



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

*Every generous act of giving ...
is from above.*

— JAMES 1:17



THE PERFECT GIFT.

2018

LEADER'S GUIDE
DECEMBER 2-23



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. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously to support our past, present and future leaders knowing that “every generous act of giving . . . is from above.”

QUESTIONS? You're always welcome to contact us!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

800-728-7228, Ext. 5047
special.offerings@pcusa.org
www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy
Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or
to give to the Christmas Joy Offering

**SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
EQUIPPING COMMUNITIES
OF COLOR**

Tim McCallister
800-728-7228, Ext. 5230
tim.mccallister@pcusa.org
www.presbyterianmission.org/resc

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Rev. John G. McFayden
800-773-7752, Ext. 7224
jmcfayden@pensions.org
www.pensions.org

STANDING ORDERS

Customer Service
800-541-5113
customer_service@presbypub.com

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



BLOG | www.pcusa.org/blogs/Weekly_Offerings



FACEBOOK | www.facebook.com/specialofferings



TWITTER | www.twitter.com/pcusa_so



2018

LEADER'S GUIDE
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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 www.pcusa.org/resource/christmas-joy-offering-leaders-guide



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



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

*Every generous act of giving ...
is from above.*

— JAMES 1:17

THE PERFECT GIFT

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the *perfect gift* — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot.

Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God. As important as gifts to loved ones are, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gives throughout the year through the Christmas Joy Offering, drawing us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us.

During this Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want future leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity, and we want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

✧ 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: presbyterianmission.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.

1 OUR GIFTS AT WORK:

SUPPORTING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS

By supporting 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.

- ✦ \$1.1 million of gifts from 2017 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- ✦ Income supplements from the BOP helped 312 households, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- ✦ Housing supplements from the BOP helped 255 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- ✦ Shared and Emergency Grants from the BOP helped 362 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
www.pensions.org

“It is wonderful that the church does not forget those who worked in Presbyterian ministries at home and abroad,” he says.

Rev. Ralph Hamburger
Honorably Retired
Pasadena, California

Ralph is grateful that his wife with dementia is getting good care, and he is thankful for gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering that help make this possible.

Read Ralph'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 million of gifts from 2017 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 www.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) in their February release of “2016 Best Private Schools in America”

Presbyterian Pan American School | Kingsville, TX www.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 www.stillman.edu

- 84% of faculty hold terminal degrees
- Ranked among top tier schools in U.S. News and World Report for more than a decade

“Pan Am helped me to find faith on my own. It helped me grow in a lot of ways, and it added perspective to my faith.”

Joshua Karangwa

Graduate, Presbyterian Pan American School,
and engineering student at Presbyterian-related Schreiner University

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

Read Joshua’s story on page 14 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 23, 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 www.presbyterianmission.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 or calling 800-533-4371.
- ✦ Begin planning events around the theme: “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).



The Act of Giving insert



The Perfect Gift insert



Offering Envelope

Visit

PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/CHRISTMASJOY
TO DOWNLOAD THESE OFFERING RESOURCES:

Bulletin Inserts

Poster

Facebook photo

Minutes for Mission (in large print for easy reading)

Sample blog post or newsletter article

Children’s Curriculum

Christmas Joy Offering PowerPoint® slides,
including customizable slides

**THREE WAYS
YOUR MEMBERS
CAN GIVE**

- Through your congregation
- Text JOY to 2022 to give \$10
- 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

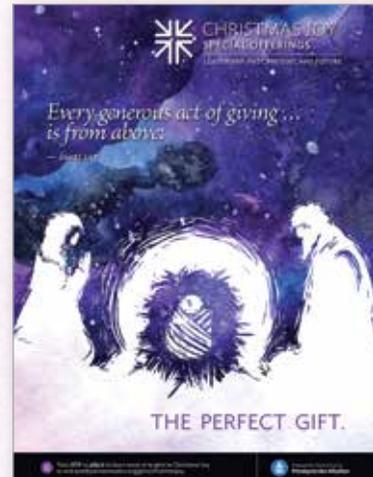
NOVEMBER

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 8, 2018 – CJO for Mid Council Leaders
Registration link: www.pcusa.org/cjo/mclwebinar

November 13, 2018 – CJO for Congregations
Registration link: www.pcusa.org/cjo/churchwebinar



The Act of Giving poster

- ✦ Use the pre-designed art and graphics found at www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy in newsletters or bulletins.
- ✦ 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 www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy.
- ✦ Promote the Offering on your church's website, and share your promotional ideas with other congregations through your Facebook page.
- ✦ 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 www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy.
- ✦ Enclose the Offering brochure/envelope in your mailings as a giving opportunity for those who may be out of town when you receive the Offering.



Lucianna Astorga, Class of 2019 at The Menaul School sings "As Time Goes By" at the school's Gala in March.

Read Luci's story on page 16 of this guide.

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.
- ✦ Use Offering materials during a worship service, potluck, and/or other congregational gatherings.
- ✦ On the Sunday your congregation receives the Christmas Joy Offering, have your Sunday school children present to the pastor the stole they made using the new children's curriculum. Visit presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy for more information.
- ✦ Receive the Christmas Joy Offering on December 23 or any time during the Advent or Christmas season.



The Act of Giving insert



The Perfect Gift insert

Volunteers after Hurricane Maria were recognized at Iglesia Presbiteriana Guanica's anniversary celebration.



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 www.presbyterianmission.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

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
-  FACEBOOK | www.facebook.com/specialofferings
-  TWITTER | www.twitter.com/pcusa_so

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

THE PERFECT GIFT

Every generous act of giving ... is from above. — JAMES 1:17

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the *perfect gift* — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up on Christmas morning. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth that our words cannot.

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. At the Incarnation, we celebrate God who came to dwell among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously, knowing, as the New Testament letter of James says, “every generous act of giving ... is from above.” And, as important as gifts to loved ones are, the Church rejoices and gives in special ways, drawing us back, again and again, to a manger scene with bowed shepherds and joyous angels, and the truth of God’s perfect gift to us.

During the Advent and Christmas season, the Church’s response to God’s generosity takes on the very character of our Savior. Jesus came to lead God’s people, pointing to God through love and justice, peace and compassion, forgiveness and humility. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God’s gift to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. For church workers in need of financial help, whether due to declining health or a catastrophic event, such as the Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Christmas Joy provides for those needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. For

students receiving scholarships and support at Menaul and Presbyterian Pan American secondary schools, and Stillman College, a Historically Black College, the generosity of Presbyterians means a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

We can never match God’s perfect gift in Jesus, but through the Christmas Joy Offering, we *can* testify to who we have known God to be. Our perfect gift comes from above. Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world — past, present and future.

Let us pray,

*Jesus Christ, you are the perfect gift,
given to lead us in the ways of
redemption and peace.*

You pointed us to God with your life.

*We celebrate with the gift of our lives
and support for our leaders, past,
present and future.*

*May those who lead your Church point
us always to you, and to your ways of
joy, hope, love and peace.*

Amen.

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING HELPS ELDERLY COUPLE “FEEL THE ARMS OF THE CHURCH AROUND US.”

I want to tell you a love story — a love story between Ralph and Mary Hamburger that began at a Presbyterian church when Ralph introduced himself to Mary after hearing her play the piano. Today, after 65 years of marriage, the love story continues at a Presbyterian retirement home.

Ralph, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) minister since 1960, and Mary, his devoted partner, are able to live in dignity because of your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering. The couple spent several years together in an independent living facility; however, Mary’s deteriorating health demanded that she move to the skilled-nursing unit. That move nearly depleted the couple’s savings.

Fortunately, gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering enable Ralph and Mary to continue living together in the skilled-nursing unit. Ralph says he “feels the arms of the church around us making our lives more comfortable at the end.”

These two people from diverse backgrounds share their love for one another and a devotion to their Christian faith. Ralph, a member of the Dutch resistance during World War II, spent the war years hiding Jews from the Nazi occupiers. At the war’s end, Ralph made his home in California where his U.S. sponsors lived and found his way to Hollywood Presbyterian Church, where he felt a call to ministry.

Mary, a native of Kentucky’s Appalachian region, was part of the large postwar migration to California, where she became involved in the Hollywood church’s thriving young adult ministries. Ralph and Mary fell in love, married, and served the church at home and abroad, largely behind the Iron Curtain. While supporting Ralph in his ministry, Mary managed their home and cared for their daughter Rachel, who is now a PC(USA) pastor.

“I am just an average, ordinary, C+ person who became a pastor,” Ralph says. However, he adds that “God touched me, tutored me, and opened doors for me.”

Ralph still enjoys talking with Mary about their life together, though her dementia makes their conversations different these days. He is grateful that his wife is getting good care, and he is thankful for gifts that are given with love to the Christmas Joy Offering. “It’s wonderful that the church does not forget those who worked in Presbyterian ministries at home and abroad,” he says.

This is a love story. Not just about Ralph and Mary’s love for each other, but also about God’s love and the love we show with our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. 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 who are in financial need. The other half supports future leaders who attend Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Let us pray,

Generous God, you are the giver of so many good gifts, from those leaders who inspire through faithful witness, to the time, talent, and treasure we have to share, and we are grateful.

May our gifts honor the generosity you show and respond to the grace you offer in Jesus Christ, the perfect gift.

Amen.

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING GIFTS HELP STUDENT APPLY HEART AND MIND TO VEXING PROBLEMS

Growing up in Rwanda, Joshua Karangwa often saw rural women and children carrying heavy cans of water on their heads for miles just so their families could survive. His memory of people engaged in this back-breaking endeavor pierces his heart and challenges his mind.

Joshua, a 2018 graduate of Presbyterian Pan American School (Pan Am) in Kingsville, Texas, wants to tackle water accessibility and other issues that confront the developing world. He is now a first-year engineering student at Presbyterian-related Schreiner University.

Joshua dreams of the day when women and children will no longer have to tote large water cans, whose average weight exceeds 40 pounds when filled. The task is exhausting and can lead to strained backs, shoulders, and necks.

“It’s an issue that I want to address by using all the means I have acquired,” Joshua says. He wants not only to design ways to make water more accessible, but also to help communities learn how to find their own solutions to problems like poor accessibility to water.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Christmas Joy Offering helps Pan Am and other Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color prepare future leaders like Joshua to serve the church and society. Half of the offering supports the schools, and the other half provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need.

While at Pan Am, Joshua enrolled in dual-credit courses at the Texas A&M’s Kingsville campus, where he studied mathematics, English, economics, and political science. His academic record enabled him to receive a full, four-year scholarship to Schreiner.

Joshua says his faith began to flourish at Pan Am. He grew up in a Christian family, but he says Pan Am helped him “to find faith on my own.” He relished

discovering the different ways the diverse student body at Pan Am interpreted the Bible. “It helped me grow in a lot of ways, and it added perspective to my faith,” he says.

A well-rounded student, Joshua participated in three varsity sports—basketball, track, and soccer. He was also a student ambassador. In this role, he visited congregations and shared his story and that of Pan Am. As a student ambassador, he says he especially enjoyed learning from people in the congregations. “Most of them were from an older generation, and they have knowledge to share,” he says. “It was a fun experience.”

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering helped shape the character of Joshua, and continued support of the Offering will shape the lives of students like him as well as support church workers in a time of need.

Let us pray,

*God of inspiration, you shape our minds
in many ways.*

*You surround us with the richness of new
ideas and teachers who offer lessons
and support.*

Bless all who are students.

*Let them learn lessons well, growing in
mind and character for leadership in the
church and world.*

Amen.

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

CHRISTMAS JOY GIFTS HELP PUERTO RICAN PASTORS AND CHURCH WORKERS RECOVER FROM HURRICANE MARIA

After Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico last year, Presbyterian pastor Manuel D. Silva bore the dual burden of caring for his family and his congregation. The property damage wrought by the storm was in the billions, and many on the island were without electricity for months.

When the storm hit, Manuel's wife, Sylvette, was pregnant with their second child, and like thousands of others in Puerto Rico, the Silva family's home was unsafe for habitation. The couple and their firstborn son Caleb moved into a tiny apartment Manuel's father owns in a neighboring town.

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which receives significant funding from the Christmas Joy Offering, helped active and retired pastors as well as other church workers in Puerto Rico get back on their feet. Your gifts helped Manuel's young family — and many other pastors and their families — recover and serve their congregation's surrounding community.

Concerned about the well-being of overburdened pastors, Board of Pensions representative members met with Puerto Rican pastors four months after the hurricane with a delegation of different church agencies. There were conversations about resiliency, and the Board of Pensions representatives spoke about board benefits, including counseling services.

"We told them that they were not by themselves, that we are going to be there for them, and that we are going to help them as much as we can," says Jose Irizarry, the Board of Pension's vice president for education. "They were rushing out caring for people, but they also needed to be cared for, and that wasn't being done."

Manuel's church building was without electricity for two months. Nevertheless, the congregation continued to gather in the building each Sunday to worship, pray, and encourage one another. In February, the Silva family welcomed a healthy baby boy, Yanluis. Several weeks after his birth, the family was able to move back into their home.

Yet life has still not returned to normal for many Puerto Ricans. Some in Manuel's community are camped in tents alongside the rubble that remains of their homes.

Manuel is grateful for the assistance he and other church workers received thanks in part to the Christmas Joy Offering. Special Offerings have taken on new significance among his congregation's members, Manuel says. "They give from experience and from love. It's part of who we are. We take care of people who really need it."

Why disasters like Hurricane Maria happen is beyond our understanding. There has been so much destruction and loss of life and livelihood. Yet, as we share in the grief of our sisters and brothers, we can comprehend God's call to help people in distress, and we can bear witness to God's love by our giving to the Christmas Joy Offering. In addition to helping pastors and congregations who know they can count on our love in their hour of deepest need, the Christmas Joy Offering also aids future church and society leaders who study in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. God's Love. It is the perfect gift.

Let us pray,

*God of hope and restoration, draw near
to those who offer compassion
in times of immense struggle.*

*Bless all church leaders with your strength
and by your grace as we seek to support
them through our gifts.*

Amen.

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

MENAU SCHOOL MOLDS DETERMINATION, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

While a summertime academic emphasis is not unusual for high-achieving high school students, Lucianna (Luci) Astorga's educational focus between school years has been much different than that of most of her scholastically minded peers. Since the eighth grade, this honor roll student's summer priority has been on earning tuition for the upcoming academic year at the school she loves, the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Her education at Menaul also has been made possible in part by gifts to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Christmas Joy Offering, which benefits Menaul and the church's other historically Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Offering is especially important for families with limited financial means like Luci's. Although her mother Dolores is a single mother unable to work due to a medical disability, gifts from the Christmas Joy Offering helped open the door for Luci and her two sisters, Marianna, her twin, and Esperanza, a May 2018 graduate, to attend Menaul.

Luci says Menaul lived up to its reputation in both its academic and spiritual emphases. "Chapel and religion classes really help with spiritual growth," she says. "Being able to grow spiritually is one thing that really drew us here."

Menaul has also helped stretch her intellect, she says. "The classes here aren't the easiest classes. They are challenging, so you really have to be on the edge of your seat and ready for anything that comes at you."

Known around campus for her infectious smile and cheery attitude, Luci isn't blind to the needs of her community and the larger world. Luci says Menaul's service projects and mission trips have helped shape her career aspirations. She would like to be a nurse or a teacher. "I really do want to help people," she says. "I know that sounds like a cliché, but that (desire to help) is what I got from Menaul."

Because of our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering as well as other congregations across the nation, students like Luci and her sisters are entering adulthood prepared to serve others. One half of the offering goes to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color like Menaul, while the other half provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and in the world — past, present and future.

Let us pray,

*Giver of fields to tend and classrooms
in which to grow, we give you thanks
for the work that is ours to do.*

*Bless each act of effort that develops the
mind and deepens the spirit.*

*And bless each act of generous giving which
comes from you and supports the work
we do together.*

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 www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.

2018 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING ORDER FORM

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

- ✦ Contact PC(USA) Store at **800-533-4371** between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST
- ✦ Email customer_service@presbypub.com
- ✦ Fax this order form to **800-541-5113**
- ✦ Mail this form to **Presbyterian Customer Service, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202.**
- ✦ Download at www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy

ALL CHRISTMAS JOY MATERIALS ARE FREE
unless otherwise noted.

QTY.	PDS#	UOM	ITEM	PRICE
	12136-18-301	Each	Poster	
	12136-18-302	Each	Leader's Guide	
	12136-18-304	P25	Brochure/Mailer	
	12136-18-305	P25	Bulletin Inserts – <i>The Act of Giving</i>	
	12136-18-306	P25	Bulletin Inserts – <i>The Perfect Gift</i>	
	12136-18-310	P50	8.5"x11" Bulletin Covers	\$4.00
	12136-18-311	P50	8.5"x14" Bulletin Covers	\$4.00
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	12136-11-365	P25	Children's Coin Box	
Spanish Materials				
	12136-18-331	Each	Poster	
	12136-18-335	P25	Bulletin Inserts – <i>El acto de donar</i>	
	12136-18-336	P25	Bulletin Inserts – <i>El regalo perfecto</i>	
	12136-18-352	P25	Offering Envelopes	
Korean Materials				
	12136-18-341	Each	Poster	
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- 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: \$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**.

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.