

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 39, Issue 3

March 2022

LENTEN SERMON SERIES CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO

During Lent 2022, we are using several resources from *A Sanctified Art*. This group was founded by a team of artists in ministry who dreamed of filling Christ's church with more art, inspiration, creativity, and God-breathed mystery. Their stated mission is to provide spiritual nourishment for church leaders and the communities they serve. As a team of artists in ministry they create multimedia resources for worshipping communities of all shapes and sizes. They work collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through visual art, poetry, liturgy, curriculum, worship installation art, coloring pages, graphic design, and more.

This resource, *Reformed in nature*, uses the Common Lectionary Texts for its inspiration and presentation. Be looking for more information concerning other Lenten possibilities, such as a Service of Wholeness and Healing and Lenten workshops that inspire our faith through creativity.

On Sunday, March 6, we will begin our Lenten Sermon Series focusing on cultivating and letting go. The verb **cultivate** means to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage. In **letting go** one relinquishes one's grip on someone or something. During our Lenten worship services we will be reminded that Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. It is our hope that, in worship, as with other Lenten activities, we provide both literal and spiritual practices that move us toward cultivating our growth in faith and encouraging others to do so as we let go of all that seeks to distance us from a full and joyful relationship with our Lord.

You are invited to prepare your hearts for this season by reading, studying, and praying, using the lectionary texts as guidance.

First Sunday of Lent	March 6	Luke 4: 1-13
Second Sunday of Lent	March 13	Luke 13: 31-35
Third Sunday of Lent	March 20	Luke 13: 1-9
Fourth Sunday of Lent	March 27	Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
Fifth Sunday of Lent	April 3	John 12: 1-8
Palm Sunday	April 10	Luke 19, 22, 23 (selected verses)
Easter Sunday	April 17	Luke 24: 1-12

CULTIVATING AND LETTING GO A SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

Sunday, March 20, 2022 AT 4:00 p.m.

We have come through one of the most life-altering circumstances these last couple of years. For faith and faith communities



who have helped sustain us, we thank God. While faith has been the strong foundation upon

which we have stood, it is no secret that grief—for so much and so many—took up space in our hearts. In the season of Lent, we enter with the promise of hope. And in that hope, we continue to cultivate our relationship with our Triune God, letting go all that would seek to harm that relationship.

This Service of Healing and Wholeness offers a variety of ways to both cultivate and let go. It is designed to provide worshipers with a space to pray and reflect on the needs in their lives and the lives of others, whether they are seeking healing or wholeness for mind, body, soul, or the whole of God's world.

The service will begin in the chapel, then following an opening time of worship, we will move into the Fellowship Hall where the service will incorporate hands-on activities for reflection. The whole service spans between 45 to 60 minutes, depending on time spent in individual reflection.

The service has three movements: The first movement sets the space, drawing us out of our ordinary rhythms and inviting us into

holy ground. The next movement emphasizes God's power and presence in our lives, reminding us that God is bigger than our greatest needs. This part of the service is important because too often we are afraid to ask God for the impossible for fear that it may not happen. Instead of asking God for healing, we tend to ask only for comfort. However, "playing it safe with God" in the face of suffering does not provide the healing space we need. Therefore, this movement emphasizes relinquishing our fears to put trust in God's ability. The final movement incorporates visual reflection and invites us to rest in hope, trusting that this is not the end of our story, or God's because our God is always doing a new thing.

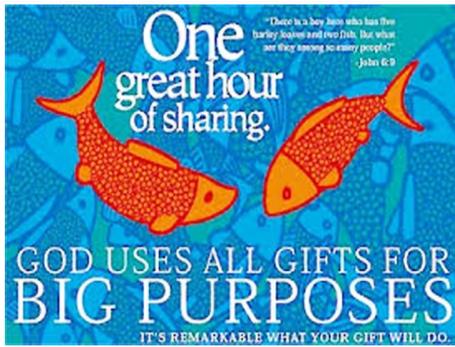
May this service be one that brings us the hope, the healing, the wholeness and the holiness our Lord longs to gift us.

Ash Wednesday Meditation Service March 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants in the shape of a cross.

It is also a reminder to us all that, by water and Word, the Spirit of our Lord marks and seals us as God's beloved children as we hear these words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."





What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

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, there are eight denominations participating in One Great Hour of Sharing.

Allocations within our denomination have changed over the years, but the 202nd General Assembly (1990) voted to accept the current structure:

- ♦ 32 percent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- ♦ 32 percent to Self-Development of People
- ♦ 36 percent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program

The Session of Eastminster during their February Session meeting approved the One Great Hour of Sharing receipts to be divided equally between Camp Gilmont and the denomination.

There are many opportunities and many 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 just how much we are blessed.

The Offering will be received April 3, April 10, and April 17 Easter Sunday.

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

A prayer for Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and



penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19).

Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."



Lent is an interesting time that is both rich and scary. The season is rich because we are invited to dig deep into our individual and congregational faith practices and determine whether we are on the right path to becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. We are encouraged to look at our whole lives and Eastminster's ministry and to lay them next to the life of Jesus and see how as an individual follower and a congregation of followers we measure up. That is where it begins to get scary.

It is a very difficult exercise to be honest with ourselves. Perhaps that's part of why we need forty days to do it. We need tons of grace and diligence and discipline to see ourselves as we truly are. In fact, it might be argued that we are incapable of doing this Lenten thing on our own. It is simply beyond our capabilities and certainly beyond our inclinations. The only hope we have is to be gathered up in Jesus as individuals and as a congregation.

In Luke 13:33-35, the gospel text for the Second Sunday in Lent, Jesus tells us how he wants to gather us up, like a mother hen gathers her brood. He wants us to claim him, to run to him, to be loved and cared for by him. Not to avoid the Lenten examination, but to be able to endure it. We can stand the scrutiny of the questions about the state of our souls because we have one who will love us no matter what we find. We can be honest with our failings and our successes because Jesus is there to encourage us to continue.

Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries for the United Methodist Church

says: "The season of Lent is essential for those who truly seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Because a part of what we learn in this time of self-examination is that we are what might be most in need of transformation. We might find that what might need to grow in faith and discipleship is the church and that the transformation of the world begins with building bridges and gathering up rather than with condemnation."

We try to select hymns, songs, and anthems during the Lenten season to help with both our individual and our congregational soul searching. We don't sing alleluias, or extremely upbeat music and by the same token here at Eastminster we don't use music to lay guilt trips on us for our failures to live up to our beliefs. We do sing music that recognizes Jesus' lessons and sacrifices for us and his actions during the time from his "ministry" to his death on Good Friday. Pay attention to the words of the hymns and anthems, pray for God to help you and our church as we try to do his will in our part of his world.

Join with us in person at Eastminster and with other Christian Churches around the world during this season as we seek to be measured up, be encouraged by, and above all be gathered up in Jesus.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022

NAME(s) _____
 _____ Adults _____ Children

Cost for the supper is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children with a \$20 family maximum.

*All proceeds will benefit the
Eastminster Guest Musician
Fund.*



SHROVE TUESDAY

March 13—Daylight Saving time begins.



Report from Saturday Morning Neighborhood Breakfast

Tom Pappas

We are continuing to successfully push our mission efforts in the Saturday Morning Neighborhood Breakfast. On February 19, 2022, we had 25 visitors and 11 servers. Our friends from Christian Stronghold were there and provided great help and great spirits (we sang Happy Birthday to Easter and Rose). The week before we had 24 visitors and 9 servers. As you can see from last month's totals and this month's totals, our numbers are consistently solid. As COVID subsides and the weather gets better, we expect the numbers will continue to grow.

More importantly, the guests are our friends. We are able to share the good tidings (and bad) from the previous week. Bob has a job now and with his second paycheck he may be able to get a place to stay. That's important because somebody stole his tent and gear while he was at work. Nicholas came for the first time and admitted to having two hollow legs (after his third plate)!

Rick took an hour to admit that he was wrong about the LA Rams and Von Miller. Derek was there dispensing scripture. Jessie was not there, but his nephew said he is doing well and should be there next Saturday.

Although Miss B___ was not there on the 19th, she shared some things a couple of weeks ago I want to share with you. She walks down from a neighborhood group home a couple of blocks away. She is normally very quiet, suspicious, a little bit surly, and never smiles. Although we serve everybody, she is a bit demanding and very unappreciative. Nevertheless, we are always attentive and cheerful with her. Three Saturdays ago, I sat and tried to speak with her a little. I asked

about football. She said she doesn't like football and refuses to follow it. I asked what she did like and she told me she likes fishing. She described some times when her grandkids would visit and would take her fishing. As she described those times, she appeared to be transformed. She sat up, looked me in the eyes, and became very animated. She smiled. She's been coming to breakfast off and on for 4 years and this is the first time I ever saw her smile. Guess what?! She has a beautiful smile that lights up the whole room. She displayed an easy laugh that I had never heard before. When she left, she thanked me for breakfast.

It was nearly unbelievable. It changed my week. When I think back on it, it continues to transform me.

Our church provides a warm place in the winter and a cool place in the summer. We serve up pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausage with juice, milk, and coffee. Every day I thank God for letting me be a small part of the team that serves. I thank Louis and Blair for starting breakfast and Jim for taking it on. I thank Christine and Darlene and Reggie for cheerfully doing work every Saturday. Imagine serving 60-70 plates with the efforts of 4 to 5 people. I thank all the people who have ever served 1 time or 100 times. They are all part of the collective cloth of what we do.

Robert said it best last Saturday: "Some of us are here and some aren't, but every single one of us knows we can come to your church and get breakfast. The word is out and it's all over the street."



Mary's yes calls us to love

On March 25, we remember the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her she is to bear the Son of God, and she says yes.

In *Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans writes: “I am a Christian not because of anything I’ve done but



because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes — yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly understand ... yes to a vision for herself and her little boy

of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud and gather the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son's. ... And through Mary's example, God invites us to take the risk of love.”

Love that welcomes all

Actor Tom Hanks once said, “There’s no substitute for a great love who says, ‘No matter what’s wrong with you, you’re welcome at this table.’” Although I don’t know that quote’s context, those words could well describe Jesus and Holy Communion, as well as God’s unconditional love.

For when Jesus first invited his followers, “Take and eat; this is my body. Take and drink; this is my blood,” he didn’t exclude Judas, who would betray him, or Peter, who would deny him, or any of the others, who would abandon him as he was arrested and executed.

Indeed, no matter what’s wrong with us — what sins we’ve committed, what flaws we try to hide — Jesus welcomes us to the communion table. And he’ll welcome us to the great heavenly banquet at the end of time. For the great love of God declares, “You’re all welcome at my table.” —Heidi Hyland Mann

Our stain remover

From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering? The good news is that with one “application” (the cross), Jesus makes us “whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!



All four Gospels tell of a woman anointing Jesus. Details vary; clearly, she isn't the same person in all accounts. In John, who is she?



- A. Jesus' mother, Mary
- B. Mary Magdalene
- C. Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus)
- D. None of the above

Answer: C (See Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-39; John 12:1-8.)

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

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

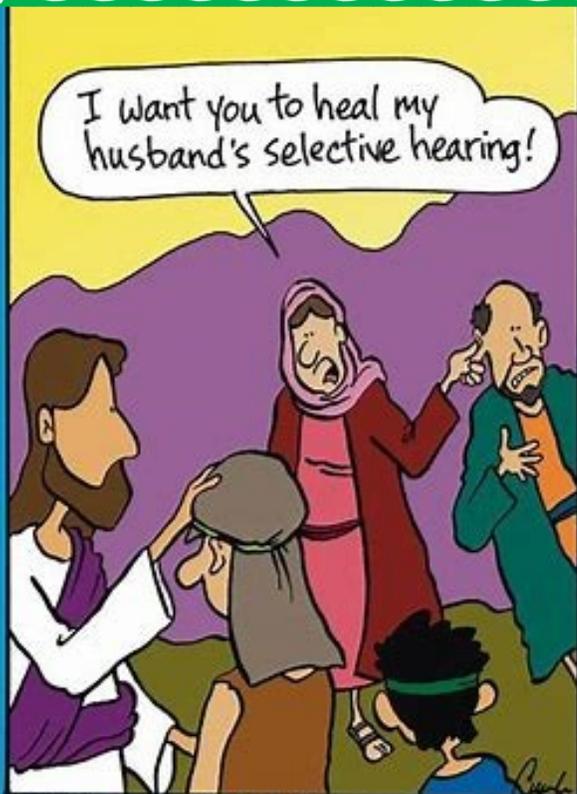
Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was standing on the deck.

What animal could Noah not trust? Cheetah

Where was Solomon's temple located? On the side of his head

Why did Noah have to punish the chickens on the Ark? They were using fowl language.

If Moses were alive today, why would he be considered a remarkable man? Because he would be several thousand years old.



Scripture Readings for March

1	Prov. 30:1-4, 24-33	11	Gen. 40:1-23	22	Gen. 45:1-15
2	Amos 5:6-15	12	Gen. 41:1-13	23	Gen. 45:16-28
3	Hab. 3:1-10 (11-15) 16-18	13	Gen. 41:14-45	24	Gen. 46:1-7, 28-34
4	Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32	14	Gen. 41:46-57	25	Gen. 47:1-26
5	Ezek. 39:21-29	15	Gen. 42:1-17	26	Gen. 47:27-48:7
6	Dan. 9:3-10	16	Gen. 42:18-28	27	Gen. 48:8-22
7	Gen. 37:1-11	17	Gen. 42:29-38	28	Gen. 49:1-28
8	Gen. 37:12-24	18	Gen. 43:1-15	29	Gen. 49:29-50:14
9	Gen. 37:25-36	19	Gen. 43:16-34	30	Gen. 50:15-26
10	Gen. 39:1-23	20	Gen. 44:1-17	31	Exod. 1:6-22
		21	Gen. 44:18-34		

“Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible.”

—Mary McLeod Bethune

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

—Mother Teresa

“Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly.”

—Robert Schuller

Jesus has gone there first

Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure — God walked there first! And when we who have sinned and despoiled the garden are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone there before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us.

—James Healy

Puzzle!

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked) using letters found in the words



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



See! The winter is _ _ _ _ ; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

“Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it _ _ _ _ , it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.” (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the _ _ _ _ , which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone _ _ _ _ _ , each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the _ _ _ _ _ and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

Answer: past, dark, stars, astray, saints

The Power of Let

I once crafted a trendy sign that read “Make it happen.” It reminded my high-achieving self to take the bull by the horns and work hard.

Though that message isn’t necessarily harmful, I’ve come to appreciate a different approach.

On her podcast *The Next Right Thing*, Emily P. Freeman shared the concept of “Let it count.” She decided to trade out the word *make*, which implies forceful effort and control, for the word *let*, which is surprisingly more powerful. Consider Colossians 3:15, which begins, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (NIV, emphasis added). Let involves an intentional decision to set aside my selfish desires to make and to allow God’s way and will to play out instead. When we let Christ’s peace rule, we can truly “let go and let God,” relinquishing control to the One who ultimately holds it.

Although I still have my sign, now it’s a reminder to let God and his peace happen — and to let him take the reins of my days and my life.

—Janna Firestone

Complete Serenity

Many of us have heard the first part of what’s called “The Serenity Prayer,” attributed to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. But we would do well to learn the rest of it as well:

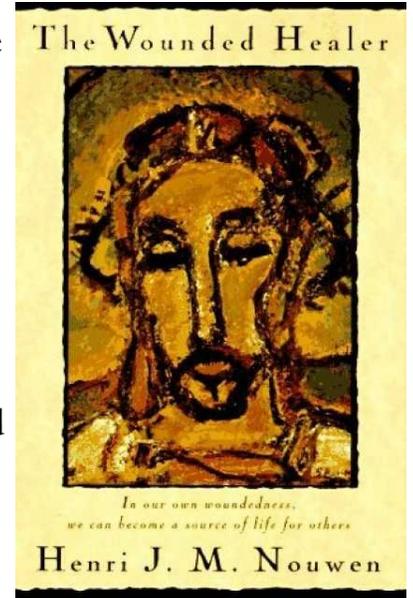
“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.”

Wounded healers

“Nobody escapes being wounded,” writes Henri Nouwen. “We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually. The main question is not ‘How can we hide our wounds?’ so we don’t have to be embarrassed, but ‘How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?’”

When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers.” He continues, “Jesus is God’s wounded healer: through his wounds we are healed. Jesus’ suffering and death brought joy and life. His humiliation brought glory; his rejection brought a community of love. As followers of Jesus, we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others.”

How might viewing Jesus as a wounded healer affect your relationship with him? What roles have wounds and healing played in your own faith life? How can you minister to other people from a place of brokenness?



MARCH

Birthdays

Jennifer Benson	3/1
Jacqueline Robert	3/9
Jake Davis	3/13
Philis Knox	3/22
Jim Bender	3/31

MARCH

Anniversaries

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

WE'LL MISS YOU!

I'm moving back to family in Iowa and bidding a fond farewell to everyone at Eastminster.

You'll be remembered as the friendliest church I've ever known.

I'm on my way rejoicing, but with a tear in my eye!

Blessings, Helen Randolph



Eastminster Session

Betty Crabtree
 Kayla Dixon
 Blair Garrett
 Kathy Kreger
 Jim Lee
 Tom Pappas
 Vicki Thiebaud
 Sean Turner
 Charlotte Turner
 Fred Watkins



Pastor	Sherry Holloman
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

February 20, 2021

At the February 20 Stated Meeting, the Session

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Christine Blair.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer regarding financial losses for January and increased expenses for fiscal 2022.
- ◆ Approved a motion from the Stewardship Committee to distribute 2022 Special Offerings as follows: One Great Hour of Sharing to be divided between the denomination and Camp Gilmont; Mother's/Father's Day offerings to be divided between Faith Presbyterian Hospice and Dallas Meals on Wheels; Christmas Joy offering to be divided between the denomination and the Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast.
- ◆ Approved the Financial Review Committee: Tony Bennett, Blair Garrett, Dick Knox, Philis Knox, Jim Lee, and Darlene West.
- ◆ Approved a motion from the House and Property Committee to repair air conditioning unit #5.
- ◆ Approved the removal of Cheryl Gonzales and Charlene Pietsch from the roll, with Thanksgiving for their lives.
- ◆ Elected Kathy Kreger (Class of 2022) to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- ◆ Approved and accepted the 2021 Eastminster Statistical Report.
- ◆ Approved dates for the Pastor's continuing education.



Special dates

- ◆ **Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022**
- ◆ **World Day of Prayer, March 4, 2022**
- ◆ **Daylight saving time begins, March 13, 2022**
- ◆ **First day of spring, March 20, 2022**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
March 27 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.	28 If you had to work today, put in a dollar and thank God you are able to work.	29 “I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” 50 cents for every drink for every drink today.	30 People are in darkness this day. Give 25 cents for every window in your home.	31 Did you eat out this week? \$1.00 for every one who ordered.	1 50 cents for each TV and radio in your home.	2 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.
April 3 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.	4 “Give us this day our daily bread...” 50¢ for every loaf of bread in your home.	5 It’s a good day today! 50 cents rain or shine. 	6 A hungry world is a dangerous world. Put in 75 cents today.	7 75 cents if you don’t have to wear glasses. 50 cents if you do. What a joy to be able to see!	8 Are your clothes nice and clean? 75 cents for your washer, and 75 cents for your dryer.	9 Trees help keep the soil in place so homes don’t wash away and people have good soil for planting. Give 10 cents for every plant in your home and every tree in your yard.
10 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.	11 Children are a blessing! \$2.00 for each one in your family.	12 A dime for each between-meal snack you had today.	13 Jesus said, “I am the door;” 25 cents for every door in your home.	14 A dime for each time you opened the refrigerator today.	15 \$1.00 if you have not been sick this month. Thank God for good health!	16 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.
April 17 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.	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.					
Offering divided between the Denomination and Camp Gilmont.			The denomination supports Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.			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.