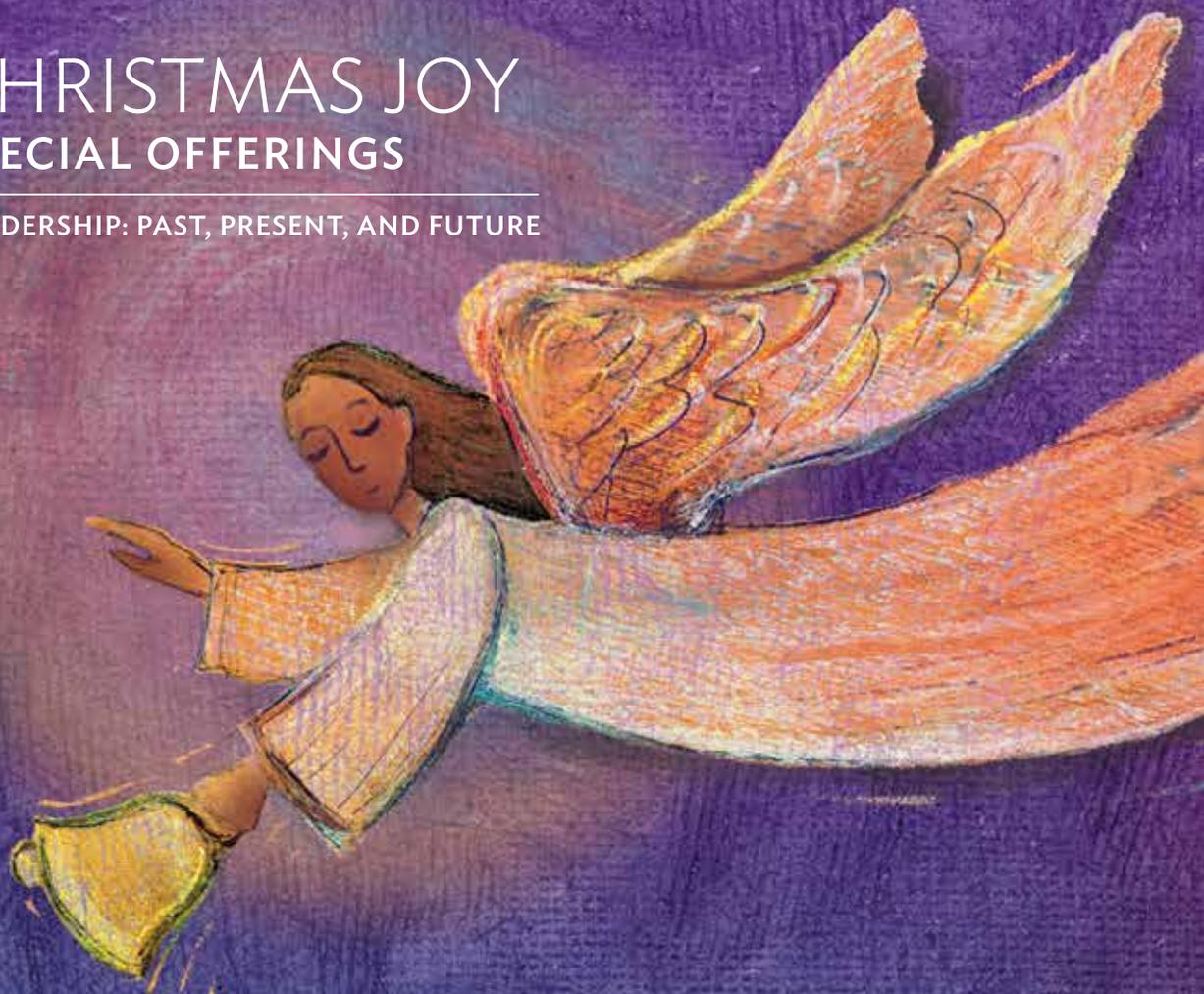




# CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



# God is with us

— MATTHEW 1:23

## THE PERFECT GIFT.

2020

LEADER'S GUIDE  
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20



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

# Thank you!

...for your energy, creativity and support in promoting the Christmas Joy Offering. For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ — a perfect gift from a gracious God. In Matthew’s Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” We know that in Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God *being with* us. What a powerful gift, a perfect gift. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously to support and *be with* our past, present and future leaders in their time of promise and their time of need.

## QUESTIONS?

You’re always welcome to contact us!

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

800-728-7228, Ext. 5047

[special.offerings@pcusa.org](mailto:special.offerings@pcusa.org)

[presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy](http://presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy)

### BOARD OF PENSIONS

Rev. John G. McFayden

800-773-7752, Ext. 7224

[jmcfayden@pensions.org](mailto:jmcfayden@pensions.org)

[pensions.org](http://pensions.org)

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES EQUIPPING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Tim McCallister

800-728-7228, Ext. 5230

[tim.mccallister@pcusa.org](mailto:tim.mccallister@pcusa.org)

[presbyterianmission.org/resc](http://presbyterianmission.org/resc)

### STANDING ORDERS

Customer Service

800-541-5113

[customer\\_service@presbypub.com](mailto:customer_service@presbypub.com)

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## WHERE DO I REMIT MY GIFTS?

### MID COUNCILS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PO Box 643751

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751

### CONGREGATIONS

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

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PO Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

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



BLOG | [pcusa.org/blogs/weekly\\_offerings](http://pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings)



FACEBOOK | [facebook.com/specialofferings](https://facebook.com/specialofferings)



TWITTER | [twitter.com/pcusa\\_so](https://twitter.com/pcusa_so)



2020

## LEADER'S GUIDE

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20

### EVEN LEADERS CAN USE A LITTLE HELP!

#### Get the Most Out of Your Christmas Joy Offering Resources

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. This guide will walk you through these materials, as well as some effective ways to celebrate the Offering and motivate your congregation to give.

*But this guide is just a start.* We encourage you to add your own ideas and enthusiasm to create a unique Offering experience for your church.

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**Interested in an electronic version of the Leader's Guide?**

Find it at [pcusa.org/resource/christmas-joy-offering-leaders-guide](https://pcusa.org/resource/christmas-joy-offering-leaders-guide)



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



## CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

### THE PERFECT GIFT

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel, God is with us!" our Advent dream proclaims, as God joins in human life, and draws us together as a result. "God is with us" shows God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together — and even when we are apart.

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person, but we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. We have missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal, but the physical distance has also revealed, for us, the importance of those things which bring us together, even when we are physically far apart.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of "being with." We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them. And we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have, together. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

## ✦ WE'RE ON A MISSION WORTH JOINING

It's our goal to assist church workers in their time of need and students in their time of promise. Check out the Minutes for Mission and bulletin inserts for powerful stories of lives changed — all because of your gifts to the Offering.

## ✦ YOUR ASSISTANCE GOES A LONG WAY

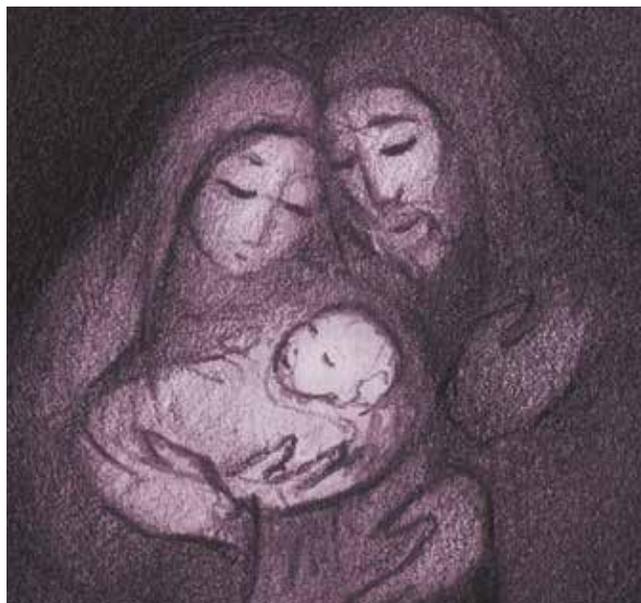
Research shows when church leaders like you encourage their congregants to support initiatives like the Christmas Joy Offering, their members give significantly more. Thanks to your commitment, we can continue to make, and keep, the vital promises of the Offering.

## ✦ IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN MORE

Each year, we have more amazing reasons for you to continue your support of the Christmas Joy Offering. Visit our website to discover even more resources: [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy).

## ✦ SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US!

We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted the Christmas Joy Offering, as well as any suggestions for us to improve your experience. Contact us via social media or email [special.offerings@pcusa.org](mailto:special.offerings@pcusa.org).



# 1 OUR GIFTS AT WORK:

## SUPPORTING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

- ✦ \$1.3 million of gifts from 2019 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- ✦ Income supplements from the BOP helped nearly 311 households, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- ✦ Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 249 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- ✦ Shared and Emergency Grants from the BOP helped more than 84 households facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

### ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

2000 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298

800-773-7752

[pensions.org](http://pensions.org)

“What the Board of Pensions is doing is huge. I'm grateful for those who give to the Christmas Joy Offering.”

**Rev. Dr. Stewart M. Pattison**

Stewart is grateful for the grant he received that allowed him to continue to minister to his church members even with multiple sclerosis.

*Read Stewart's story on page 13 of this guide.*



## 2 OUR GIFTS AT WORK:

### PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS

The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue — sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

- ✦ \$1.1 million of gifts from 2019 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- ✦ Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

### THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING SUPPORTS THESE INSTITUTIONS

Menaul School  
Albuquerque, NM  
[menaulschool.com](http://menaulschool.com)

- 98% of graduates go on to college
- Ranked best Christian High School and 5th best private school in New Mexico by *Niche* ([niche.com](http://niche.com)) in their February release of “2016 Best Private Schools in America”

Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville, TX  
[ppas.org](http://ppas.org)

- 100% of graduates are accepted into colleges and universities in their home countries or in the United States
- Welcomes a diverse international student body, with 26 countries represented in the last 25 years

Stillman College  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
[stillman.edu](http://stillman.edu)

- 93% of Stillman’s full-time faculty hold terminal degrees
- Stillman has been selected a College of Distinction for 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 for Christian Education [collegesofdistinction.com/school/stillman-college](http://collegesofdistinction.com/school/stillman-college)



“I do not know if I would have been able to get the education I got if I did not have a scholarship. Christmas Joy Offering donations enable students like me to get the quality education we have always dreamed of.”

**Adelite Hategeka**

Graduate, Presbyterian Pan American School

The Christmas Joy Offering helps Presbyterian Pan American School and other Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color prepare future leaders like Adelite to serve the church and society.

*Read Adelite’s story on page 16 of this guide.*

### 3 PROMOTING CHRISTMAS JOY:

#### BEFORE THE OFFERING

#### SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Ask the session to set a date to receive the Christmas Joy Offering. This is traditionally received on the Sunday before Christmas, December 20, though any time during the Advent and Christmas season is appropriate. Encourage the session to set a giving goal higher than last year.

- ✦ Develop your interpretation plan by reviewing the resources, tips, and updates on the Christmas Joy website at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy).
- ✦ Once you receive your shipment of materials, review them and continue planning your Offering promotion. Order any additional materials you may need by emailing [customer\\_service@presbypub.com](mailto:customer_service@presbypub.com) or calling 800-533-4371.
- ✦ Begin planning events around the theme: *God is with us. The Perfect Gift*. Choose the individuals who will present Minutes for Mission. Work with the worship committee to plan a special Christmas Joy Offering worship service as well as a suggested litany for a Christmas Eve candlelighting service (found on pg. 17 and online).



God Is With Us insert



The Perfect Gift insert



Offering Envelope

Visit

[PCUSA.ORG/CHRISTMASJOY](http://PCUSA.ORG/CHRISTMASJOY)

TO DOWNLOAD THESE OFFERING RESOURCES:

Bulletin Inserts

Poster

Minutes for Mission (in large print for easy reading)

Sample blog post or newsletter article

Children's Curriculum

Worship resource

Graphics and Social Media images

Christmas Joy Offering PowerPoint® slides, including customizable slides



#### THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10



[www.presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy)

*If giving online,  
members should provide the name  
of their congregation so the church  
will receive credit for their gifts.*

## 4 PROMOTING CHRISTMAS JOY:

### DURING THE OFFERING

#### NOVEMBER

- ✦ Display the Christmas Joy Offering poster in a prominent location, and feel free to order more if you need them!
- ✦ Join in a webinar to discuss the offering and ways of promoting the Offering (if you can't make this time, these will be recorded and added to our website).

**November 17, 2020, 12:00p.m. EST –**

CJO for Mid Council Leaders

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CJ2oMCLwebinar>

**November 24, 2020, 12:00p.m. EST –**

CJO for Congregations

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CJ2owebinar>



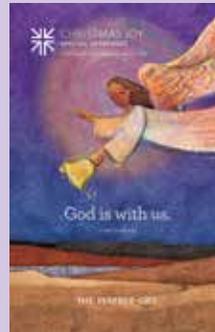
*God Is With Us poster*

- ✦ Use the pre-designed art and graphics found at [www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy) in newsletters, bulletins or Facebook.
- ✦ Make a promotional board or display! If you don't know where to begin, take a look at an idea from the Special Offerings team by visiting [pcusa.org/cjo-display](http://pcusa.org/cjo-display). You can also call 800-728-7228, ext. 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 Christmas Joy display.
- ✦ Use the children's curriculum in Sunday school. Available for download are a Children's Sermon, two lessons with activities, and ideas to connect worship and the congregation. Download these materials at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy).
- ✦ Promote the Offering on your church's website, and share your promotional ideas with other congregations through your Facebook page. Please remember to tag us too to reach an even wider audience.
- ✦ Remind your congregation about the Offering. Distribute coin boxes and promote the Offering through your church newsletter or other mailings. A ready-made newsletter article is available at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy).
- ✦ Enclose the Offering brochure/self-mailer envelope in your mailings as a giving opportunity for those who may be out of town when you receive the Offering.

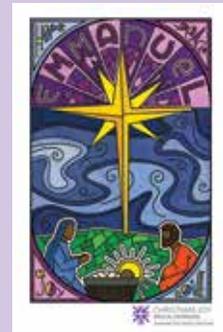
## 4 PROMOTING CHRISTMAS JOY: DURING THE OFFERING

### DECEMBER

- ✧ Place an insert in the Sunday bulletin every week. There are two inserts this year, so each insert can be used for two Sundays.
- ✧ Ask individuals to present Minutes for Mission for three or four Sundays, including the Sunday when the Offering is received. The Minutes for Mission complement the stories in the bulletins, and can be found in this guide or downloaded from the website.
- ✧ Put Offering envelopes in the pew racks.
- ✧ Visit the website [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy) to find short video testimonies you can share with your members.
- ✧ Use Offering materials during a worship service, potluck, and/or other congregational gatherings.
- ✧ On the Sunday your congregation receives the Offering, have the children share the art they created using the Christmas Joy curriculum. Visit [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy) for more information.
- ✧ Receive the Christmas Joy Offering on December 20 or any time during the Advent or Christmas season.



God Is With Us insert



The Perfect Gift insert



"I don't think I would be here without the support..."

**Rose Bryant**

Graduate, Stillman College

The Christmas Joy Offering helps Stillman College and other Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color prepare future leaders.

Read Rose's story on page 14 of this guide.

## 5 PROMOTING CHRISTMAS JOY:

### AFTER THE OFFERING

Thank your congregation for participating in the Offering.

- ✧ Report to your congregation how much was received and which programs, schools, and colleges will receive gifts from the Offering.
- ✧ Throughout the year, remind your members they can contribute to the Offering at any time at [pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy](https://pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy).
- ✧ Make your congregation's check payable to PC(USA). Send it through the normal receiving agency at your presbytery or synod. If your church does not have a receiving agency, the check can be sent to:

#### Mid Councils

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

#### Congregations

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

- ✧ Share your stories with us! We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted the Christmas Joy Offering, as well as any suggestions for us to improve your experience. Contact us via social media or email [special.offerings@pcusa.org](mailto:special.offerings@pcusa.org).

## Stay Connected

Subscribe to the Special Offerings blog, "Like" the Special Offerings Facebook page, or follow Special Offerings on Twitter to stay up-to-date.



BLOG | [www.pcusa.org/blogs/weekly\\_offerings](https://www.pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings)



FACEBOOK | [www.facebook.com/specialofferings](https://www.facebook.com/specialofferings)



TWITTER | [www.twitter.com/pcusa\\_so](https://www.twitter.com/pcusa_so)

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### BEING WITH US

“Many hands make light work.”

“Teamwork makes the dream work.”

“If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.”

There are lots of ways to say it — but working together really does make bigger and better things possible. And, lots of times, working together makes it more fun, too. In fact, there are times made better just by our ability to be together, to be with one another.

That is something that really rings true, doesn't it? *Being together*. During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. We have always been together in spirit, and in faith. But we missed seeing each other. We missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal. But that doesn't mean we haven't been together. And we definitely have not been alone.

There is a word that comes up a lot during this season we call Advent in the Church, and it points to the same sentiment, but about God: “Emmanuel.” Emmanuel means “God is with us,” and, in Jesus, we Christians claim that God took on human form to be *with us*. “God is with us” is more than just saying God is along for the ride. It states God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together as we are today — and even when we are apart.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one way we join together as Presbyterians from around the country. We do this to meet the needs of vulnerable people we might not be able to meet as individuals or as single congregations. We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together.

The gifts we share connect us. They also change lives. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we support church workers and their families who experience

critical financial needs through help from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We connect with the young people attending Stillman College, Presbyterian Pan American School, and the Menaul School, supporting the education and leadership development for students of color, who will soon be leaders in our Church and in the world.

“God is with us.” All the time. During this season of Advent, as we approach Christmas, I can't think of a more perfect gift than that. Thank you for sharing those lessons and those truths, through your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Please give generously, for “if we all do a little — together — it adds up to a lot.”

*Let us pray,*

*God, we are your Church, together.*

*Because of your son Jesus,*

*we are brought together to serve  
those who lead your Church  
but find themselves in need.*

*And we are brought together*

*with students at Presbyterian-  
related schools and colleges  
equipping communities of color,  
who have the potential to lead  
your church and world in the  
future.*

*In the name of the Christ, Emmanuel*

*we pray,*

*Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### A LIFE CHANGED, BUT STILL FULLY LIVED

Rev. Dr. Stewart M. Pattison has been living with multiple sclerosis for years. As his health has recently forced him to retire, gifts from the Christmas Joy Offering have come to have special meaning for him. A portion of gifts received from Presbyterians in congregations like ours go toward supporting church leaders in their times of critical financial need.

This is something Rev. Pattison truly appreciates. Several years ago, he received a grant from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbytery of Chicago.

Rev. Pattison used his grant for the purchase of a specialized scooter which he has affectionately nicknamed “Di Blasi” in honor of the manufacturer. A scooter seems like a simple thing, but in fact it was a game changer. Di Blasi made it possible for him to continue his ministry as the solo pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Lombard, Illinois, a calling that he answered with love for more than 20 years.

Now that he is fully retired, the Board of Pensions is also providing support and assistance as Rev. Pattison navigates the Social Security Administration system, which he says can be a “very difficult process.”

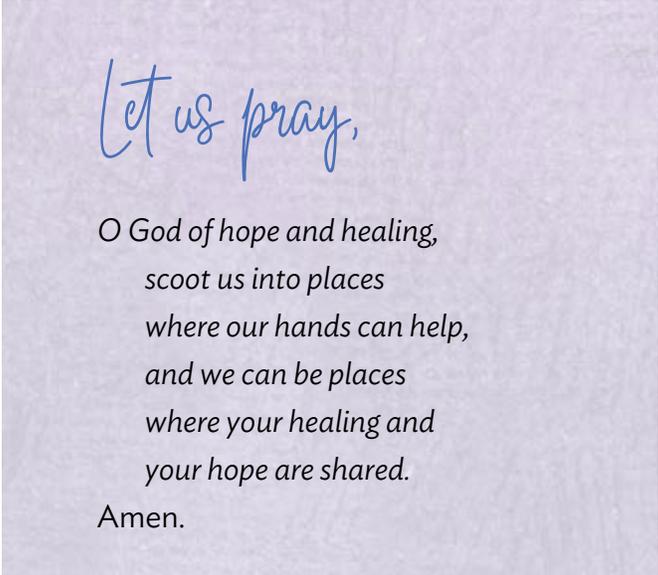
“They tell me what they need, and they just kind of get the job done,” he explains. “To just know you have someone there to help you navigate all the red tape is so helpful.”

Rev. Pattison offers an important perspective for us to think about in dealing with the many challenges of things like the COVID-19 virus. “For lots of people, the virus was a temporary stay-at-home thing,” he says. “A disability can also be a stay-at-home thing — sometimes a permanent stay-at-home thing if you don’t have anywhere to turn for help. What the Board of Pensions does is really important to me and others like me, so that we can carry on even with our

disabilities. They’ve helped in ways that have opened up my life.”

Rev. Pattison wants everyone to know how much it means to have the support of Board of Pensions in his life and in the lives of other retirees and church leaders who need a helping hand. “I’m grateful for those who give to this Offering,” he said.

If Rev. Pattison were with us today, I’m sure he would be nodding in agreement when I say that when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously.



Let us pray,

O God of hope and healing,  
scoot us into places  
where our hands can help,  
and we can be places  
where your healing and  
your hope are shared.

Amen.

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### THE RIPPLE EFFECT

2015 was supposed to be a big year for Rose Bryant, with positive changes for her and her son —and it was! But things did not go exactly as expected.

“A new work opportunity was supposed to open up so many doors for me,” Rose says, until it was discovered that she’d never finished college and earned the degree required for the new job. This forced her to understand that not finishing school was holding her back.

Rose resigned from her retail job to become a teacher — a journey which started with returning to Stillman College, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where she had previously attended, to retrieve her old transcript.

“It was like divine intervention,” Rose explains. “When I went by the school to pick up my transcript, one of my professors recognized me and asked if I was coming back. He wrote something on a slip of paper, folded it up, and asked me to take it to admissions.”

That note pointed to a grant that Bryant could qualify for, that would cover two summer classes to get her started. She got A’s in both, which boosted her confidence to believe that she could earn her degree, but she still had doubts about having enough money to continue on.

But then another pair of wonderful things happened — the first, another chance meeting; and the second, a scholarship. Rose ran into her high school choir teacher, Mrs. Jocqueline Richardson, now leading the renowned Stillman College Choir, who asked her to join.

“As I started my second semester, I was unsure how I could pay for it but then I got a choir scholarship. Everything, again, just fell into place. This is where I was meant to be.”

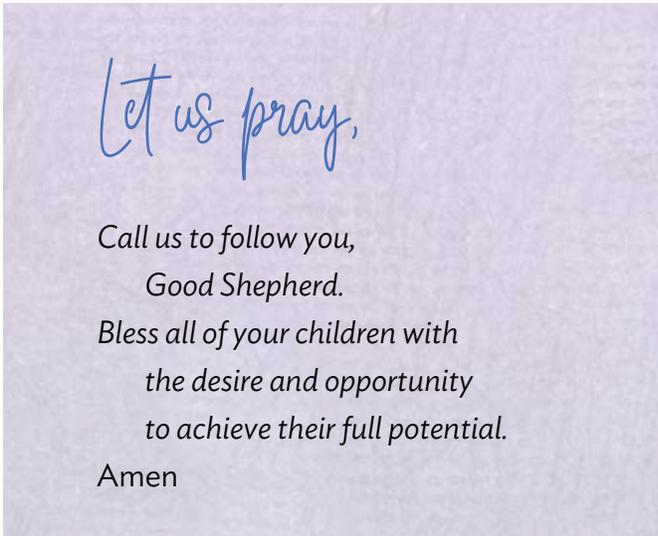
In 2019, Rose graduated with her degree in education. She now works as a seventh-grade English and

language arts teacher for the Dallas Independent School District in Dallas, Texas.

The Christmas Joy Offering supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges like Stillman equipping communities of color. Rose encourages us to support the Offering because it can make such a big difference.

“I don’t think I would be here without the support of Stillman,” she says. “The amazing thing is that all of this has had a ripple effect. I was able to finish my goal because of the support I received, and I know of at least six people who came directly to me about how they could do the same, including my younger sister.”

The ripple effect that Rose speaks of starts when each of us does some small thing, such as giving a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering, the power of which grows stronger and stronger as it is passed along. Please give generously. When we all do a little, it can add up to a lot.



*Let us pray,*

*Call us to follow you,  
Good Shepherd.*

*Bless all of your children with  
the desire and opportunity  
to achieve their full potential.*

*Amen*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### A LOVE STORY

Rev. Ken Tracy has spent much of his more than 30 years with the PC(USA) helping congregations work through conflict and revitalize their membership — a mission grounded in love.

If you have the opportunity to talk with Rev. Tracy for even a few minutes, it's easy to understand why he would be really good at tackling difficult conversations and helping others heal — he laughs easily and has an infectious personality that quickly draws you in.

Along the way, he's built a legacy of love and faith with a focus on ministry and service within the church. His wife Carol has been by his side throughout all these years.

His first call was at the Pleasantville, Pennsylvania, Presbyterian Church. He then went on to work within Boulder Presbytery, now known the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks, and serve for seven years as the executive of Utah Presbytery and then as the pastor at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tarzana, California, following the Northridge earthquake in 1994 that damaged the St. James sanctuary. He went on to lead a congregation in the Alaskan village of Hydaburg, taking him and Carol to the smaller churches he loved to serve. It was in Alaska that Carol got very sick.

“We made three trips to Seattle to see doctors, and the shared grants handled by the Board of Pensions picked up 100 percent of our expenses,” he says. “They paid for our flights, hotel, meals, rental car, whatever we needed.”

The doctors discovered that Carol had significant damage to her lungs due to an exposure to black mold; so they turned again for help to the Board of Pensions, which is funded in part by the Christmas Joy Offering. Now they live in Monte Vista Grove Homes in Pasadena, a retirement community for retired pastors, church workers and missionaries.

“Carol now lives in skilled nursing, and I live in independent living. Her room is about 30 feet from me,” Rev. Tracy explains. “I'd never heard of a shared grant until I was the executive at the Utah Presbytery and a member needed some support. I didn't realize then that years later it would also help my family.”

*This is a love story.* Not just about Ken and Carol's love for each other and love for the mission they have served side by side for so many years, but also about God's love and the love we show with our gifts. Half of the Christmas Joy Offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to help current and past church workers and their families in their time of need critical financial need. The other half supports education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Please give generously, for when we all do a little — it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray,*

*In our passionate leaders,  
we see the echo of your  
passionate love for us, O God.*

*Thank you for the gift they are,  
and receive our gifts  
to support church leaders,  
past, present and future.*

*Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### LIVING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY, CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE WORLD

Officially, the Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) is a Christian international college-preparatory boarding school located in Kingsville, Texas, but to Adelite Hategeka it is a second home filled with family from around the world.

“My favorite thing about the school is the people you meet,” she says. “We rely on each other and learn how to live together as a community. The teachers are also great because they are patient. I did not really know English when I first went there, but with their help, I slowly learned.”

Adelite just completed her senior year at Pan Am, as it’s affectionately called. She was born in Kigali, Rwanda, and moved with her family to Niger when she was just seven years old after her father got a new job. In her four years at Pan Am, she’s taken on some important roles — as Campus Ministry president and as leader of the Random Acts of Kindness Program.

“As the Campus Ministry president, I prepare the programs of our Tuesday and Thursday gatherings as well as the Sunday worships,” she explains. “I also organize meetings with the Campus Ministry council where we discuss any issues that can be resolved and come up with fundraising ideas and new ways to help the community.”

Campus Ministry started the Random Acts of Kindness program, which consisted of writing nice notes to other students as well as faculty and staff—making sure everyone got them.

“I know from personal experience that words are powerful,” says Adelite. “Receiving a simple note can change your day. It shows you that there is someone else who cares for you. It was the perfect opportunity to use words for a good cause rather than harm.”

According to Pan Am’s website, “graduates go on to lives and professions that bring positive changes to the world by upholding the Christian ideals of love, service and community.” That is exactly what Adelite

hopes to do, thanks to the scholarship she received, supported by Christmas Joy Offering gifts.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we connect with the young people attending Stillman College, Presbyterian Pan American School, and the Menaul School, supporting education and leadership development for students of color, who will soon be leaders in our church and in the world. We also support church workers and their families who experience critical financial needs through help from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Please give generously, for when we all do a little — *together* — it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray,*

*Lead us in the path  
of your transformation,  
O God.*

*By the gifts you give  
and the gifts we share,  
point us to your perfect gift  
in Jesus Christ.*

*Amen*



## 7 SUGGESTED LITANY FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

Some congregations receive the Christmas Joy Offering in the context of a candlelighting service. Whether or not that is your congregation's practice, you may find the following litany a helpful resource as you celebrate this season in your faith community.

**Leader:** In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

**All:** **Let there be light.**

**Leader:** In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us.  
And the Word was the light of all peoples.

**All:** **Let there be light.**

**Leader:** We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

**All:** **Let there be light.**

**Leader:** We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we can live, by which we can love.

**All:** **Let there be light.**

**Leader:** We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of our own little candles.  
We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us even in the moment.

**All:** **Let there be light.**

**Leader:** So we light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine through the babe born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.

**All:** **Let there be light.**

**Leader:** May we be so emboldened as to share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine in a world under the shadow of despair.

**All:** **Let there be light.**

**Leader:** We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the years—  
“O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel.”

**All:** **Let there be light.**

## JOYFUL SHARING

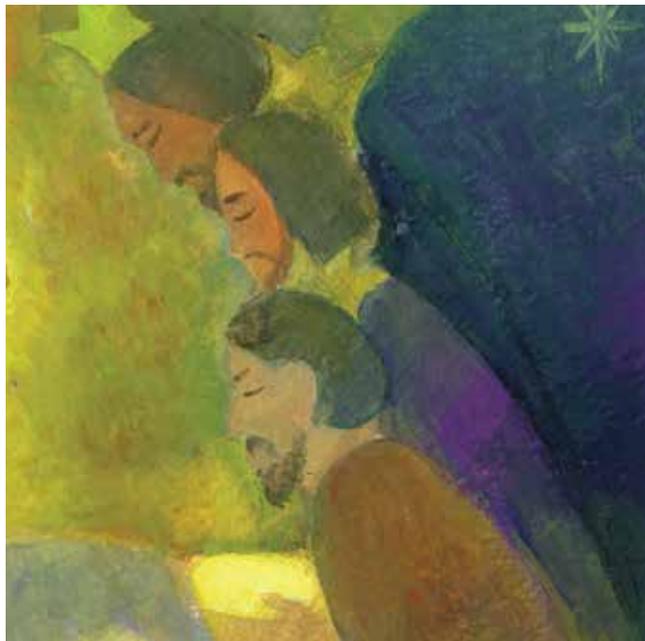
### *Did you know?*

- ✦ 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.

*Thank you*

for your support of the Christmas Joy Offering!

Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or  
to give to the Christmas Joy Offering  
or visit [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](https://pcusa.org/christmasjoy).



## If you find you need additional copies of resources...

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- ✦ Fax this order form to 800-541-5113
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- ✦ Download at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)

**ALL CHRISTMAS JOY MATERIALS ARE FREE**  
unless otherwise noted.

QTY.	PDS#	UOM	ITEM	PRICE
<b>ENGLISH RESOURCES</b>				
	12136-20-301	Each	Poster	
	12136-20-302	Each	Leader's Guide	
	12136-20-304	P25	Brochure/Mailer	
	12136-20-305	P25	Bulletin Inserts – <i>God Is With Us</i>	
	12136-20-306	P25	Bulletin Inserts – <i>The Perfect Gift</i>	
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**SHIP TO:** (Please use a street address—UPS cannot deliver to a PO box.)

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\*Permanent Identification Number. See General Assembly Statistics Book.

- Check or money order enclosed (include 10 percent of the order total for priced items: \$5.25 minimum, \$65 maximum).



*Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy 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](mailto:special.offerings@pcusa.org)**.

PC(USA) Office of Special Offerings

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202



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

The Christmas Joy 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.