

Dear Members,

Sometimes it feels like the world is coming at us so quickly that we don’t know which way to turn, where to look, what to do next. In a chaotic world, we find strength in knowing that no matter what, God is always with us. We wonder how we can live into Isaiah’s call that we are to “go out in joy and be led forth in peace” (Isaiah 55:12).

This is why I’m grateful for our commemoration of *A Season of Peace* culminating with the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday. In a time when violence and war seem to be coming at us from all sides, the ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation witness to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. It is good to be reminded that with all the discord, pain and conflict in our communities and in the world, we serve a God who promises harmony and responds to violence with reconciliation and peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to siblings in Christ who are doing this work every day. Your support of the offering has helped support our church partners in Lebanon recover emotionally from the trauma after a bombing in Beirut. It has helped congregations begin to address the growing mental health crisis and the increase in number of suicides in their communities. It provides resources for congregations seeking to address issues of gun violence in their communities.

This is why we give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We give because we know that every level of society is in need of Christ’s peace. From our congregation, where we retain 25% of this Offering to support [*???*]and its important role in our community; to the region, where 25% is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the earth, where the remaining 50% is deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website ([presbyterianmission.org/peace-global](http://presbyterianmission.org/peace-global)) to learn how your support of this Offering helps peacemaking efforts both in the U.S. and around the world. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community. I challenge each of us to consider how we might increase our witness and increase our giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. I pray that the God of Peace might open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 2, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

As Presbyterians, we claim Jesus Christ as Prince of Peace and pattern our lives in the compassion, kindness and grace that he shows us. May we joyfully bring that peace to all those we care for, love and serve.

Yours in the Peace of Christ,

Rev. ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_