



Spotlight on One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing, taken every year during Lent and Easter, has been helping neighbors around the world for over 75 years. It is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another by uniting with congregations in every corner of the Church and with partners all over the world. Here are just two stories of impact from this special yearly project of generosity.

Mama Nyayier (nya-eer) knows that the casualties of war are not only those on the front lines. Those who remain behind also fight for survival. As a girl in South Sudan, Mama Nyayier had a good life until civil war broke out in 2013, exposing her to unimaginable horrors. Countless lives were lost to the armed conflict, including her father and nearly all of her nine siblings. Everywhere across the fledgling nation, farms, homes and livelihoods were being destroyed, while abductions, detentions and gender-based violence were everyday occurrences. Added to that, an unrelenting onslaught of natural disasters followed, causing the United Nations to declare famine in parts of South Sudan, with 100,000 people experiencing starvation and another million on the brink of death. Millions of desperate residents were displaced from their homes and fled to internal settlements and refugee camps in neighboring countries.

As Mama Nyayier and her family fell deeper into desperation and hopelessness, “hope” reentered their lives in the form of Hope Restoration South Sudan, founded by Angelina Nyajima Simon Jial — herself a former refugee who lived in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. Hope Restoration is a nationally registered, women-founded and women-led nongovernmental organization that is a partner of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The PC(USA) partnered with Hope Restoration to help vulnerable communities improve food security and empower women and girls through farming. For the past several years, the denomination has also provided additional funding to assist in the work of disaster relief and recovery. Financial support from the PC(USA) comes primarily through generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, which furthers the mission to alleviate hunger and bring restoration to the people of South Sudan. Mama Nyayier considers herself “lucky” to be among the women who were identified and registered to benefit from an agricultural project supported through Hope Restoration’s partnership with the PC(USA).

She said, “I am grateful to the kindhearted people supporting us through the PC(USA) and Hope Restoration for giving me a second chance to a relatively normal life. Because of your kind hearts for humanity, my children have a chance to a future and a better life.”

(continued on page 3)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Alessio April 12
Eleanor Lawrence April 28



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Cheryl Hunt April 2
Bob & Eleanor Lawrence April 2



MAY WINDOW

The deadline for submission of articles for the May 2026 Window is **April 17th.**



Coffee hour and Potluck Schedule (set up, clean up)

Hospitality after Worship fellowship schedule

April 5: Tola Eley
April 12: Jane Snoop
April 19: Sylvia or Carol
April 26: Carol or Cheryl

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 5 - Bill Alessio
April 12 - Gail Herron
April 19 - Gretchen Loudon
April 26 - Kimberlee Roider

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

April 5 - Tola Eley
April 12 - Yeji Cha
April 19 - Cynthia Allison
April 26 - Kimberlee Roider

APRIL POTLUCK

Sunday Brunch Day! (April 12)

We will have a fun Spring Brunch potluck. Ideas could include fruit, egg casseroles, quiche, bread pudding, cinnamon rolls, sausage, bacon, etc. Brunch: like breakfast, but better! So plan now to share something yummy with your church family.



Scholarship is due on May 1st!

Your **entire application** must be turned in together. Late applications will not be accepted. You may submit your completed application in 2 ways:

Mail to: First Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
31 E. Vine St.
Stockton, CA 95202

E-mail to: office@fpcstockton.org
Subject Line: Scholarship



Thank you to everyone who has donated books and Bibles to our **Little Free Library.**

If you are looking for a book to read, be sure to check out our library in the Geneva Room. Feel free to borrow a book to enjoy! We appreciate your support!

Second Sunday Potluck

SPRING BRUNCH

APRIL 12

ALL ARE INVITED TO BRING A FAVORITE SWEET OR SAVORY BRUNCH DISH. A SIGN UP FORM WILL BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BRING AND GET IDEAS!





When Chanda Williams and nine young adults from the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, New Jersey, reached hurricane-impacted Western North Carolina last May, neither she — nor they — knew what to expect. Least of all, how deeply their hearts would be broken by the devastation they witnessed — yet simultaneously uplifted by the region’s resilience.

When Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida in September 2024, the catastrophic storm created a path of destruction through the southeastern United States and southern Appalachian Mountains, leaving residents who survived the unprecedented storm completely overwhelmed. After the hurricane hit, the basic infrastructure was down, with no water in Asheville for 53 days and no power in many locations. With assistance from local organizations and national staff in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s disaster recovery ministry, host sites were up and running by spring 2025. Chandra and the young adult volunteers from New Jersey helped in the recovery efforts based at the host site at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Asheville. Helping to restore and rebuild lives and damaged homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene was made possible with financial support from the PC(USA), primarily thanks to Presbyterians’ generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

One of the group’s young adults placed at the New Hope Church site, Helena, captured their amazing experience. She shared, “I could say a lot about my time in North Carolina, from the amazing hospitality to the beautiful people we met along the way. To me, this experience was not just using our hands. We got to use our hearts. And through the heartbreaking stories and the peace and hope that came with them, I can say I was truly changed, and my faith was renewed in this experience. People worked with us, ate with us, and shared their lives with us, the good and the bad. That is the part that impacted me the most.”

Palm Sunday/Transgender Day of Visibility



**April Calendar:
Important Dates to remember**

**Every Monday Prayer Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
Every Thursday Bible Study at 10am in Geneva Rm.**

April 8 - Food Pantry - 2pm-3pm

April 12 - Spring Brunch Potluck right after church service

April 13 - Spiritual Growth - 4pm on Zoom

April 14 - Presbyterian Women' Bible Study - 12:30pm

April 15 - FB&G Meeting - 9:30am

April 16 - Book Club - 2pm

April 19 - Worship Assistants Meeting, after worship

April 20 - Session Meeting at 9:30am

April 22 - Food Pantry

Worship Assitant Meeting

April 19th After Worship

If you are currently a worship assistant (reader) for Sunday morning services or are interested in becoming one, please join us! We would love to give you a small gift to show our thanks, and will also go over any questions and work on the schedule for the next few months.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKTON FOOD PANTRY

Emergency Need!

Our Food Pantry serves 90-100 families every two weeks, providing a lifeline to our community. Recently there was a lapse in supply from our food sources and we had to use up most of our emergency food reserves. Can you or a community group you are involved with help us restock our shelves with these staples?

Canned Items - beans, meals (ravioli, chili, etc), meat/fish, fruits, veggies

Other Items - pasta, rice (1-2 lb bags), peanut butter, cookies

Donations can be dropped off in the office Monday-Thursday 9am-12pm, or by appointment. We are also always looking for volunteers for our distributions on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays!

Please email pastorashley@fpcstockton.org with any questions.



First Presbyterian Church is committed to loving and serving all people, Including those from diverse generations, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and life experiences. Whatever your story, you are welcomed by Jesus Christ And by his church family.