



**WE OFTEN BELIEVE  
WE ARE THE PROBLEM**

*Good Enough*



**MEDINA**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559

[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)



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**LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG**

## “WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

*Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.*

*\*Those who are able please stand*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

MUSIC FOR GATHERING “Aria, Op. 51”- Flor Peeters

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### WELCOME

### SONG

### “Good Enough”

Marsha Moors-Charles & Chuck Bell, © 2021

*Choir sings 1<sup>st</sup> time through, congregation joins in on the repeat*

10 What in our lives do we dream a - bout for to - mor - row, void of sor - row?\_\_

24 Time spent re - grett - ing de - ci - sions of our yes - ter - days, mi - stakes we made?

16 Some - times we get what we get, life dis - ap - points us and yet, \_\_

32 God is still here and some - how, this faith is good\_\_ e - nough.

### \*CALLING ON GOD (Based on Psalm 32)

Leader: Let us pray together:

People: **Holy One, God of Forgiveness, we call out to you and you surround us with deliverance. You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves or others. Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more merciful, more grace-filled, so that we might rejoice in simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## \*OPENING HYMN

## "We're Part of the Blessing"

ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D  
Traditional Welsh melody

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, © 2016

We're part of the blessing of God's new creation;  
The world may not see it, but we know it's true.  
For God in Christ Jesus has given salvation;  
The old life is gone! God makes everything new!  
We're part of the blessing, for we are God's children.  
We're loved and forgiven! We're welcomed back home.  
And now we are called to be part of God's kingdom,  
To welcome the children God claims as his own.

A man had two sons and the younger said to him,  
"I want my inheritance now! It is mine!"  
His father divided the property with him;  
That son spent it all and was soon feeding swine.  
But then he remembered his father providing;  
He thought he would beg to go home as a slave.  
His dad saw him coming as he stood there waiting;  
He ran out to greet him and welcome and save.

We're part of the blessing of God's new creation;  
As we have been welcomed, may we share God's grace.  
There's no room for grumbling in God's gracious kingdom;  
There's no place to question God's loving embrace.  
The outcast, the sinner, the poor, struggling mother,  
The addict, the seeker, the one who is lost —  
God welcomes them home and invites them to dinner —  
God runs out to greet us through Christ and his cross.

## HONEST QUESTIONS, COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

**Leader:** Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the guilt and shame of our past failings and our present unrealistic expectations. We are invited to rejoice that each day is a new beginning, so that we might enjoy, and not dread, the life before us. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**People:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

# PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE WORD IN MUSIC "I Thought By Now" by Heather Sorenson  
Logan Yates & Colleen Rice, soloists

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-3. 11b-32 (N.T. pg. 73)

Pete Metzloff, Liturgist

At the conclusion of the reading the liturgist says, "A Word of God that is still speaking."  
We respond, "Thanks be to God."

## THOUGHTS ABOUT AN IMPERFECT LIFE AND FAITH

"We often believe we are the problem"

Rev. Luke Lindon

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### Prayer Song

### "That's Enough for Me"

Barney E. Warren, 1893; Marcia McFee, 2022

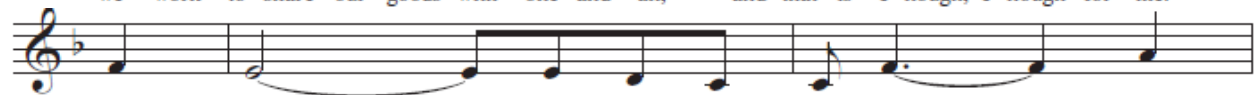
WARNER 10.10.10.9.6.6.10.7  
Daniel S. Warner, 1893; Chuck Bell, 2022



1. Though all a - long our dail - y pil - grim race our treas - ures small and ve - ry few may be,  
2. When food and rai - ment are not ev - er sure, and sim - ple fare is hard to get for some,



our souls are blest with God's un - end - ing grace, and that is e - nough, e - nough for me.  
we work to share our goods with one and all, and that is e - nough, e - nough for me.



Oh that's \_\_\_\_\_ e - nough for me, \_\_\_\_\_ God's  
Oh, that's \_\_\_\_\_ e - nough for me, \_\_\_\_\_ God's



truth \_\_\_\_\_ has set me free; \_\_\_\_\_ The love \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ has  
truth \_\_\_\_\_ has set me free; \_\_\_\_\_ A love \_\_\_\_\_ like Christ's is  
**Fine**



sanc - ti - fied my soul, And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is e - nough for \_\_\_\_\_ me.  
meant for ev - 'ry soul, And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is e - nough for \_\_\_\_\_ me.

## Joys and Concerns & Pastoral Prayer

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate by the East Room and by the tower doors if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or text-to-give by texting 73256 and following the prompts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

### Offertory Invitation

What we offer today can be medicine for our world. May our time, talent, and treasure be part of the cure for what ails us. Let us rise in body or spirit and sing our Lenten Doxology.

#### \*Doxology (Old 100<sup>th</sup>, adapted)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,  
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow, Praise Three-in-One, from here below. Amen.

#### \*Prayer after Offering

Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings—no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we plant into the produce of love. Amen.

### \*CLOSING HYMN

#### "This is a Day of New Beginnings"

BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.

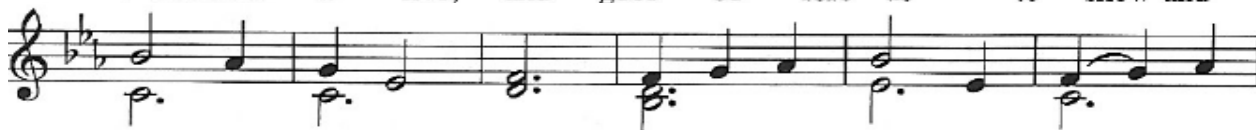
Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Carlton R. Young, 1987

*Unison*



1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -  
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y  
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the  
4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and



mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is  
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of  
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and  
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -



bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

**A BLESSING FOR BECOMING REAL** (from Good Enough by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: And now, may the God who loves all of creation,  
**People: especially the broken bits,**  
 Leader: and Jesus,  
**People: our companion along this crooked path called life,**  
 Leader: and the Holy Spirit,  
**People: who loves to improvise in surprising ways,**  
 Leader: go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy.  
**People: Amen.**

**\*CHORAL REPRISE**

**\*POSTLUDE** "Chorus in C minor" – George Blake Cathy Fafrak, Organist  
 \*\*\*\*\*

As you leave church today, stop by the White Board in the Welcome Area  
 and contribute to this prompt posted for this week of Lent:

*Share your ideas and images of a daily occurrence that turns out to be...*



**“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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“A Blessing for Becoming Real” from Good Enough: 40’ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book at [www.katebowler.com/goodenough](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough)

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MARCH 27, 2022

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

March 27, 2022 thru April 3, 2022

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING</b> 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Traditional Worship 11:45 am Caring Team 1:00 pm Cleveland Celtic Ensemble 3:00 pm Confirmation Class w/mentors
<b>Mon</b>	<b>1:00 pm Bible Encounter CANCELLED</b> 1:00 pm Breadmakers <b>7:00 pm Bible Encounter CANCELLED</b>
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm Bible Study
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal <b>7:00 pm “Good Enough” Lenten Book Discussion CANCELLED</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	1:00 pm Terry Schuster Memorial Service

**Sat**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir rehearsal 9:30 am 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grades Bible Class 10:30 am Traditional Worship 4:30 pm Youth Group
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### ENCOUNTER – BIBLE STUDY

Please join us as we read through the Sacred Stories. Mondays at 1pm and 7pm. **Note: we will not meet on 3/28 or 4/4.**

### Worship Highlights: 8:15 am, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon: “We Often Believe We Are the Problem”  
Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Carole Fawcett in honor of her parents, George and Lillian Fawcett.

### PASTOR LUKE’S SCHEDULE

Pastor Luke will be out of the office from Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> through Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING TODAY!



One Great Hour of Sharing is a UCC Church Wider Mission that can help those in need

and change the trajectory of their lives! When a tragedy strikes the Wider Church Ministries comes in with resources, educated staff, and volunteers to help shelter, calm, uplift, and guide them through devastating times. Immediate help is given along with long term guidance. They get assistance to help them recover from a natural disaster or relocation. Through our monetary donations, low income families, in deprived areas, are educated and given opportunities to create income for their family to prosper. If you are so moved, please donate on March 27<sup>th</sup> to help change the trajectory of someone’s life.

## EASTER LILIES

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It's time to order your Easter Lily! You may donate a lily in honor or memory of someone to decorate the Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Easter and claim it afterward, or have it delivered to a shut-in by the Flower Committee. The cost is \$10.00. Deadline for ordering is **April 4<sup>th</sup>**. Please fill out a yellow lily order sheet (available from the ushers) and turn it in to the church office OR you can purchase directly through REALM. [Click Here](#) for REALM.

## EASTER BAG OUTREACH

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The Easter Bag ministry has begun! Please stop by the table just outside of the sanctuary to choose one or more kids to fill Easter Bags for, to sign up to deliver the bags, or both! The bags usually are claimed quickly so be sure to get one today! More information and directions are available at the Easter table. Thank you for making this a successful ministry for over a decade!

## THE BIG BIBLE BUY CONTINUES... We are ½ way to our goal!

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The Endowment Fund, Worship Team and Caring Team initiative to replace the Bibles in the pews continues. **Our goal is to sponsor 200 bibles! We are currently at 97! Thank you to all of you who have sponsored a bible!** We are seeking a \$25.00 donation for each bible. \$5.00 of that amount will be allocated to the Endowment Fund. **If you would like to make your donation in honor of someone and have the names printed in the front of the bible you may do that** by filling in the sign-up sheet in the East Room hallway or sign up and [pay through REALM here](#).

## LITURGIST SIGN-UP

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Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during April, May and June at the 10:30 Sanctuary service.

## TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

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Interested in the book of Genesis? Learn surprising things you may not know in the Tuesday Night 7:00 pm Bible Study class. We are currently halfway through Genesis but welcome more participants! We meet in the new library.

## NEW MEN'S GROUP

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All men are invited to join in a new men's group facilitated by Chuck Rihm, one of our new members from last fall. He will be utilizing the "Way of Council".

*The Way of Council* is a communal contemplative practice that fosters a heart-centered way of listening, speaking and being with others. The practice opens a deeper and more meaningful way of communicating and fosters compassion and empathy for other men's experiences. Men can speak without being judged or shamed; speak about their emotions and be emotional; forge real and authentic relationships with other men; and share the real challenges of the different roles we have in life: husband/partner, father, grandfather, brother, provider, businessman, mentor, and apprentice.

**We will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month from 4:30 – 6:00 PM in the new library** while the Youth Group is in session. **We will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Please consider joining us to journey from your head to your heart and deepen your brotherhood with your fellow congregants. Questions? Contact Chuck at 440-503-8021 or [rihm@compuserve.com](mailto:rihm@compuserve.com)

## LAWN MOWING PEOPLE NEEDED

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The church's grass cutting team is looking for a few more volunteers to cut and trim the church grounds. We have a nice John Deere riding mower, a self-propelled walk behind mower, and a battery-operated string trimmer. We develop a schedule together with all of the volunteers with the goal of having the grass cut for the weekends (weather dependent!) You can volunteer to just use the riding mower or the push mower, or you can do both. The more volunteers we have the less often we all have to cut, and we trade weeks if we can't cut on our assigned week. Please consider joining our group. It's a great way to give back and get some fresh air and exercise. Contact Carl Skorepa @ 330-421-3189 or John Sandora @ 330-283-6524 with any questions.



## PASTOR'S CORNER

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Hey my Good Enough Friends,

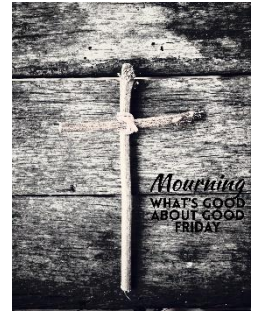
With Holy Week soon upon us, our **Encounter Group** will not be meeting as regularly. The final days before we break for the summer will be April 11 & 25, and then May 2, 9 & 16. It has been really fun encountering you and our discussion around the Letter of James.



### Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday** will be in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and will be livestreamed. In our worship this evening commemorating the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples, we see a supper in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what “blessing” really means, *regardless*.

**Good Friday** will be held in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup> and will also be livestreamed. What’s so Good about Good Friday? Well, what if even our lousiest days could be experienced as a holy observance of the reality that this IS life? Perhaps the “good news” in the midst of devastation is that God is buried with us in our deepest pain, wrapping us, holding us until we can move through that birth canal once again into renewed life.



*A Good Enough Faith*  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - CONGREGATIONAL

And then **Easter Sunday!** We'll have our 4 services! The sunrise at Spring Grove Chapel at 7 a.m.. Then our 8:15, 9 and 10:30 celebrations! We'll have the parade of the flowering cross and a few more surprises for this day as we wrap up our series Good Enough.

Our series following Easter will be “**Faces of Jesus**” where we will explore our image of Christ, the ancient church creeds, and why they matter. This series will run April 24<sup>th</sup> until our Annual Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, which will be one service at 10 a.m.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Luke

## OPERATION HOMES

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... is looking for some help from our Church! Operation Homes is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the homeless of Medina County by providing food and shelter. Local churches are providing individual meals to those in the program. Our Church was asked to provide meals April 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>! You will be asked to provide a meal for several clients on one of these days and drop the food off. More details will be provided when you reach out. This is a great way to give back this Lenten season! If you would like to help please contact Maureen Walker at 330-321-1192 or at [rini72@zoominternet.net](mailto:rini72@zoominternet.net).

# HELP FOR UKRAINE

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Many have asked if there is a way in addition to our prayers that we may be of aid to those who are suffering in Ukraine. The answer to that question is “yes”! The Heartland Conference S.A.R.A. (Sharing America’s Resources Abroad) partnership will serve as a conduit for aid to partners in Ukraine who are suffering a result of the war. Daily, our partners are bringing food and water relief to displaced Ukrainians in Transcarpathia. Those wishing to make a donation may do so by clicking the link below. Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time. <http://tinyurl.com/HeartlandSARA>

## Help for Ukraine: What is S.A.R.A.?

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SARA (Sharing America’s Resources Abroad) is a non-profit organization incorporated in Ohio. It is an ecumenical ministry affiliated with the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ. SARA distributes medical supplies, equipment and expertise throughout the world. SARA believes that by helping people to help themselves, and by giving them a boost towards self-sufficiency, the world will become a better place.

Resources to accomplish SARA’s mission come from volunteer participation and charitable donations provided by health-care providers, religious organizations, businesses, not-for-profit corporations and concerned individuals. SARA is particularly interested in working with other not-for-profit organizations who are seeking to serve others in the same way.

Donations can be made here: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32) or by mailing checks made out to the Heartland Conference with “S.A.R.A. Ukraine Emergency Fund” in the memo line to: **The Heartland Conference UCC**, PO Box 1230, Worthington, OH 43085

For more information, please check out: <https://heartlanducc.org/global-partners/>

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**The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday’s *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am**  
**Please submit articles to the church office at [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

### *PASTORAL STAFF*

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – email: [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

### *OFFICE STAFF*

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - email: [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

### *PROGRAM STAFF*

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)  
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – [nicole@uccmedina.org](mailto:nicole@uccmedina.org)  
Jim Kiser, Director of Music – [jim@uccmedina.org](mailto:jim@uccmedina.org)  
Cathy Fafarak, Organist – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)  
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor  
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)  
Sharon Perry, Custodian



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March 27, 2022  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
*One Great Hour of Sharing*

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Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### **Embracing Love**

Even if you don't know much else from the Bible, it's likely that you have heard the story of the prodigal son. A young man leaves his comfortable family home with his ill-gotten inheritance, only to squander what he has been given on fast living. When he returns to beg forgiveness, he is received with jealous skepticism by his brother and with abundant love by his father.

We usually are invited to hear this story from the point of view of either the careless and morally bankrupt youngest son or the hardworking and resentful eldest. In either reading, we are in need of forgiveness and transformation. Yet, it can sometimes be helpful to place ourselves in this story from another perspective - that of the forgiving father. In so doing, we can see ourselves not merely as those in need of redemption like the two sons, but also as those who are able to offer what is needed for another.

If we are able to shift our point of view in this way, recognizing that sometimes we are the prodigal, sometimes the eldest and sometimes the parent, we begin to see giving and receiving not merely as a one-way street, but as a circle of care, respect and love, in which sometimes we all have need, and sometimes we all can give.

This circle is nowhere more strongly demonstrated than in our yearly One Great Hour of Sharing offering. When you give, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is able to help families around the world become stronger, healthier and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes that would otherwise leave them destitute and hopeless. And, you do not know when you will be in need of help yourself. Please consider your gift to OGHS this morning as part of the circle of giving and receiving and giving again and then receiving again - the circle into which we have all been invited as people of faith.

Whether you want to give others a "new normal" in their lives after disaster strikes or provide care to new mothers and children with high mortality rates, or give refugees a place to call home, the OGHS offering can help you to help. From the Philippines to Fiji, from western Africa to Haiti, from Japan to more than thirty states that have been struck with hurricanes, fires, flood and illness, OGHS has stepped in as part of the circle of care.

You can give today through your church or online: <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-church's-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>