

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Connect.





WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER

Being Presbyterian means being together. Connections made through worship, service and shared discernment continue strengthening our life together, even by new methods and even during times that stretch and challenge us. We are the Church because we are together, and that has rarely felt as important as it does right now.

The Special Offerings and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog connect the prayers and efforts of Presbyterians from every corner of the nation and with people all over the world.

In this Action Kit, you will find lots of information about the mission and purpose of Special Offerings, as well as inspiring ideas from congregations around the country. Included are resources available to help you promote the Offerings, and new ideas for engaging youth and how to connect with our team for support.

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER ... *Let's Build God's House*

Please keep this Action Kit on hand to guide your faithful giving efforts for the entire year.

Questions?

Call 800-728-7228, ext. 5047
Email special.offerings@pcusa.org
Online at specialofferings.pcusa.org

Congregations:

(Please remit through your normal receiving agency, usually the presbytery, or) Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Need printed materials or an update to your standing order?

Contact Customer Service:
Call 800-533-4371
Email customer_service@presbypub.com



THANK YOU, GOD, FOR CONNECTING US.

“You are not alone.”

How often has this been the best we had to offer a friend, or neighbor, or loved one, when they found themselves in need?

And how often has it been the *exact prayer* we have needed someone to share with us?

YOU are not alone. *WE* are not alone.

In Jesus, we claim that God connects with us in a new way, and connects us, *together*, in new ways. Divisions, separations and disconnection are ended. The Holy Spirit continues to breathe among us, drawing us together, as we are different from one another, and makes us one body, even now, we say.

Special Offerings connect us because God has already connected us. “We are not alone” is woven into the story of ministries and congregations joining together and joining with people engaged in offerings of compassion, education, poverty alleviation, disaster relief, community development, peacemaking and witness, just to name a few. We connect as neighbors, siblings and friends, all around the Church and world to work in common cause, and with respect to each person who bears God’s image.

WE are not alone.

This is our prayer. This is our proclamation. This is our gift.

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Thank you for your continued prayers and support through Special Offerings.

With you,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosemary C. Mitchell".

Rosemary Mitchell
Senior Director
Mission Engagement and Support



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryce Wiebe".

Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings and
the Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Getting Started

WE ARE JOYFUL PARTNERS IN MINISTRY!

If your congregation is like most others, you have felt and seen need in ways that were once unimaginable. As you journey through this year with your congregation, responding to the needs around you and that God places upon your hearts, the Special Offerings serve as a faithful reminder of God's grace and love that is so powerfully shown through the Church as it acts across your neighborhood, all over our country and around the world.

And we are here to partner with you! Your local ministry is just as vital to the Church as any other program or ministry, and so we work hard to provide the resources, connections and opportunities that will help your community learn about and participate in the Offerings.

Our step-by-step guide can be found at specialofferings.pcusa.org/get-started.

CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF!

Your community isn't likely going to be able to use or benefit from every single resource we provide, but that's where we come in! Behind the sea of printed materials, collections of children's activities, decades of topical Bible studies and hours of video footage, there is an outstanding team eager to help!



Margaret Hall Boone

If it's been printed for an Offering in the last three decades, I likely helped make it (and I definitely have record of it!). Want to see something new in print? Let us know!

Project Manager,
Special Offerings
502-569-5183
margaret.boone@pcusa.org



Teresa Mader

We have great resources for leaders and educators wanting to connect Offerings gifts with their impact through mission! We're happy to share lessons and activities with you.

Project Manager,
Presbyterian Giving Catalog
502-569-5026
teresa.mader@pcusa.org

ASK US QUESTIONS!

- Request something unique.
- Share your congregation's story of serving those who have the least.
- Need ideas for ways to distribute your congregation's retained portion of an Offering?
- Want to listen in on our Lenten Bible study?

Our work is to serve leaders within the Church, like you, so that as your congregation works to bear the love, justice and mercy of Christ to the world, you will be equipped to lead and enriched by the experience.

YOU CAN ALSO REACH US AT

800-728-7228, ext. 5047,
special.offerings@pcusa.org

SHARE YOUR STORIES!

See page 22 for a complete list of our social media outlets.



Lauren Rogers

Have you “gone digital” or stepped up your game on social media? So have we! Follow our accounts for inspirational messages, timely reminders, engaging ideas and more! I’m also here to help you with your online giving campaigns. Trust me, it’s easier than you think!

Project Manager,
Digital Fundraising
502-569-5069

lauren.rogers@pcusa.org



Deidra May

We love to hear how your congregation interacts with the Special Offerings! Share with us so we can share with the wider Church! Because we are the Church, together.

Mission Specialist,
Midwest & West Regions
502-569-5187

deidra.may@pcusa.org



Melanie Roney

We want you to be as excited and informed about the Offerings as possible, so if you have any questions, please let us know. We are happy to provide — or find — any information you might need!

Mission Specialist,
South-Central & East Regions
502-569-5742

melanie.roney@pcusa.org



WE GO
FOUR
FOR
FOUR

FOUR FOR FOUR

The four Special Offerings bring the whole Church together and place us in partnership with those who have the least. Together, the Offerings open communities of faith to respond to God’s call to act boldly and compassionately with those in need, alongside the oppressed and for the sake of Christ’s Church.

Four for Four congregations receive each of the Special Offerings:

- ✧ One Great Hour of Sharing
- ✧ Pentecost
- ✧ Peace & Global Witness
- ✧ Christmas Joy

LET’S BE
THE CHURCH.
TOGETHER.
*Let’s go Four
for Four.*

WHY BE FOUR FOR FOUR?

- Responding in faithfulness to God’s call
- Nourishing the Relationship with the Body of Christ
- Trusting 300 years of Life-Changing Ministry
- Faithful Stewardship of our time and money in service to God
- Deep Commitment to Share the Gospel with the World through the Church
- Out of Gratefulness for God’s Generosity to Us

MATTHEW 25 AND SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us; to connect with those who have the least.

Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness, and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. Through our gifts— we connect.

I WAS HUNGRY
AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD.
I WAS THIRSTY
AND YOU GAVE ME
SOMETHING TO DRINK.
I WAS A STRANGER
AND YOU WELCOMED ME.
I WAS NAKED AND
YOU GAVE ME CLOTHING.
I WAS SICK AND
YOU TOOK CARE OF ME.
I WAS IN PRISON
AND YOU VISITED ME.

Matthew 25:31-46



The four Special Offerings—
One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost,
Peace & Global Witness and Christmas
Joy—unite us in mission as we share God’s
love, peace and generosity with those in
greatest need in our local communities,
across our nation and around the world!

**Join us in creating a Church where the
love, justice and mercy of Christ is evident.**



*Church members worship at The Park four times
a week with the homeless. Food is provided by
church members.*



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD WITH THE SUFFERING AND VULNERABLE

SEASON OF LENT

March 2–April 17, 2022

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:



REBUILDING HOPE — PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

32%

Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.



GROWING FOOD SECURITY — PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

36%

Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.



PARTNERING IN PROGRESS — SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

32%

Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Dandridge, Tennessee, recently celebrated its 236th year in ministry. While that’s a history to be proud of — Hopewell is one of the oldest churches in the Volunteer State — the church’s pastor, the Rev. Brad Napier, shares that the congregation of 88 members also take pride in its consistent history of giving, especially through Special Offerings. Even during the long pandemic, the church actually saw increased giving and membership growth.



Rev. Brad Napier

“The need is very great,” Napier said, “and we want to do our part as God’s people in the community at this time.”

“We have tried to anticipate the needs that are out there,” Napier said. “It’s the narrative of the body of Christ and the people around the world and close to home.”

The world’s problems may seem far away, “but they aren’t,” Napier said. “These are our brothers and sisters in Christ.”



Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Dandridge TN

Important Dates and Resources

(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)

NOVEMBER:

Watch for your One Great Hour of Sharing standing order confirmation. Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this Offering in your church.

JANUARY:

One Great Hour of Sharing resources arrive. If necessary, order supplementary resources by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371.

FEBRUARY:

Ensure you have all the promotional materials you need.

Visit pcusa.org/oghs for additional resources.

MARCH-APRIL:

Promote One Great Hour of Sharing during the Season of Lent. Send a letter with an OGHS brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household.

APRIL:

Receive the Offering and thank your congregation for their generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Remit your congregation’s gifts through your normal receiving agency (usually the presbytery). Not sure? Call us at 800-728-7228, ext 5047.

To learn more,
go to pcusa.org/oghs



**PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

SEASON OF PENTECOST

April 18–June 5, 2022

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.



**SUPPORTING
YOUTH IN YOUR
OWN CHURCH**

40%

The majority of this offering stays with individual congregations to develop and support programs for young people in their own church and community.



**YOUNG
ADULT
VOLUNTEERS**

25%

Serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.



**GUIDING
YOUTH**

25%

Supporting ministries like this year's Presbyterian Youth Triennium that inspire and guide youth as they grow and walk with Christ.



**ADVOCATING
FOR CHILDREN
AT RISK**

10%

Providing advocacy that protects and education that nurtures our children and youth.

When your congregation is committed to supporting young people, sometimes having fewer children and youth in Sunday school and youth group is just a reason to cross a busy street. First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, California, crossed that street — D Street, specifically — and established a two-way connection perhaps neither fully expected.

Several years ago, the Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice and members of the congregation worked with the school and a consultant to discover ways they might better support young people beyond their doors.

“There’s no such thing as other people’s kids,” Sandy shared, and so the Life Skills program began offering academic coaching, opportunities to volunteer, field trips and, of course, food. In the years since, the congregation has sought to provide space to talk about anything in a safe setting. Over 100 students have taken part.

Since the Pentecost Offering began in 1998, it has been part of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino’s commitment to support the development and education of children, youth and young adults; and through their contributions, they’ve seen just how much generosity compounds and extends.



San Bernardino CA Life Skills Group

Important Dates and Resources

(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)

FEBRUARY:

Watch for your Pentecost Offering standing order confirmation. Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this Offering in your church.

MARCH:

Pentecost Offering resources arrive. If necessary, order supplementary resources by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371.

APRIL:

Meet with your session or mission committee to plan how your congregation will use its 40% of Pentecost Offering receipts. Collaborate with the children and youth in your congregation to promote the Pentecost Offering. Send a letter with a Pentecost brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household.

MAY:

Promote the Pentecost Offering during the season leading up to Pentecost Sunday, or on any other Sunday highlighting youth.

JUNE:

Receive the Offering and thank your congregation; remind them how the congregation’s portion (40%) of the Pentecost Offering will be used. Remit your congregation’s gifts through your normal receiving agency (usually the presbytery). Not sure? Call us at 800-728-7228, ext 5047.

To learn more,
go to pcusa.org/pentecost



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH ACTIVE PEACEMAKERS

SEASON OF PEACE

September 4–October 2, 2022

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ’s peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries.



RESPONDING TO CONFLICT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

25%

Participating congregations retain this portion of the Offering to support peacemaking and reconciliation in their own community.



CONNECTING MID COUNCILS FOR PEACEMAKING

25%

Linking congregations in ministries throughout presbyteries and synods.



ADVOCATING FOR CHRIST’S PEACE & JUSTICE

50%

Calling for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative initiatives of education and Christian witness.

Although the year of COVID-19 hindered many of their activities, the Peacemaking Committee at First Presbyterian Church, Decatur, IL, remained active in their use of the congregation's portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

For over ten years, the church has supported student Peacemaker Awards for the public middle and high schools in Decatur. The award winners, chosen by their schools, are recognized for their work as peacemakers in their school (deterring violence, encouraging inclusiveness, etc.). They give the winners a prize in the form of gift cards and add their name to a permanent plaque that hangs in their school. Even in 2020, when schools were in session remotely much of the time, they gave nine awards to students in seven different schools.

In response to the murder of George Floyd and the recognition that our members would be hesitant to join marches and demonstrations during a pandemic, the Committee used some of our share of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to produce "Racism Hurts- Justice Heals" yard signs for our members.



PHOTOS: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DECATUR, IL

Important Dates and Resources

(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)

JUNE:

Watch for your Peace & Global Witness Offering standing order confirmation. Make updates if necessary, or order materials to begin promoting this Offering in your church. Plan with your session or mission committee to determine how you will use your congregation's share (25%).

AUGUST:

Peace & Global Witness Offering resources arrive. If necessary, order supplementary resources by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371. Sign up for A Season of Peace reflections at pcusa.org/subscribeSOP.

SEPTEMBER:

Promote the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Send a letter with a brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household. Share *A Season of Peace* (pcusa.org/seasonofpeace) resources with your congregation.

OCTOBER:

Receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday. Thank your congregation and remind them how your 25% of the Offering will be used. Remit your congregation's gifts through your normal receiving agency (usually the presbytery). Your mid council office should receive 25% of your gifts.

To learn more, go to
pcusa.org/peace-global



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH LEADERS — PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

SEASON OF ADVENT — November 27–December 18, 2022

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God’s gift to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us — retired, present and future — who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the church and the world for years to come.



SUPPORTING PAST AND PRESENT LEADERS

50%

Honoring the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need — whether it is a family emergency, a health-care crisis or even assistance to pastors affected by natural disasters.



PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS

50%

Making it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

ROSE BRYANT

PHOTOS: KATE & JACK EISEL; PPAS STUDENT’S WORLD

Stillman College, situated in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was founded in 1876 by Presbyterians led by the Rev. Dr. Charles Allen Stillman, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, to become a training school for African American ministers. Today, with its expanded mandate and mission, the college is “committed to fostering academic excellence, to providing opportunities for diverse populations, and to maintaining a strong tradition of preparing students for leadership and service by fostering experiential learning and community engagement designed to equip and empower Stillman’s students and its constituents.”

“I think a lot of people may not realize how many lives they can affect just by their support,” Rayondre Roberts, a member of the Stillman Choir, said. “It’s a simple fact when they give students a scholarship, especially those students who are really in need, it’s the best thing that could happen to them. It changes their lives.”



STILLMAN COLLEGE

Important Dates and Resources

(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)

SEPTEMBER:

Watch for your Christmas Joy Offering standing order confirmation. Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this Offering in your church.

OCTOBER:

Christmas Joy Offering resources arrive. If necessary, order supplementary resources, or order materials to start promoting the Offering in your church. Call the PC(USA) Store at (800) 533-4371.

NOVEMBER:

Send a letter with a Christmas Joy Offering brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household.

DECEMBER:

Promote and receive the Christmas Joy Offering during the Advent and Christmas season.

JANUARY:

Thank your congregation for their generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering. Remit your congregation’s gifts through your normal receiving agency (usually the presbytery). Not sure? Call us at 800-728-7228, ext 5047.

To learn more, go to
pcusa.org/christmasjoy

THREADS OF CONNECTION ACTIVITY



PIECE BY PIECE. ROW BY ROW.

Knit your congregation or small group together with Threads of Connection, a learning activity of the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*. Quilting is more than a craft or a hobby — it’s a symbol of the transformational power of coming together, with various and diverse traditions and histories within many cultures and groups. In some traditions, quilting uses scraps and castoff fabrics which are stitched together to form something useful and beautiful. Joseph’s “coat of many colors” from Scripture, is sometimes depicted as an adorned robe of different colored fabrics, quilted together and showing him honor.

Whatever story, tradition or theme you weave together, the “Sewing Kit” we’ve put together can help you begin your creation. With patterns and threads you can adapt to suit your context, or expand to meet your vision, the “Kit” is activity-focused, with the hopes of inviting your stories and expressions of stitching together, as a church, and as the Church, together, with those in need.

To get started, visit presbyteriangifts.org/threads or scan this QR code to start participating today.

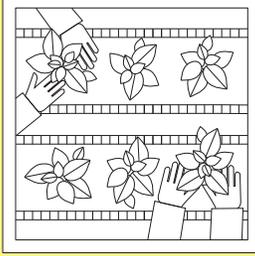
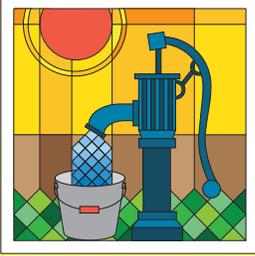
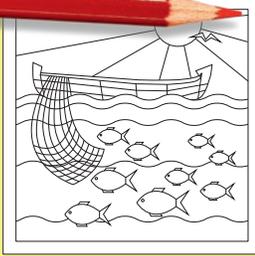
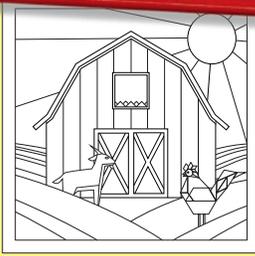


**DOWNLOAD
THE KIT**

PAPER QUILTS AND WEAVINGS

Paper quilts can be created individually or as a group. Use brightly colored paper and trace geometric patterns or use a template to create an image of giving and hope, piece by piece. Small paper quilts and weavings are great keepsakes, or can be used as Christmas tree ornaments or cards your members can exchange, within small groups, whole congregations or between different age, stage or affinity groups. Large-scale paper quilts create unity in your congregation while creating an eye-catching work of art.





Want something ready-made for use by kids in your congregation?

Help bring this activity to life in your own church! Want to create a barnyard bulletin board, or decorate Sunday school doors with the animals they know and love? Square (18" x 18") paper quilt templates depicting scenes of the work supported through the Giving Catalog are available to order via the order form included with this Impact Guide.



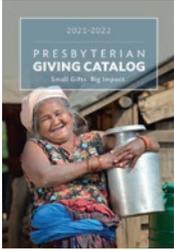
PRAYER QUILTS

Prayer quilts arise in many traditions and provide comfort, encouragement and hope in every stitch. Each person, creating a quilted square to be sewn together, or kept as a symbol of being part of the whole. Or each could be traded, or circulated, to gather prayers for one another and prayers with those who have least.

Quilting bees bring members together in a supportive and social setting that amplifies our prayers. Prayer quilts can be used within the church to acknowledge and respond to prayer requests, bestow honor or share the story of a people, now, or throughout its history.

PUTTING ART INTO ACTION

Your energy, intelligence, imagination and love spin Threads of Connection into artwork that works! Small gifts, like the items in the Giving Catalog, the prayers we offer, together, and the people who make-up the Church are making a Big Impact.



“This entire catalog is certainly a witness to our responsibility as followers of Jesus as well as, if not better than, a lot of written words.” — Susan Powers, a member of the Mission Committee at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Minnesota.

The catalog offers a total of 44 unique gift options, which are organized into seven categories of need and interest: kits and tools; relief and assistance; water; empowerment of women and girls; livestock; education and formation; and agriculture. Its pages contain everything from farming tools for a family in the developing world to a deep rock well, suitable for those parts of the world where clean water is only found hundreds of feet below the earth’s surface.

Each section also features a heartfelt prayer written by thankful supporters of the catalog.



TRAIN CHILDREN IN THE RIGHT WAY, AND WHEN OLD, THEY WILL NOT STRAY.

— Proverbs 22:6 (NRSV)

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Many congregations report that the youth of the church are excited and motivated to participate in Special Offering activities; and in so doing, form a lasting understanding of the mission of the Church in the world.

Plus...it's fun! Here are some ideas to encourage the youngest members of your congregation to take action for compassion, peace and justice.

Find many, many more Curriculum Resources online at pcusa.org/socurriculum. We provide a variety of opportunities to engage the young people of your congregation with materials for each Special Offering. Not only is this material free (a dream for any educator!), but it is written by professionals in the field. These resources are perfect for using in Sunday School as full lessons or to enhance your established programs.





YAV Summit in New Orleans



Peace Camp, Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tenn.



Triennium



Westminster Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX



Children today at Trinity Presbyterian Church, which was down to 25 “gray-haired” members in 1987, who believed God wanted them to stay in their run-down, impoverished neighborhood. Today they have multiple community outreach ministries — and more than 200 members.

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: YAV SUMMIT, NEW ORLEANS; EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MEMPHIS, TENN.; WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AUSTIN, TX; TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH; DAVID YOUNG



RESOURCES

Did you know?

We prepare an order form for each and every Special Offering to make ordering your resources easy. Or if you would rather, you can set up a standing order and we will send your Special Offering resources directly to you. If you are receiving too many (or too few!) resources, we can fix that for you by using the standing order form that you will find in this folder. Call us and we will tell you exactly how it works: 800-728-7228, ext. 5047

AND

Join us on the Special Offerings' Facebook page every Monday at 1 p.m. (ET) for Between 2 Pulpits for a lively conversation about theology, mission and the Special Offerings with a special guest.

AND

Even more resources are available online for free download. We offer videos, PowerPoint slides, social media posts and adaptable artwork to help you promote the Offering, sample sermons, bulletin inserts, customizable bulletins, large-print Minute for Mission readers and lots more. Find everything that is available for each individual Offering at specialofferings.pcusa.org.

QUESTIONS about your order and other printed resources?

Call Customer Service at 800-533-4371 or email us at

customer_service@presbypub.com

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

developing & sustaining our leaders
Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

[Give Now](#) [Jump to Resources](#)



Providing comfort to church leaders



Supporting leadership development



Building up the future of the Church

your impact
Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

\$1.1 million in gifts from 2017

are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.

26 countries

represented in the last 25 years at Presbyterian Pan American School

98% of graduates

from Manual School go on to college

84% of faculty

at Stillman College hold terminal degrees

Resources For Christmas Joy

get started
Download Leaders Guide

When you're busy, figuring out the best ways to share and promote the Christmas Joy Offering can be difficult. So, we've highlighted important facts, histories, statistics, and programs to make it easier to inspire your congregation to get involved. In this guide, you will find a variety of materials to help you promote the Christmas Joy Offering and teach your members about the work supported by their gifts.

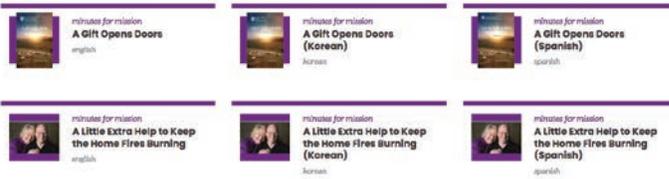
[Free Download](#)



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Resources by Category

[Minutes for Mission](#) [Curriculum](#) [Worship Resources](#) [Bulletin Inserts](#) [Promotional Items](#) [All Resources](#)

Filter by language



more details
Common Questions

When is the Offering?	-
The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season. However, your congregation is welcome to celebrate this Offering at any point in the year.	
How can I order print resources?	+
How do I change my standing order?	+

MOST RESOURCES ARE FREE.

Go to specialofferings.pcusa.org to check out the dozens of resources available to you to help in promoting the Special Offerings.

- Videos
- Webinars
- Leader's Guides
- Posters
- Stories of Impact
- And much more

We are making available more video resources than ever before!

Whether it be a Children's Message for you to incorporate into worship or a story of impact you can share on your social media, allow these videos to inspire your congregation's generosity.

There are printed resources for each individual Offering to order or download, digital images to use in your church bulletin or on social media, sample letters for your newsletters and stories of impact and engagement to help you and your congregation grow your participation.

WE INSPIRE EACH OTHER!

SHARE YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES!

Post your Special Offerings activities on any of our social media platforms and celebrate the good we are accomplishing together.

FIND US AT



facebook.com/specialofferings



facebook.com/groups/special.offerings.support



twitter.com/pcusa_so



youtube.com/specialofferings

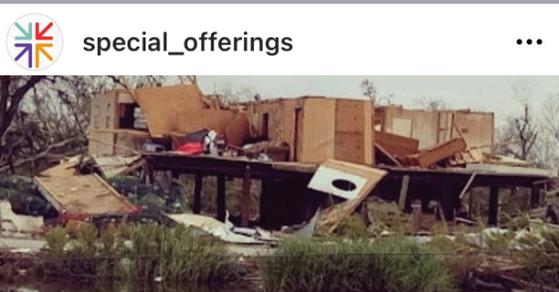


instagram.com/special_offerings



presbyterianmission.org/weekly-offerings

Use your own social media platforms to promote each individual Special Offering. Multiple Facebook posts and covers are available for download at specialofferings.pcusa.org



Thank you

FOR YOUR VITAL SUPPORT!

As result of your commitment, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is able to share God's love with communities across the world. Research shows that when church leaders encourage their congregations to support initiatives like the Special Offerings, their members give significantly more ... and as we always say, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Each of the four churchwide Special Offerings is situated during a season of the Church calendar to assist you and the members of your congregation in connecting these shared ministries with our understanding of theology and Scripture. Each Offering can be appropriately interpreted and received at any time of year, in any congregation.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Questions?

Call 800-728-7228, ext. 5047

Email special.offerings@pcusa.org

Online at specialofferings.pcusa.org

Congregations:

(Please remit through your normal receiving agency, usually the presbytery, or)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P.O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Need printed materials or an update to your standing order?

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Email customer_service@presbypub.com

Let's Connect!



Between 2 Pulpits

JOIN US FOR BETWEEN 2 PULPITS EVERY MONDAY AT 1 P.M. (ET).

Hosted by Bryce Wiebe and Lauren Rogers, each week features a special guest with whom we discuss theology, mission and the Special Offerings. In addition to an enriching and enlightening conversation, each session includes ideas for promotion and engagement. Tune in on the Special Offerings Facebook page.

To learn more and view past sessions, go to pcusa.org/B2P

Bryce



Lauren



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Matthew 25:31-46 calls us to actively engage in the world around us so that our faith comes alive. The Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts which place us in partnership with those who have least. Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger.

