



OPMH invites you to participate in
**Bread for the World's
2016 Offering of Letters:
Survive and Thrive**

Write with your fellow members on Service Sunday, June 5,
or drop off your letters in the church office during the month of May.

Many members of OPMH are actively involved in the fight against hunger and poverty through various mission partners/activities (Open Table, Bag Lunch, Meals on Wheels, dinners at Christ House and Carpenter's Shelter, the ALIVE! Food pantry, Family-to-Family, etc.). Once a year, we add an advocacy dimension to that effort by writing to our representatives in Congress as part of **Bread for the World's** annual **Offering of Letters**.

From the **Bread** website (<http://www.bread.org/offering-letters>):

What is the Offering of Letters?

Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters campaign engages churches, campuses, and other faith communities in writing letters to Congress. Each year, for the focus of the campaign, we choose specific legislation or a legislative emphasis that can make a real difference to people struggling with hunger and poverty.

People write letters, usually as a group, and present them as an offering to God before mailing them [Note: we will hand-deliver them instead of mailing them] to Congress. Hundreds of Offerings of Letters are held each year, resulting in tens of thousands of letters to Congress. Supported with prayer, these letters are a bold witness to God's justice and mercy. They have, and continue to have, a significant impact on the decisions made in Congress.

...

Act Now

Bread for the World wants Congress to increase funding for the nutrition and health of mothers, newborns, and young children. In 2015, funding for nutrition in the global health account was \$115 million — a slight increase from previous years.

Bread and its partners believe a funding level of \$230 million for nutrition programs is needed for 2016.

Increasing U.S. investment in global maternal and child nutrition is central to successful development and helps improve the potential of millions of people.

A sample letter is provided below. (You're encouraged to add a brief, personal message – and a "thank you" is always a good idea!) While differing versions of the **Global Food Security Act** have now passed in the House and the Senate, the **appropriation amount** will be the most important issue to be settled when the bills are reconciled and a final bill goes to the President. Stay informed through the Bread **blog** (<http://www.bread.org/blog>), **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/breadfortheworld>), and **Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/bread4theworld>).

We will be holding a group letter-writing session as part of Service Sunday (June 5). However, **during the month of May, you can also drop off your letters in a basket in the church office.** All the letters will be collected and hand-delivered (**NO STAMPS!**) to Bread's office in DC on June 6 in time for their June 7 Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.

For your convenience, here are the names and Capitol Hill addresses of Northern Virginia's Representatives and our two Senators. Remember: the letters will be hand-delivered to Capitol Hill, so **NO STAMPS ARE NEEDED!** (Please include Room #'s and Building, and your own return address so you are quickly identified as a constituent.)

Representatives:

District	Name	Party	Room	Phone	Contact
8	Beyer, Don	D	431 CHOB	202-225-4376	http://beyer.house.gov/contact/
10	Comstock, Barbara	R	226 CHOB	202-225-5136	https://comstockforms.house.gov/contact/
11	Connolly, Gerald E. "Gerry"	D	2238 RHOB	202-225-1492	https://connolly.house.gov/contact-gerry/

Senators:

[Kaine, Tim](#) - (D - VA)

231 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4024

Contact: www.kaine.senate.gov/contact

[Warner, Mark R.](#) - (D - VA)

475 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-2023

Contact: www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Contact

Latest sample letter (<http://www.bread.org/library/2016-offering-letters-sample-letter-congress>)

(It's a good idea to Include a brief, personal message that shows your passion for the fight against hunger and poverty.)

[Date]

Dear Senator _____, or Dear Rep. _____,

Our country has led the way in improving the nutrition and health of mothers and children so they can achieve their full potential. We have seen tremendous progress, but our work remains unfinished. My faith calls me to urge that we continue until every mother and child has the chance to survive and thrive. Every life is precious.

As Congress considers funding for next year, I ask you to support at least \$230 million for international maternal and child nutrition programs in the Department of State appropriations bill's foreign operations global health account.

Sincerely,

[your name]
[your address]
[city, state, ZIP]

***It's important to include your zip code so that the Representative's staff knows you're a constituent.**

Ways to stay connected with **Bread for the World**, now and all year long!

Bread for the World: <http://www.bread.org>

Offering of Letters 2016: <http://www.bread.org/offering-letters>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/breadfortheworld>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bread4theworld>

Blog: <http://www.bread.org/blog>