

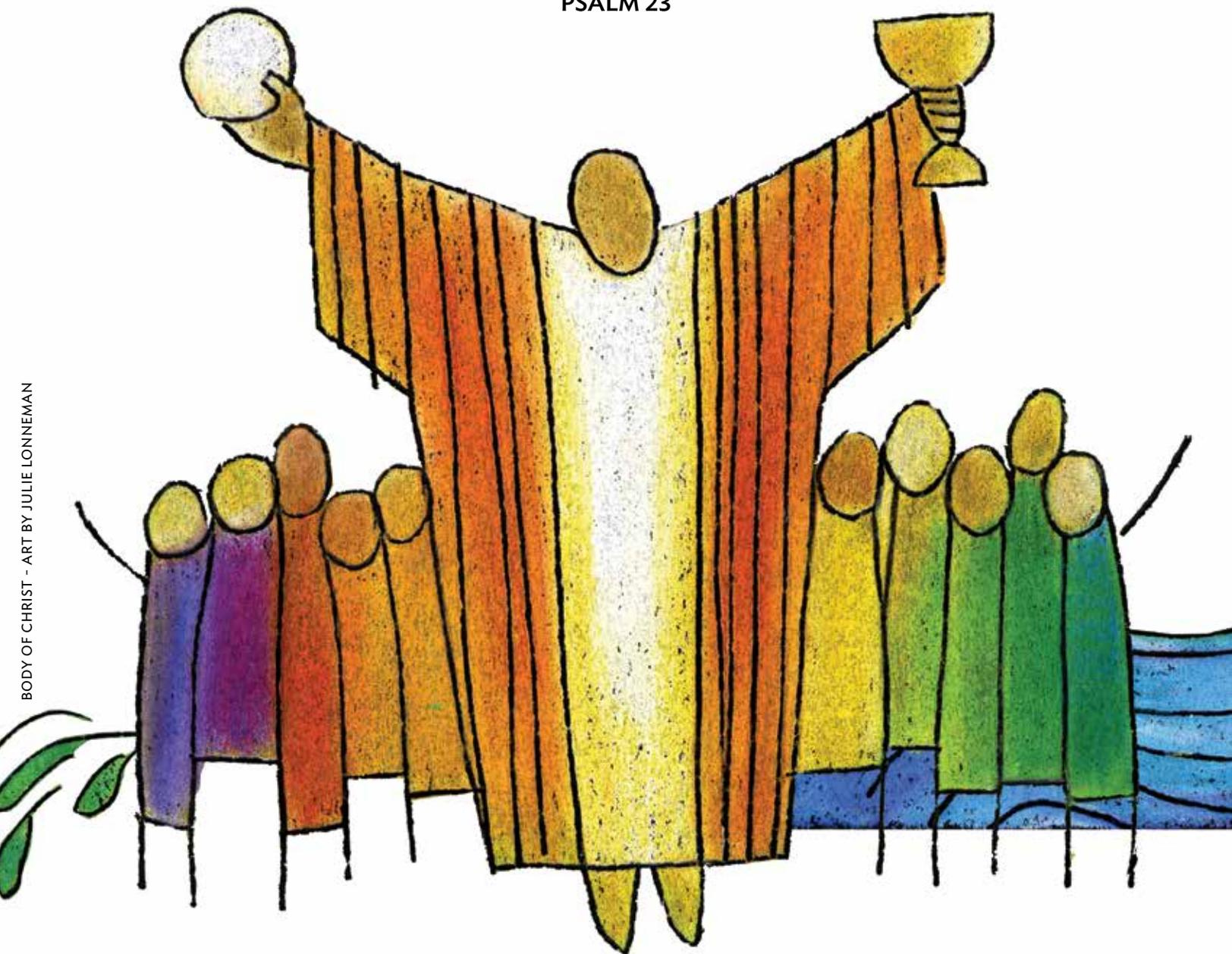


PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



You are with me.

PSALM 23

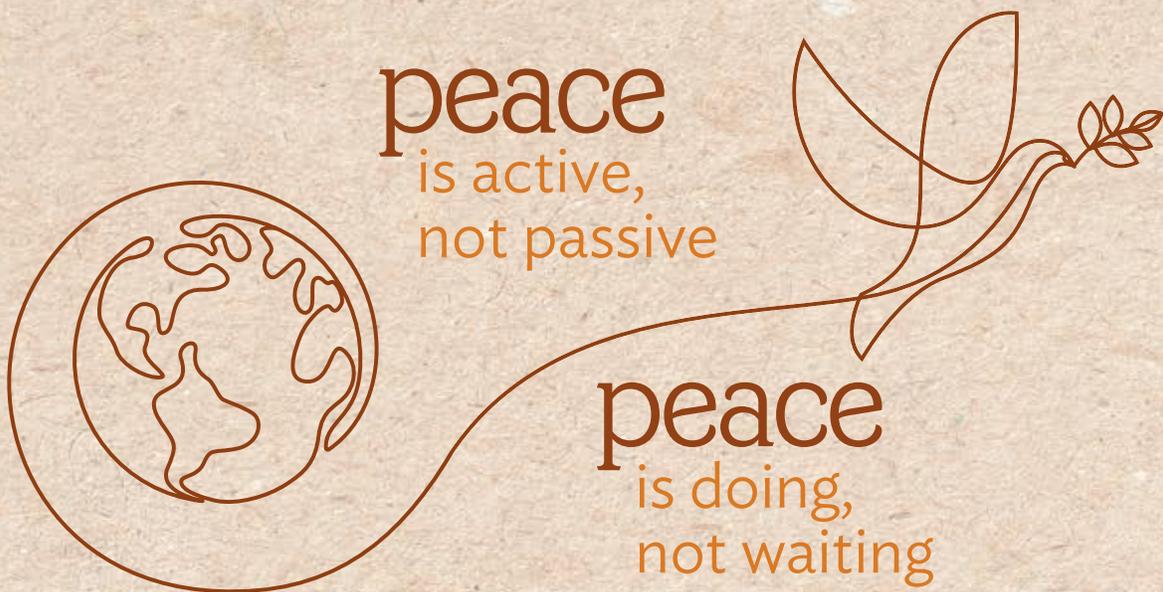


BODY OF CHRIST - ART BY JULIE LONNEMAN



2023

LEADER'S GUIDE
SEPTEMBER 3-OCTOBER 1



As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders. The Peace & Global Witness Offering provides the tools and resources for us as we join together, connected as active peacemakers.

**EASY WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON
ALL THINGS SPECIAL OFFERINGS.**

 **BLOG** | pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings

 **INSTAGRAM** | instagram.com/special_offerings

 **FACEBOOK** | facebook.com/specialofferings





2023

LEADER'S GUIDE
SEPTEMBER 3-OCTOBER 1

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws us together by providing education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global siblings, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

We've put together a variety of materials to help you promote the Offering and share with your members about the work supported by their gifts, motivating them to give. This guide will walk you through sharing these materials and some effective ways to participate in and celebrate the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

BUT THIS GUIDE IS JUST A START. We encourage you to add your own ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm to help increase awareness and giving in your congregation.

In this Leader's Guide, you'll find:

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You are with me.

— PSALM 23

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us ... and God in Christ is with us through the Sacrament of Communion, celebrated on World Communion Sunday. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

QUICK FACTS

- Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity.
- This year marks the 40th anniversary of *Peacemaking: The Believers Calling* approved by the 192nd General Assembly (1980).
- World Communion Sunday (October 1) is the most common Sunday for receiving the Offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout *A Season of Peace* (September 3 – October 1).
- 25% of the Offering stays with local congregations, and 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. See page 5 for examples of how others have used their retained funds.
- 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

1 MAKING A DIFFERENCE: IDEAS FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

Here are some of the ways congregations and mid councils use their portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering on behalf of those struggling through oppression and injustice.

How will these ideas inspire your congregation?

- Support of global issues
- Donate to programs working toward the elimination of all forms of human trafficking.
- Send participants on mission trips, to overseas work projects, or to attend global conferences.
- Support the work of a mission co-worker.
- Donate to a program working with people living with HIV/AIDS.

Peace education & training for children

- Organize local peace camps that teach children how to resolve conflict and handle angry and sad feelings.
- Work with your local middle or high school to create a monetary “peacemaker award” for a student per grade. That student then donates the money to an organization they feel promotes a kinder and more compassionate way of life.
- Support volunteers at a summer youth program.

Help for families in need

- Donate to programs helping teen mothers and single-parent families.
- Support a family resource center with things food stamps don’t cover: diapers, shampoo, laundry soap, toilet paper, etc.
- Implement a backpack program, sending food home with schoolchildren over the weekend.

Assistance for teens and young adults

- Work with young women in correctional facilities.
- Support a ministry to help young adults who have “timed out” of the foster system but are still in college.

Community care and engagement

- Help fund educational assistance for veterans.
- Support suicide prevention programs.
- Work with a support center for individuals transitioning out of prison or homelessness.
- Begin a Senior Companion Program that pairs senior citizens to help with light chores, errands, and transportation to the doctor.

**FOUR WAYS
YOUR MEMBERS
CAN GIVE**

Through your congregation

Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 to give

pcusa.org/peace-global

Scan this QR code

2 PROMOTING THE OFFERING

BEFORE THE OFFERING

JUNE-JULY

- Ask your session to approve the receipt of the Peace & Global Witness Offering during *A Season of Peace*. Resources for *A Season of Peace* can be found at: pcusa.org/seasonofpeace.
- Set dates with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday (October 1).
- Commit to an ambitious giving goal—higher than the amount received last year—and discuss ideas for how to use your congregation’s portion (25%).
- Locate and open the shipment of resource materials you received. Check out the outline of available resources on pages 22 and 23 for more tools to help with developing your interpretation plan.
- Contact Presbyterian Customer Service (800-533-4371 or customer_service@presbypub.com) to order additional materials.
- Ask members to present Minutes for Mission from the pulpit. Distribute the corresponding bulletin inserts for additional impact.
- Consider sending a promotional email or letter to each person in your congregation. Be sure to include the link to the Peace & Global Witness Offering website (pcusa.org/peace-global), so your members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.
- Host an International Peacemaker this fall to help in your promotion. Visit pcusa.org/internationalpeacemakers to find out how.



DREAM HOUSE

AUGUST

- Create an article for your newsletter about the congregation's past and current ministries of peace and reconciliation. Use graphics from our website, pcusa.org/peace-global/resources.
- Use our online resources to fully engage your congregation in *A Season of Peace*, which begins September 3.
- Sign up to receive our daily reflections, *A Season of Peace* at pcusa.org/subscribeSOP.
- It's the 40th Anniversary of *Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling*. Review and share with your congregation. (pcusa.org/resource/peacemaking)
- Follow us on social media. See page 2.

Be Creative

This guide offers helpful tips, but it can't replace what you know about your congregation. What kinds of activities around the Offering will get them motivated and excited? Here are a few thoughts to get you started:

- Involve your young people in promoting the Offering by having them choose a gift related to peacemaking and reconciliation from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Have them present it to the congregation along with how they think their gift will make a difference for others. For help, see page 9 for the Value for Values.
- Think about how you can integrate the worship resources into your service, emphasizing the ways our witness in the world magnifies our personal discipleship.
- Ask for suggestions from your youth and young adults about how to use the 25% kept by your congregation.

JOIN US FOR CONVERSATION:

Each conversation will feature a special guest. We discuss theology, mission and the Special Offerings and include ideas for promotion and engagement. Visit the Special Offerings Facebook page (facebook.com/specialofferings) to learn more.

3 PROMOTING THE OFFERING

DURING THE OFFERING

SEPTEMBER

(Any time during the month)

- Use the PowerPoint slides in a worship service and/or other church gathering. Download it from pcusa.org/peace-global/resources.
- Create a display or bulletin board. If you don't know where to begin, take a look at an idea from the Special Offerings team by visiting the website. You can also call 502-569-5047 to speak with a staff member who can help you with ideas for your own promotional boards. Whether building on these ideas or coming up with your very own, remember to tag us on Facebook when you post pictures of your congregation's Peace & Global Witness display.
- Sign up for *A Season of Peace* daily reflections delivered to your email (pcusa.org/subscribeSOP).

SEPTEMBER 3

- Remind congregants that today *A Season of Peace* begins.
- Hang the poster in a prominent area.
- Use provided graphics in your newsletters. (pcusa.org/peace-global/resources).

SEPTEMBER 10

- Place Offering Envelopes in the pews.
- Place a folded insert in your Sunday bulletin — there are two of them.
- Present a Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in your bulletin (they are both in print and video form).
- Remind the congregation how its 25% share of the Offering will be used.

SEPTEMBER 17

- Place an Offering insert in your bulletin, or insert the brochure mailer in the bulletin if you have not already sent it to members of your congregation.
- Present a Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in your bulletin.
- Share that the following Thursday, September 21, is the *International Day of Peace*.

SEPTEMBER 24

- Today is the celebration of the Gifts of New Immigrants. Present the Minute for Mission on climate migration in Tuvalu from this guide or reproduce one in your bulletin.
- Place Offering envelopes in bulletins or pews for your congregation's use on World Communion Sunday and in the weeks to follow.
- Remind your congregation how it can make a difference in the community through its 25% share of the Offering, and encourage members to continue to contribute throughout the month.



OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1

- Use the worship resource for World Communion Sunday.
- If your youth sponsor a gift, have them present the gift during worship and share how it relates to peacemaking and to the congregation.
- Receive the Offering.

4 VALUE FOR VALUES

Looking for ways to interpret the offering and increase your giving?

Listed below are examples of resources for families in need. The prices reflect the approximate/average cost of providing the items to families where most needed. Consider making a donation at one of the levels listed and note the impact your gift can make.

SUPPLIES FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS



\$30

REFUGEE FOOD BASKET



\$50

TEACHER TRAINING



\$85

5 PROMOTING THE OFFERING

AFTER THE OFFERING

Thank your congregation for their generous gifts and share the total raised. Celebrate meeting or exceeding your original goal.

- Keep 25% of the Offering for your congregation's use to engage in the peacemaking and reconciliation ministries that your members are most passionate about.
- Send in the remaining balance through your normal receiving agency. If you choose to mail directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, make the check payable to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "Peace & Global Witness Offering" on the memo line.

Congregations

(through your normal receiving agency, usually your presbytery)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Mid Councils

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643751
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751

The Agency will record and notify mid councils of congregational donations.

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US!

We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted the Peace & Global Witness Offering, as well as how you use your congregation's funds. Your story could inspire another congregation in ways they hadn't considered. Contact us via social media or email specialofferings@pcusa.org.

Throughout the year, periodically update your congregation with news of the local efforts that were made possible through its Peace & Global Witness Offering gifts.

Stay up-to-date on all things Special Offerings by subscribing to the Special Offerings blog, "liking" the Special Offerings Facebook page, or following Special Offerings on Twitter. Update your congregation throughout the year on how the money is being used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

 BLOG | pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings

 INSTAGRAM | instagram.com/special_offerings

 FACEBOOK | facebook.com/specialofferings



6 A SEASON OF PEACE

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), this month-long pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, households, and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education. Participants are invited to define and deepen their calling as peacemakers.

This year's Path of Peace reflections celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Commitment to Peacemaking. Begun in 1983, the Commitment has offered a tool to Presbyterian congregations and worshiping communities to shape their peacemaking ministries. By affirming the Commitment, congregations and worshiping communities 1) declare that working for peace is an essential mission priority, 2) establish a framework for implementing peacemaking in their corporate life, 3) invite their members and friends to work for peace in their own lives, households, communities and world, and 4) challenge themselves to grow in and pass on peacemaking ministries to future generations.

Over the past 40 years, the contributors to the 2023 Path of Peace reflections have each in their time been involved in the peacemaking ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For each day's contribution they have been invited to identify a biblical passage, share a reflection based upon the Commitment to Peacemaking, suggest an action and offer a prayer for the journey. In this "Season of Peace," may we be enriched by the wisdom, experience and "commitment to peacemaking" they share with us. Peace be with you!



RESOURCES INCLUDED IN A SEASON OF PEACE

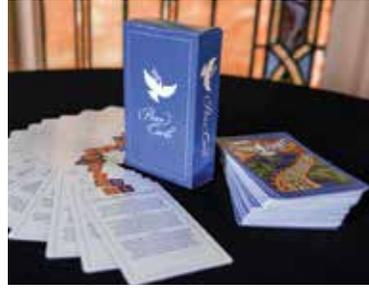
A Season of *Peace* 

Path of Peace Daily Reflections
Subscribe to daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox from September 3 – October 1 (pcusa.org/subscribeSOP), or download the entire set of reflections as a single file (pcusa.org/seasonofpeace).

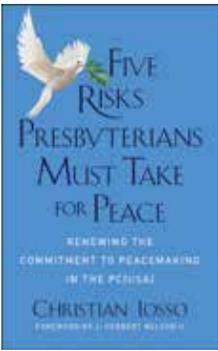
Peace Fair
The Peace Fair is a hands-on, multisensory, intergenerational event that offers peace and justice learning activities.

Children's Curriculum Lessons from the Table
is a five-session curriculum that focuses on the communion table. It can be used in a variety of contexts with children of various ages.

Adult Bible Study, The Things that Make for Peace
is a five-week adult study focusing on the inner and outer paths to peace as foundational to faithful discipleship. Each session has a “dig deeper” section for study throughout the week.



Peace Cards
There are three sets of 30 cards from which to choose. The cards can be placed in a central location such as a kitchen table. Peace Cards can be used anywhere and with anyone — at meals or family gatherings, during fellowship at church, as icebreakers for study groups, or for in-depth conversations on long bus rides with youth. Use one card per day during *A Season of Peace* and let the conversations lead to new perspectives and practices for making peace.



Adult Book Study
This five-session guide helps participants explore, reflect upon, and apply the five peacemaking affirmations approved by the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. It is a companion to *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace* by Christian Iosso, published in 2017 by Westminster John Knox Press.



Children's Coloring Poster
This reproducible, original artwork can be used as an individual coloring sheet or enlarged to poster-size for a group coloring project throughout the weeks of *A Season of Peace*. It was produced by Illustrated Ministry LLC.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

YOU ARE WITH ME

*“Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me”*

(PSALM 23:4, NRSV).

“God, you are with me.” What a powerful statement of faith that is! Say it with me: “You are with me.” One more time: “You are with me.”

How does that make you feel? Do you feel safe? Do you feel at peace? Do you sense the “blessed assurance” of God’s Holy Spirit in your life?

The psalmist says that even though we walk through “the darkest valley,” we fear no evil. The King James Version of the Bible, the one that many of us grew up reciting, says, “the valley of the shadow of death.”

The shadow represents the uncertainty in our lives. The uncertainty of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes — climate change. The uncertainty of aggression through war, gun violence, human trafficking and international tensions. The uncertainty of employment, inflation, illness — a global pandemic. Yes, the shadow of death is all around us.

Yet, in Christ, we can boldly proclaim, “You are with me. Your rod will protect me from uncertain foes who wish to do me harm, and your staff will guide me on the right path for your name’s sake. I fear no evil.” In so doing, you proclaim God’s presence of peace — peace amid uncertainty — in your own life.

As a community of faith, we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and as we do, we extend Christ’s peace throughout our community and world even in these uncertain times. Twenty-five percent of the gifts we receive will stay right here in our church to work for peace and reconciliation alongside **(SHARE HOW YOUR CONGREGATION WILL BE USING ITS PORTION OF THE OFFERING)**. Another 25% will support the peacemaking efforts in our mid council, and 50%

will go the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of peacemaking and global witness all around the world.

In just a little while, we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper on this World Communion Sunday. Luke’s Gospel tells us on that very first Easter as Jesus was walking down the road to Emmaus, he met two disciples who were unknown to him. When they invited him to join them for a meal, Jesus took bread and blessed it. When he did, their eyes were opened, and their hearts were strangely warmed. They were in the “real presence” of their Risen Lord and Savior.

Our hope this morning is that when we share this holy meal, our eyes will also be opened, our hearts will be strangely warmed, and we will recognize the presence of the Risen Lord among us. Then, we can boldly proclaim, “You are with me.”

Let us pray —

*Even though we walk through
the uncertainty of life,
we fear no evil;
for we proclaim,
you are with us”*

(PSALM 23:4).

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

HELPING TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

A mere child herself, living in Madagascar, Rose had already married, given birth to and lost a child by the time she was 15. Upon discovering that she was pregnant just four months after her traditional wedding, Rose's joy at the birth of her son quickly turned to sorrow when he died after just 10 days.

One agonizing month later, Rose's in-laws demanded that she move out of their home and file for separation from their son. According to their belief system and the prevailing customs in their native Madagascar, if a baby dies before it is 1 month old, it doesn't have a good mother.

Overwhelmed and despondent at having lost everything, Rose turned to Madagascar's nightclub and discotheque scene where human trafficking is rampant. It was there that the Rev. Helivao Poget (hay-lē-vah-ō) found her. Rev. Helivao and her colleague listened to Rose's story and prayed with her. Rose agreed to follow them to a safe place where she was ultimately able to turn her life around.

Rev. Helivao serves as director of ministry to marginalized people at the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, one of Presbyterian World Mission's global partners. Thanks to her efforts and dedication, now Rose is helping to lead others out of the scourge of human trafficking.

The call to end human trafficking in Madagascar and the exploitation of children everywhere is made possible, in part, by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, which this year falls on Oct. 1.

This Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical issues around the world, like human trafficking in Madagascar. Twenty-five percent is retained by congregations like ours for peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the

regional level. **(TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR PORTION OF THE OFFERING WILL HELP YOUR PEACEMAKING MINISTRY.)**

Rev. Helivao is not alone in her efforts to prevent children from being exploited. She says, "PC(USA) mission co-workers work with us by visiting our activities, sharing ideas and providing materials and support. "PC(USA) regional liaisons come to see our work in the field, regularly helping us to write our projects and advising us in many other ways."

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we can touch lives far beyond our individual reach. It reminds us that we are not alone, that the world is a very big place, but we are in this ministry of peace and global witness, together.

We are the peacemakers. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously.

Let us pray —

*Lord Jesus,
our good shepherd,
as we declare that
"you are with [us],"
help us to remember
that you are with all your children
all around the world.
Empower us to be with them
as you are with us all.
In Christ, through Christ
and with Christ,
we pray.*

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

‘TAKING ACTION’ AGAINST STRUCTURAL RACISM

When God promised to be present through life’s floods and fires, the assurance was of little comfort to Trell, whose house burned to the ground. To make matters worse, his car, where he sought refuge, had a flat tire. That was when a local pastor made God’s presence real to him.

Pastor Steve Herring, who in retirement serves two small Presbyterian churches in Scotland Neck and Tarboro, North Carolina, also runs a junk removal and property cleanout business in Tarboro with his wife and son. He was uniquely positioned to help Trell by lending him a portable air compressor.

Although Trell’s circumstances were caused by fire, many in Tarboro and neighboring communities such as Princeville have lost their homes and livelihoods because of climate change. Princeville, whose unique history has been all but wiped off the map, is the oldest U.S. town founded and settled by free African Americans.

Pastor Steve’s ongoing work in Princeville has mainly been to deconstruct and extract resources from its flood-damaged properties and reconstruct them to show — and save — the town’s heritage.

Preserving Princeville’s history has become more challenging since its residents, already marginalized due to the dual impact of structural racism and systemic poverty, have been steadily migrating outward in the wake of the destruction caused by several hurricanes.

Pastor Steve’s call to be a peacemaker includes pursuing pathways of peace by working to address structural racism and mitigating the catastrophic effects of climate change in his home. This work is made possible, in part, by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, which this year falls on Oct. 1.

The Offering is unique in that 50% of receipts are directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address peacemaking issues around the world. Twenty-five percent is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level. ([TALK ABOUT HOW YOU WILL USE YOUR PORTION OF THE OFFERING FOR LOCAL PEACEMAKING MINISTRIES.](#))

The intersection of several of the most pressing challenges for peacemakers, namely poverty, racism, climate change, immigration and migration, are also among the primary concerns of being a Matthew 25 Church.

Pastor Steve says that the Church is called to do more than just believe. He shares with us the core of what he feels he has uncovered in the New Testament: “It’s about doing. It’s about making a switch to action. It’s about pragmatic, practical problem solving here and now.”

Peacemaking is active, not passive. It’s about doing, not waiting. Please support the Peace & Global Witness Offering. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray —

*Help us, O God,
to put our faith into action —
to not only talk about peace,
but to put peace into
our daily practice.*

In Christ, with Christ, we pray.

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

EXPOSING THE UPHEAVAL OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Farmers rely on tools to bring in a successful crop — tools like resources to control weeds, fight pests or build healthy soil. Kotema (kō-tā-muh), a farmer on Nui (nū-ē) Island, one of a group of low-lying Islands in the South Pacific Ocean that make up the small nation of Tuvalu (tū-vah-loo), found that he had nothing left in his toolkit to counteract the devastating impact of climate change on the family farm. Having been battered beyond hope, he had no choice but to uproot his family from their home, culminating in their forced migration.

Maina Talia (mīn-uh tuh-lē-uh), a former International Peacemaker for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, said, “For people who have no choice other than to leave their homes, there aren’t just financial, agricultural and practical implications, but moral implications as well because they’ve been living in a place for their entire lives. This is where they’re attached to; and, when they move on a small island, they are also intruding into other people’s space, creating internal conflicts.”

Because Tuvalu is especially vulnerable to tropical cyclones, rising sea levels and global pollution, some 45% of its residents — like Kotema’s family — have been displaced.

Maina works with various nongovernmental organizations, including the Pacific Conference of Churches and the Tuvalu Christian Church, and was instrumental in securing funding for an early warning system to communicate during cyclones. He sees the concept of neighbor in Luke 10, the “Good Samaritan,” as intimately related to his pursuit of peace. He said, “In the context of climate change and geopolitics, our neighbor is no longer someone living next door to us, but rather someone who is impacted by our actions.”

Maina’s call to peacemaking — including addressing the escalating economic, moral, food security and safety issues that result from the impact of climate change — is made possible, in part, by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, traditionally

received on World Communion Sunday, which this year falls on Oct. 1.

This Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical issues around the world. Twenty-five percent is retained by congregations like ours for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level. With this year’s portion of our offering, we will **(TALK ABOUT YOUR PEACEMAKING MINISTRY)**.

For Maina, peacemaking is grounded in the biblical question “Who is my neighbor?” He embodies Christ’s call to peace, love and justice as it is exemplified by Matthew 25.

As do we.

Please give generously to help our neighbors — those next door, down the street and across the globe. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray —

*Holy God of wind and rain,
of sunshine and drought,
we come before you
in humble awareness
that climate change
has no boundaries.*

*Open our hearts, minds and lives
to the needs of our neighbors.
For it is in the name of Jesus Christ,
we pray.*

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

MORE THAN JUST BELIEVING

You know how sometimes you hear something that really makes you stop and think?

Here is something that Pastor Steve Herring from Tarboro, North Carolina, recently shared. He said that the church is called to do more than just believe. He said it's about doing. It's about making a switch to action. It's about pragmatic, practical problem solving that starts with us, here and now.

Think about it. Well, let's not just think about it, let's talk about it.

What he says is that we need to step up and accept responsibility as active Peacemakers. We've been hearing about peacemakers over the past few weeks; and how through our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we join with them to make a difference. We join with those like Maina Talia in Tuvalu in the South Pacific, who is helping those whose lives have been dramatically uprooted by the consequences of catastrophic climate change.

We join with the Rev. Helivao Poget, who rescues young women who have become trapped in human trafficking in Madagascar.

We join with Pastor Steve as he starts hard conversations and does the work of battling structural racism in North Carolina, in the heart of the area that is home to the oldest town founded by free African Americans in the United States.

Devastation from climate change. Human trafficking. Structural and environmental racism. These are issues we've heard about. Issues we know hurt people around the world, including places not so far from here. But this we also know ... God's presence empowers us to bring peace to all around us.

“Even though we walk through the uncertainty of life, we fear no evil; for we proclaim, you are with us.”

Through our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we as a single congregation participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world, including those arising from climate change, systematic and structural racism and human trafficking. But because this is a shared Offering, we can help those whose challenges are very present to us. Twenty-five percent of our Offering receipts will stay with our own congregation to pursue our own peacemaking and reconciliation ministries, and an additional 25% stays with our mid council for similar work at the regional level. **(TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR CHURCH AND MID COUNCIL USE THESE FUNDS.)**

Peace is active, not passive. Peace is doing, not waiting. It's about making a switch to action. Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering; for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray —

*Help us, O God,
to be more than hearers of peace.
Help us to become advocates
and agents
of your Shalom
in the world today.
Through Christ,
the Peacemaker,
we pray.*

Amen.



8 WAYS YOUR CONGREGATION CAN ENHANCE ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACEMAKING

1 Plan a community event to celebrate the life of a notable peacemaker. You can choose a past or present public figure or make it even more personal and meaningful by highlighting a member of your congregation or community. Choose a theme such as gun violence, poverty, racism, immigration, climate change, or nonviolence. Partner with other faith communities and community groups. Organize a walk to significant community locations.

2 Renew your Commitment to Peacemaking. If it has been a while since your congregation made the commitment, visit pcusa.org/peacemaking for “Making the Commitment” resources, including a



3 one-session study guide for sessions.

Take your peacemaking commitment from study to action. Use the steps outlined in the new *Companion Guide to the Commitment to Peacemaking* to address an issue of your congregation’s choice: poverty, racism, violence, climate change or immigration/migration. The guide outlines a unique process of worship, spiritual grounding and reflection, community building and partnership, study and preparation, and direct action and advocacy for Presbyterians to

deepen their peacemaking work and witness around the chosen issue. It includes a curated collection of suggestions, best practices, resources and hyperlinks to help Presbyterians take their peacemaking commitment to the next level. Visit pcusa.org/peacemaking to download a copy of the guide.

4 Give a box of Peace Cards to each of your congregation’s households with small children. This set of over 90 cards (PDS 24358-20-016) can be used in a variety of settings and occasions — as a daily or seasonal practice with family members, as a sharing activity for small and large groups, as a table activity at church events, or for conversation while on a trip. They offer questions for conversation, prayers and activities related to peace in a variety of areas including personal, family, church, community, environment and the world. \$10.99 per box.

5 Create a “peace prayer” display. Postings can include joys and concerns, prayers, and pictures of people and places in need. Include the joys and concerns in worship services and encourage your members to include them in their daily prayers.

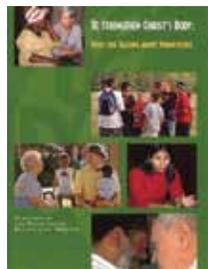
6 Learn about the Belhar Confession. Provide copies of *30 Days with the Belhar Confession: Reflections on Unity, Reconciliation and Justice* (PDS 24358-16-004) to congregation members who are homebound, in nursing homes, serving in the military or away for other reasons. \$1 each.



7 Study cultural diversity and building inclusive communities. Offer a study of *Living the Gospel of Peace: Tools for Building More Inclusive Community* (PDS 70270-04-014). Invite members of another congregation or the community. Use Offering funds to pay for participants’ books and other expenses. \$3 each.

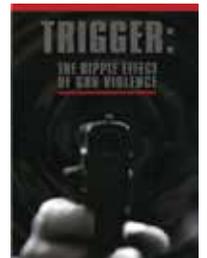
8 Learn and practice nonviolence. Organize a group to use the resource *Resurrection Living: Journeying with the Nonviolent Christ* (PDS 24358-10-007). This journal helps people explore nonviolence individually or together. \$5 each.

9 Talk about the tough issues of 2023. Study *To Strengthen Christ’s Body: Tools for Talking about Tough Issues* (PDS 24358-08-001). This study explores skills and tools to approach conflict in ways that increase the possibility the experience will be a constructive and creative one, in which we discover God’s grace and the body of Christ is strengthened. Use Offering funds to pay for participants’ books, refreshments, child care or other expenses. \$3 each.



10 Provide help in a midterm election year. Distribute a copy of *Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement* to each member. This guide has been a helpful resource to the church for decades and offers theologically sound and biblically grounded guidance for navigating contentious times and issues. There is also an abbreviated pocket guide. *Guidelines* (English) PDS# 24358-20-002; *Pocket Guide* (English) PDS 2435820005. Also available in Spanish and Korean.

11 Work ecumenically to address gun violence. Hold an ecumenical or interfaith worship service or vigil to call your community together. Include a reception so people can meet, share stories and strategize. Host a screening of the documentary *Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence* to examine how one shooting impacts individuals, families, and communities and gives voice to the questions and insights that arise. Watch episodes of the *Standing Our Holy Ground* webinar series to learn how faith communities can address gun violence. Visit presbyterianmission.org/peacemaking for links to the *Trigger* documentary resources and the *Standing Our Holy Ground* webinar recordings.



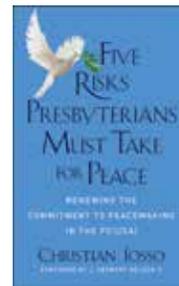
12 Care for military personnel, veterans and their families. Learn about the needs of veterans and the families of military personnel in your area. Sponsor a dinner or other event for returning veterans and those with family members who are currently deployed.

13 Become a Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator and connect the work of your social justice ministry to national advocacy. Attend quarterly trainings/briefings, lobby days, monthly webinars on the pressing issues facing people of faith in our nation — and our annual spring conference “Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Day” in Washington, D.C. Call 202-543-1126 for details and follow “PC(USA) Washington Office” on Facebook.

14 Increase awareness and efforts to combat human trafficking. An estimated 800,000 people, of which approximately 80% are women and up to 50% are minors, are trafficked across national borders. In the fields, in mines, in raw materials processing, in hotels, in the supply chain, down your street, in the U.S. and around the world, slavery is flourishing in a new form. Our church is working to stop it. You can help. Download the *Human Trafficking Toolkit* at pcusa.org/traffickingtoolkit and share with members of your community.



18 Form a study group to study *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take For Peace*. This book outlines the Five Peacemaking Affirmations approved by the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. *Risking Peace*, a companion study guide, can be downloaded from a *Season of Peace* webpages .



15 Become a Matthew 25 Church. Many peacemaking congregations are already doing the work of Matthew 25. Consider becoming a Matthew 25 Church that builds congregational vitality, dismantles structural racism and eradicates systemic poverty. Learn more at pcusa.org/matthew-25.

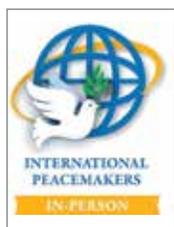


19 Send someone to attend the Privilege Institute's 25th annual White Privilege Conference. Presbyterians from across the country have been attending this conference to learn strategies to combat racism and dismantle structures of privilege. Visit theprivilegeinstitute.com to learn more.

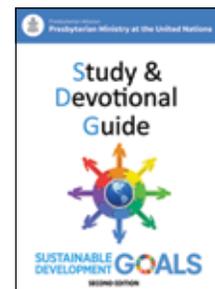
20 Invite a PC(USA) mission co-worker engaged in ministries that promote peace and reconciliation to visit. Be inspired by an in-person or virtual visit how God is at work in the world and how to get more involved. To learn more about speaker availability, email mission.live@pcusa.org or call 800-728-7228, ext. 5075.

16 Respond to immigration issues. Learn more about immigration issues and how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations can respond. Visit pcusa.org/immigration to find resources for study, advocacy, worship and action.

17 Invite an International Peacemaker to visit your region during the fall. 2023 dates are Sept. 15–Oct. 9. Visit presbyterianmission.org/international-peacemakers for details.



21 Study the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals. U.N. member countries adopted this set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Learn about relevant PC(USA) efforts to making our world a better place and how to get involved. Visit pcusa.org/sustainable-development-goals.



9 CONTACT INFORMATION



PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP!

Special Offerings

800-728-7228, Ext. 5047
special.offerings@pcusa.org
pcusa.org/specialofferings

Peacemaking Program

Carl Horton 800-728-7228, Ext. 5200
carl.horton@pcusa.org
pcusa.org/peacemaking

Equipping for Mission Involvement

Stephanie Caudill 800-728-7228, Ext. 5279
stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org
pcusa.org/missionresources

Standing Orders

Presbyterian Customer Service
800-533-4371
customer_service@presbypub.com

Where do you remit your gifts?

Congregations

(through your normal receiving agency, usually your presbytery)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
special.offerings@pcusa.org

Mid Councils

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643751, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751



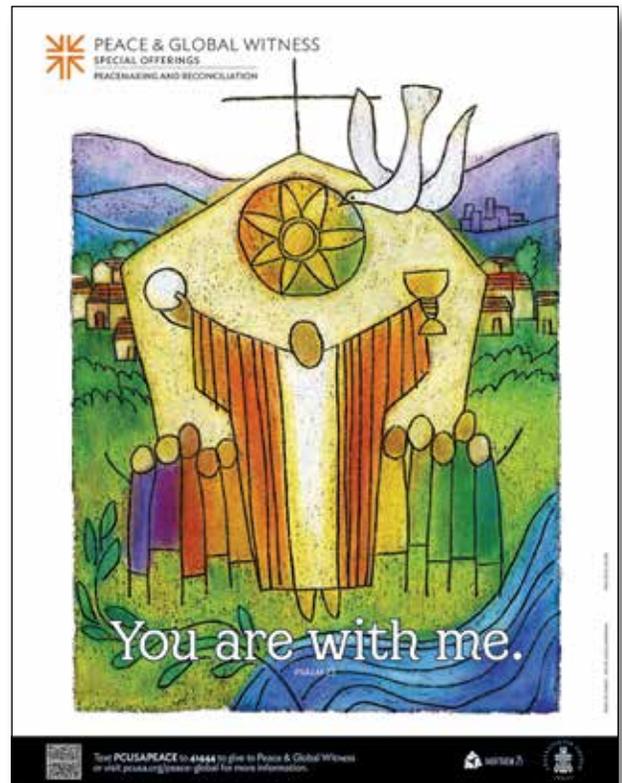
10 RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

Hopefully you'll find this guide answers most of your questions. Your standing order contains the foundational materials you'll need to promote the Offering in your church. On our website, you'll find more materials and other great ways to learn about the Peace & Global Witness Offering and the ministries it supports, and how to stay in touch with the Special Offerings.

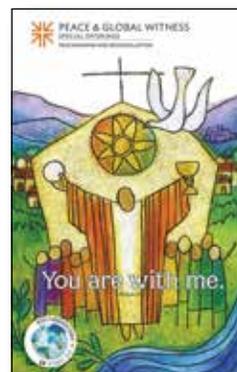


DOWNLOADABLE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

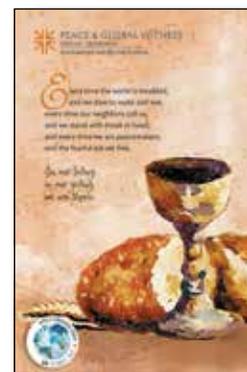
- **Bulletin inserts:** *You are with me* and *We are there*
- **Poster:** Display in a high-traffic area in your church (in English, Spanish and Korean)
- **Sample pastor's letter:** Use as a reference when writing a letter to your members
- **Social media images:** Use on your church's Facebook page throughout *A Season of Peace*
- **Minutes for Mission:** Five stories about the transformative power of the kinds of peacemaking and reconciliation efforts the Offering supports (large print reader version and video form)
- **Worship resource**
- **Written and video sermons**
- **PowerPoint slides:** To illustrate Minutes for Mission or for other presentations in support of the Offering
- **Children's Curriculum**



You are with me poster



You are with me insert



We are there insert

Ways to get additional copies of Peace & Global Witness resources:

- Contact Presbyterian Customer Service at **800-533-4371** between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST; email customer_service@presbypub.com; or fax this order form to 800-541-5113
- Mail this form to Presbyterian Store, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202.
- Order from the PCUSA store — pcusastore.com.

ALL PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS MATERIALS ARE FREE unless otherwise noted.

| QTY. | UOM | PDS# | ITEM | PRICE |
|--------------------------|------|--------------|--|--------|
| ENGLISH RESOURCES | | | | |
| | Each | 12142-23-281 | Poster | |
| | P25 | 12142-23-282 | Bulletin Insert— <i>You are with me</i> | |
| | P25 | 12142-23-283 | Bulletin Insert— <i>We are there</i> | |
| | P50 | 12142-23-285 | 8.5" x 11" Bulletin Cover | \$4.00 |
| | P50 | 12142-23-286 | 8.5" x 14" Bulletin Cover | \$4.00 |
| | P25 | 12142-23-287 | Brochure/mailer | |
| | Each | 12142-23-288 | Leader's Guide | |
| | P25 | 12142-23-275 | Offering Envelope | |

SPANISH RESOURCES

| | | | | |
|--|------|--------------|---|--|
| | Each | 12142-23-201 | Poster | |
| | P25 | 12142-23-202 | Bulletin Insert— <i>Tú estás conmigo</i> | |
| | P25 | 12142-23-203 | Bulletin Insert— <i>Estamos ahí</i> | |
| | P25 | 12142-20-276 | Offering Envelope | |

KOREAN RESOURCES

| | | | | |
|--|------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Each | 12142-23-211 | Poster | |
| | P25 | 12142-23-212 | Bulletin Insert— 당신은 제 곁에 계십니다 | |
| | P25 | 12142-23-213 | Bulletin Insert— 우리가 함께합니다 | |
| | P25 | 12142-20-277 | Offering Envelope | |

| QTY. | PDS# | ITEM | PRICE |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|---------|
| OTHER USEFUL ITEMS: | | | |
| | 24358-20-016 | Peace Cards | \$10.99 |
| | 24358-08-001 | To Strengthen Christ's Body: Tools for Talking about Tough Issues | \$3.00 |
| | 24358-09-001 | Justice and Peace Shall Kiss: Praying through the Year | \$3.00 |
| | 24358-12-001 | Ways to Engage in Peacemaking Brochure | |
| | 24358-16-004 | 30 Days with the Belhar Confession: Reflections on Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice | \$1.00 |
| | 24358-10-007 | Resurrection Living: Journeying with the Nonviolent Christ | \$7.50 |
| | 24358-20-002 | Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement | |
| | 24358-20-003 | Spanish Guidelines | |
| | 24358-20-004 | Korean Guidelines | |
| | 24358-20-005 | Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement (pocket guide) | |
| | 24358-20-006 | Spanish pocket guide | |
| | 24358-20-007 | Korean pocket guide | \$5.00 |
| | 24358-20-001 | Companion Guide to the Commitment to Peacemaking | |
| | 24358-20-008 | Commitment to Peacemaking | |
| | 24358-20-009 | Spanish Commitment | |
| | 24358-20-010 | Korean Commitment | |

SHIP TO:THIS IS A: CHURCH ADDRESS PERSONAL ADDRESS

CHURCH: _____

ATTENTION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ PIN/CUSTOMER I.D.#: _____

*Permanent Identification Number. See General Assembly Statistics Book.

- Bill me (shipping and handling will be included). Will bill to listed shipping address unless told differently.
- Check or money order enclosed (include 10 percent of the order total for priced items: \$7.50 minimum, \$65 maximum).

If you are only ordering Peace & Global Witness materials, then no sales tax or billing details are required. However, if you are adding Bulletin Covers or other cost items, sales tax and billing info are needed. Please add appropriate sales tax for orders being shipped to CA, DC, KY, NY and PA.

Note: All orders will be shipped by the most efficient method as determined by our distribution center. Any special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.

Let us pray ~

O God of Peace
at all times in all ways,
grant us your peace
and help us
to imagine a world
where your justice
and peace
are ever known.

Amen.

Thank you for your support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering
IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact us at

800-728-7228, ext. 5047

or email special.offerings@pcusa.org

PC(USA)

Office of Special Offerings

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202



The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The four church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering — play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns; and offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.