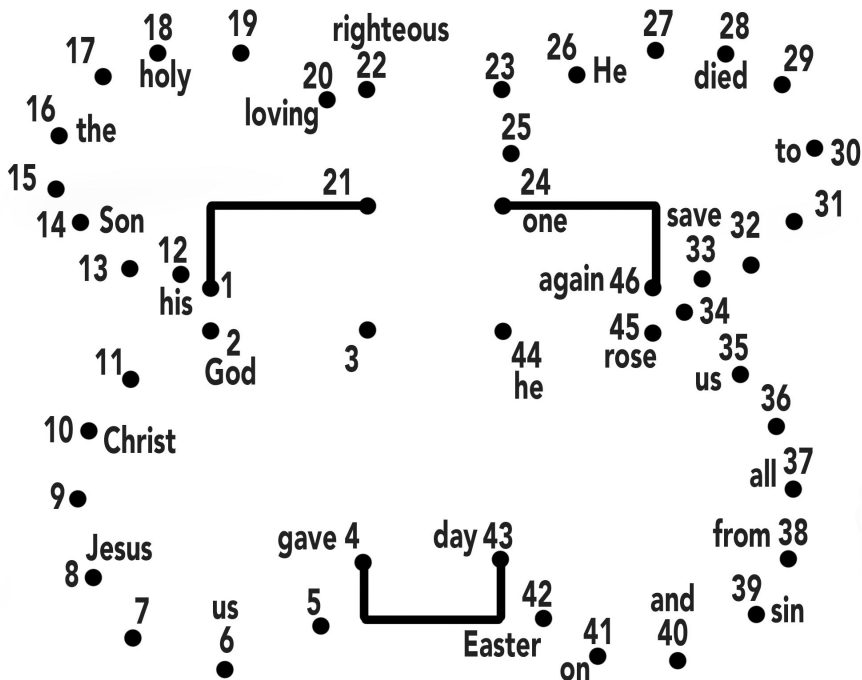
## Scripture Readings for March

1	1 Cor. 7:1-9	11	1 Cor. 10:14-11:1	22	2 Cor. 4:1-12
2	1 Cor. 7:10-24	12	1 Cor. 11:2-34	23	2 Cor. 4:13-18
3	Rom. 8:1-10	13	1 Cor. 12:1-11	24	Zech. 9:9-12
4	1 Cor. 7:25-31	14	Exod. 1:6-22	25	Lam. 1:1-2, 6-12
5	1 Cor. 7:32-40	15	Exod. 2:1-22	26	Lam. 1:17-22
6	1 Cor. 8:1-13	16	Exod. 2:23-3:15	27	Lam. 2:1-9
7	1 Cor. 9:1-15	17	Exod. 3:16-4:12	28	Lam. 2:10-18
8	1 Cor. 9:16-27	18	1 Cor. 14:1-19	29	1 Pet. 1:10-20
9	1 Cor. 10:1-13	19	1 Cor. 14:20-33a, 39-40	30	Heb. 4:1-16
10	Rom. 8:11-25	20	2 Cor. 2:14-3:6	31	John 1:1-18
		21	2 Cor. 3:7-18		



# Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



“The story of Easter is the story of God’s wonderful window of divine surprise.”

—Carl Knudsen

“This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.”

—Leonard Bernstein

“Everything that seems empty is full of the angels of God.”

—Hilary,

4th-century bishop of Poitiers

“Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don’t have to sit on it.” —Joyce Meyer

2	4	6	8	10	12	14
16	18	20	22	24		
26	28	30	33	35	37	38
40	41	42	43	44	45	46

Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.

### Saturday Morning Breakfast

	Total
January 20	61
January 27	57
February 3	50
February 10	57
February 17	78

Despite bad weather (or because of it), our breakfast numbers are very healthy. The regular menu seems to keep everybody happy. Oatmeal with fixins' and donuts are now part of the regular menu items. Special thanks to Blair and Cindy for the oatmeal and fixins'. What a great idea and it has proved to be very popular.

We are serving 4 dozen donuts and will probably have to go to 5 in the not-to-distant future. They come from a donut shop on Buckner where they know my truck by sight. Darlene has cemented her popularity as queen of the donut handouts. She knows all the regulars by name and has a warm hug and smile for each of them. I'm not sure who has the bigger smile—Darlene or the guests.

It really feels like a community and it has become very important to my faith. Plus it is lots of fun.

Please come and serve or just come and have breakfast. Just come and see what your church is doing!

We always need more books and clothing donations. We have trouble keeping the racks full. Soon we'll be setting up donation boxes in the Fellowship Hall.

See you Saturday!



Sunday, March 24—Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, March 28—Maundy Thursday at St. Mark. Service begins at 6:30 p.m. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 29—Good Friday Service, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 31—Easter Service

### Pleasant Grove Food Pantry for month of January, 2024



Date	Families	Adults	Seniors	Children	Total Persons	Pounds
1/8	168	286	123	199	608	7575
1/9	234	468	107	326	901	10232
1/16	194	359	117	241	717	8584
1/22	170	302	109	221	632	6766
1/23	272	502	153	392	1047	10560
1/29	224	386	142	274	802	8806
1/29	280	549	165	404	1118	10166
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1542</b>	<b>2856</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>2057</b>	<b>5825</b>	<b>62889</b>



Jennifer Benson	1
Thom Falcon	1
Evola Griffin	6
Jacqueline Robert	9
Sylvia Falcon	10
Jake Davis	13
Philis Knox	22
Jim Bender	31



Susan & Kevin Karlen	3/2
Michele & Tom Pappas	3/21



**Eastminster Session**

- Chandra Anderson
- Melody Davis
- Philis Knox
- Dick Knox
- Tom Pappas
- Sean Turner
- Fred Watkins
- Patience Uche
- Darlene West



Pastor	Rev. Dr. Paul Burns
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree



## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

January 27, 2024

- ◆ Welcomed the Session Class of 2026: Melody Davis, Patience Uche, and Darlene West.
- ◆ Welcomed a new member, Sean Talley, into the Eastminster family.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer that Eastminster reported a net positive income for 2023 and that our monetary assets are continuing to grow.
- ◆ Appointed delegates (Tom Pappas and Cindy Garrett) to the January 31 Cluster meeting.
- ◆ Received information on regular review and editing of Eastminster's Manual of Operations.
- ◆ Approved the continuance of the availability of Eastminster's trailer if needed by other churches of the Presbytery.
- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Sean Turner.
- ◆ Reviewed procedures and deadlines to keep the work of the church running smoothly.
- ◆ Received responses to the 2024 Commitment Sheets and began planning Committee work for the year.

## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

February 18, 2024

- ◆ Welcomed new member Kathleen Seymour into the Eastminster family.
- ◆ Heard the Treasurer report that Eastminster is in the black for January, partly due to members front loading their yearly contributions.
- ◆ The cluster delegate reported that the Cluster is trying to be more active on social media, is discussing a Guatemala mission trip in 2025, is encouraging member churches to apply for educational program funding; discussing a possible Cluster neighborhood conference in April.
- ◆ Approved the financial officers.
- ◆ Approved the Stewardship 2024 special offerings.
- ◆ Approved the Worship committee request to purchase replacements for worn-out equipment






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### Special dates



- ◆ World Day of Prayer, March 1, 2024
- ◆ Daylight saving time begins, March 10, 2024
- ◆ First day of spring, March 19, 2024
- ◆ Holy Week, March 24-31, 2024
- ◆ Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, 2024
- ◆ Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024
- ◆ Good Friday, March 29, 2024
- ◆ Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

# One Great Hour of Sharing Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>March 10</b></p> <p>When homes are destroyed by floods, One Great Hour of Sharing can help rebuild them. Give 50 cents for every year your home has remained standing.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>If you had to work today, put in a dollar and thank God you are able to work.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>  <p>“I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” 50 cents for every drink today.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>People are in darkness this day. Give 50 cents for every window in your home.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Did you eat out this week? \$1.00 for every one who ordered.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>50 cents for each TV and radio in your home.</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>A cow can make all the difference. It provides milk for a family to drink or sell. Give 25 cents for each food item in your home that comes from a cow.</p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Natural disasters bring with them not just physical damage, but also separation from family and friends. Give a dime for every hour your family or group spends together today.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>“Give us this day our daily bread...” 50¢ for every loaf of bread in your home.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>It’s a good day today! 50 cents rain or shine.</p> 	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>A hungry world is a dangerous world. Put in 75 cents today.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>75 cents if you don’t have to wear glasses. 50 cents if you do. What a joy to be able to see!</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Are your clothes nice and clean? 75 cents for your washer, and 75 cents for your dryer.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Trees help keep the soil in place so homes don’t wash away and people have good soil for planting. Give 25 cents for every plant in your home and every tree in your yard.</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Staying clean helps keep us healthy. People need toothbrushes, soap and shampoos. Give 10 cents for everything you have that helps keep your body clean.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Children are a blessing! \$2.00 for each one in your family.</p> 	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>A dime for each between-meal snack you had today.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Jesus said, “I am the door;” 25 cents for every door in your home.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>A dime for each time you opened the refrigerator today.</p> 	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>\$1.00 if you have not been sick this month. Thank God for good health!</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>One Great Hour of Sharing helps deliver first aid and medicine – a luxury for many families. Give ten cents for every over-the-counter medication that your home is blessed with.</p>
<p><b>31</b></p> <p>After a flood, people need mops, gloves, sponges, detergent, and many other things to clean their homes. Give 10 cents for each thing in your house that you clean with.</p>	<p>This Sharing Calendar is a fun way for your family to make an offering to One Great Hour of Sharing while you learn about how contributions help people around the world.</p>	<p>Offering divided between the Denomination and PCHAS. The denomination supports Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.</p>	<p>Each day, participate with your family in a different activity. Create a pattern of sharing, learning about the needs of others, and deepening the relationship in your home.</p>			