MINUTE FOR MISSION

Succasunna, New Jersey

BUILDING GOD’S HOUSE:
PEACE ON EARTH

 For the members of First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna, New Jersey, how they participate in the Peace & Global Witness Offering has become an expression of the other passions they pursue as a community.

 For over 20 years, First Presbyterian has received the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The process of identifying how to use the retained portion of the Offering has been one that has changed over the years. Several years ago, they started to support students who wanted to attend Camp Johnsonburg, seeing it as a place where young lives are encouraged to grow in faith. Faithful followers of Christ bear peace as they grow up and move into the world beyond the church walls, and it felt like a good way to further their ministry of peace.

More recently, the congregation has taken to enacting the spirit of *A Season of Peace.* They arranged for a lunch following worship during the season where members could come together in a time of fellowship and peacemaking. Having become an Earth Care Congregation in 2018, they chose to paint peace rocks for that year’s activity. Affirmed by an overwhelmingly positive response to the simple activity that brought joy and awareness to their community, they did so again in 2019. This time, they recycled old T-shirts to create and decorate reusable tote bags for church and community members to use, borrow, share and give away.

For First Presbyterian, using pieces of creation to explicitly convey messages of peace was one way of being peacemakers in their community. They expressed this identity again as they shared their earth-conscious shopping totes.

Through their commitment to the Peace & Global Witness Offering and in staying true to their identity as earth-conscious, the saints of First Presbyterian have found ways of promoting Christ’s peace to those nearby and far away while doing so in ways that are conscious of their commitment to care for the planet. In our community, we are being peacemakers by using our retained portion of this Offering to [DESCRIBE HOW YOUR CONGREGATION USES YOUR SHARE OF THE OFFERING].

Together, through our gifts, we are building God’s household in places where compassion, peace and justice are not just heartfelt words, but lifesaving needs. Through our gifts, we are active peacemakers. We are builders. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

 Let us pray ~

 Reconciling God,

 continue to build us as your Church.

 May we engage in ministries

 that share your joy

 and promise with all people,

 and deepen our call

 to be reconciled to one another.

 **Amen.**