



September 1, 2018

Dear Fellow ARP Member,

Once again it's the time of year when we have the opportunity to educate our congregations about what our denomination is doing by way of orphan care! James 1:27 states that, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

It is with joy that we invite you to join us in celebrating **Orphan Sunday** on **November 11, 2018** by providing a simple presentation to your congregation on the ministry the ARP Church has to orphans through the Dunlap Foundation.

In this package, we have provided all you need for an event packed full of wonderful information. So, bring your covered dish, pull up a chair, and let the great conversation begin on how we have, are, and will walk beside orphans to love them in their distress.

If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to call me at (863) 582-5571 or email me at KCFish223@aol.com.

Blessings,

Kristin Shoger
On behalf of the Dunlap Board

How to Begin

Set the Date for November 11th!

Orphan Sunday is November 11, 2018. Beginning in September, we would love for you to gather together a small group of people within your congregation who are passionate about Orphan Care. Once the committee is formed, decide what type of program you will have. Will you hold a covered dish after church, followed by a 30 minute presentation? Will you use the Sunday School hour and gather all the adult classes together, serving coffee and donuts? Will Sunday evening services be focused on Orphan Care in the ARP Church, perhaps having a presentation that evening followed by a time of prayer? Make the day tailored to your church and its needs. Every church is different and will have its own unique spin on Orphan Sunday. Make this a day your church will enjoy, remember, and go forth excited about Orphan Care!

Advertise

Make sure that everyone in your church is aware of your exciting plans for Orphan Sunday! Put the date on your church calendar, your church website, in the bulletin (for at least a month in advance), and on your church Facebook page. Also, have your pastor announce plans from the pulpit and ask him to start praying for Orphan Sunday 2 to 3 weeks in advance. You could even decorate a bulletin board in your Sunday School building, if you feel especially ambitious!

The official website for Orphan Sunday has fabulous resources, including printable bulletin inserts and posters to hang around your church. Visit <https://cafo.org/orphansunday/resources/> to learn more.

orphan
sunday
ONE DAY. ONE VOICE. ONE PURPOSE.
NOV 11
2018
orphansunday.org



The Presentation

Video introducing Orphan Sunday

Every presentation needs to start with something that “hooks” the audience. One of the best ways to grab someone’s attention is by showing them a video of interest. The official Orphan Sunday website has several videos especially designed to get your presentation off to a great start. Follow this link to find the videos and choose one that you feel will “hit home” with your congregation: <https://cafo.org/orphansunday/resources/>.

What is the Dunlap Foundation?

The history of the Dunlap Foundation is unknown to most people in the ARP denomination, unless they have been around for a long time. Take a few minutes to educate your congregation about the ARP Church’s rich history of “caring for orphans in their distress.” A full history can be found on the new Dunlap website at www.dunlaporphanage.com/history. We would encourage you to read the full story so that you are well informed. Then, give your congregation a brief synopsis so that they are able to see the “big picture” of how our denomination has cared for orphans, first through opening and supporting an orphanage and later through philanthropic grant giving.



What is the ARP Church doing for orphans today?

The Dunlap Board has chosen four organizations that they support every year: Collins Home for Children, French Camp Academy, Palmer Home, and Mabel Lowry Pressly Girls' Hostel. Take a few minutes to tell your congregation about these organizations. Included on our website (www.dunlaporphanage.com) are wonderful videos about two of the organizations we support, French Camp and Palmer Home. Show one or both of these brief videos so the congregation has the opportunity to get a small glimpse into the lives of children living within these homes. Don't forget to take a look at the websites for each of the homes before you do your presentation so that you can become more familiar with the mission and the beautiful work being done in each of these organizations. The Board also awards \$20,000 to Erskine College each year to fund scholarships for students who have lost one or both of their parents.

In addition to the ongoing projects listed above, the Board chooses several organizations to support each year through grants. This year we have awarded grants to Calvary Home, Hope for the Fatherless, and Reach the Children of Rwanda International. Each of these organizations is doing valuable work for orphans. Their projects are both international and domestic, are aimed at children from the newborn stage through adulthood. We feel we are reaching a wide range of needs through supporting these endeavors and are proud of the beautiful ministry taking place in each program.

Finally, apart from the grants given by the board and made possible through the Dunlap endowment, the board supervises two other funds: the Adoption Assistance Fund and the Jim Barker Scholarship Fund. The Adoption Assistance Fund financially assists ARP pastors, elders, and members in good standing who are in the process of adoption. The Jim Barker Scholarship Fund was begun in memory of the Reverend Jim Barker who served faithfully on the Dunlap Board from 2008-2013 and was a long-time ARP Pastor. This scholarship will go to Erskine students who have lost one or both parents and exhibit leadership qualities.

What can be done in the future?

During the last portion of your presentation, take time to encourage your fellow congregants in ways they can come alongside the fatherless. Here are just a few ways they can help:

Pray - All of us, every single one, needs to be praying for children around the world, born and unborn, who are currently orphans. Search Scripture for passages about orphans, meditate on these and ask the Lord to give you understanding about His desire for you in regard to the fatherless. Learn about specific groups and organizations in your area who are ministering to orphans and then pray for them. Make a list of families you know who have adopted in the past or are currently in the adoption process as well as families who provide foster care. Pray diligently for these families. Lift your prayers to the Lord and plead with Him on behalf of those in need!

Give - There are often people who desperately want to help orphans but age, family circumstances, or lack of calling prevents them from adopting or fostering children. However, they may be in a financial position to lend a helping hand through monetary donations. The Dunlap Board welcomes any and all financial gifts, whether they are designated for the Adoption Assistance Fund, the Jim Barker Scholarship Fund, or the general Dunlap Fund. Small or large, every donation has an impact on bettering the life of a child. To give, go to www.dunlaporphange.com/donate and click on the "Give Now" button.

Another option would be to sponsor a student gaining their education at ARP Christian School in Pakistan and living at the Mabel Lowry Pressly Hostel. If interested, visit <http://www.arpchoolspak.org/sponsorship/> for more information.

Act - Is God calling you to adopt? Perhaps He's calling you to foster a child or babysit for a family who has recently adopted so that Mom and Dad might go out on a date. Maybe you are called to donate clothes to a family who recently had a foster child placed in their home or you feel led to spend time with the siblings of a newly adopted child so that they get some much needed one on one time. There are so many ways to help an orphan. Pray and ask the Lord to show you where you can lend a hand and then ACT upon the calling that He gives you. The time is now. It's time to say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

We'd love to see how your Orphan Sunday went! Take pictures and post on Instagram or Facebook and add #arporphansunday!