



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



Peace at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

2019

LEADER'S GUIDE
SEPTEMBER 1-OCTOBER 6



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

Peace *is* ACTIVE, *not* PASSIVE Peace *is* DOING, *not* WAITING

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 as active peacemakers — *at all times, in all ways.*



JAMETLENE RESKP

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

-  BLOG | pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings
-  TWITTER | twitter.com/pcusa_so
-  FACEBOOK | facebook.com/specialofferings



2019

LEADER'S GUIDE
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together, and provides 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 sisters and brothers, 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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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



*Now may the Lord of peace . . .
give you peace at all times in all ways.*

— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written on the same theme as the first: the imminent return of Jesus, and the triumphal resolution of God's plan for all creation. The need for a *second* letter, though, arose from growing uneasiness, frustration, and fear within the church from those who thought this was supposed to have happened already. God's time was not the Thessalonian's time. As a result, fear and hopelessness gripped the church, resulting in divisions, mistrust, and dismay that began to sap the church of its vibrant ministry. Paul writes to encourage their continued faith and sure hope. In the midst of divisions and discord, he claims a God of peace who can bring peace at all times, in all ways.

The church of every time and place wrestles with the distance between our timeframe and expectations and God's. In God's time, even the small seeds we plant can grow into sturdy trees. In God's time, the fears we carry can be transformed into new partnership and hope. In God's time, our expectations can be expanded and surpassed by God's faithfulness. The 2019 Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers. It bursts through the shackles of time and expectation. It quiets the anxiety of each believer by joining us together, as we offer our prayer, *Now, May the Lord grant us peace in all times in all ways.*

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.
- ✦ The Peace & Global Witness Offering builds on the Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking established in 1980.
- ✦ World Communion Sunday (October 6) is the most common Sunday for receiving the Offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout *A Season of Peace* (September 1 – October 6).
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Support programs like the Alabama Prison Birth Project, which works with incarcerated mothers and mothers-to-be providing weekly prenatal and postnatal training as well as nutritious meals.

Assistance for teens and young adults

- ✦ Support *Freedom Rising*, a General Assembly initiative created to address and improve the plight of the African American male.
- ✦ 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 the Institute for Civility in Government, which is devoted to creating a civil environment and a safe space for honest dialogue.
- ✦ Work with a support center for males 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.



THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10



presbyterianmission.org/peace-global

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: presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace.
- ❖ Set dates with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday (October 6).
- ❖ 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 (presbyterianmission.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.



RICHARD COPLEY

AUGUST

- ✧ Create an article for your newsletter about the congregation's past and current ministries of peace and reconciliation.
- ✧ Use our online resources to fully engage your congregation in *A Season of Peace*, which begins September 1.
- ✧ Sign up to receive our daily reflections, *A Season of Peace* at www.pcusa.org/subscribe.

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 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 A WEBINAR:

- ✧ **For Leaders & Volunteers with Mid Councils:**
Join us live on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 12 pm (Eastern): <https://zoom.us/j/764377890>
- ✧ **For Leaders & Offerings Advocates in Congregations:**
Join us live on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 12 pm (Eastern): <https://zoom.us/j/798418980>
- ✧ **Can't make it?** Both webinars will be recorded and posted on the webpage within a couple of days so you can watch on your own time.

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 presbyterianmission.org/peace-global.
- ✧ 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 pcusa.org/peace-global. 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.

SEPTEMBER 1

- ✧ Remind congregants that today *A Season of Peace* begins. Instruct them how to sign up for the daily reflections delivered to their email (www.pcusa.org/subscribe — under Advocacy and Social Justice).

SEPTEMBER 8

- ✧ 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.
- ✧ Remind the congregation how its 25% share of the Offering will be used.

SEPTEMBER 15

- ✧ 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 Saturday, September 21, is the *International Day of Peace*.

SEPTEMBER 22

- ✧ Place a folded insert in your Sunday bulletin.
- ✧ Present a Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in the bulletin.
- ✧ Remind your congregation how its 25% share of the Offering will be used for local peace efforts.

SEPTEMBER 29

- ✧ 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 6

- ✧ 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.



\$30

Supplies for displaced students



\$50

Refugee Food Basket



\$85

Teacher Training



\$200

Bunk Beds for Children

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

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



TWITTER | twitter.com/pcusa_so



FACEBOOK | facebook.com/specialofferings



JEFF BOYD

6 A SEASON OF PEACE

This five-week pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. This season is a time of encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education. Presbyterians are invited to define and deepen their calling as peacemakers.

This year's *A Season of Peace* Resources are designed to help Presbyterians explore different forms and lenses for peacemaking. From the personal level to global issues, these reflections and prayers will help grow the faith and witness of the whole church. Through the 29 days of this year's *Season of Peace*, we are invited to reflect upon:

- 1 What does it mean to commit to Peace?
- 2 Making peace by addressing root causes of poverty
- 3 Making peace by disrupting systematic racism
- 4 Making peace by ending violence
- 5 Making peace by supporting refugees and migrants
- 6 Partaking in peace in worship and at table this World Communion Sunday and through the Peace & Global Witness Offering

RESOURCES INCLUDED IN A SEASON OF PEACE

Path of Peace Daily Reflections

Subscribe to daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox from September 1 – October 6, or download the entire set of reflections as a single file (presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace — *A Season of Peace* under Advocacy and Social Justice).



Peace Fair

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

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.



Children's Curriculum Lessons from the Table

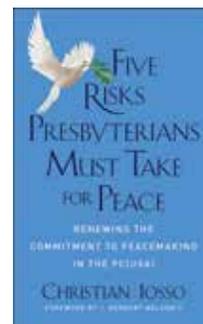
is a five-session curriculum that focuses on the communion table. It can be used in a variety of contexts with children of various ages.

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.

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 Children's Ministries.



7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

A SPECIAL INVITATION

Most of us don't get any mail except for what? Bills and junk. But once in a while, now and then, a pretty envelope, perhaps hand-addressed and with something nice inside, is nestled among the coupons and ads and utility bills.

An invitation.

It's something different and it feels good. It feels good to be invited.

Sometimes the church talks about the work we do as an obligation or a duty. We start thinking about the sign-up sheets and the time requirement, the money and ... But I try to remember 'invitation' instead. Every time we are asked to give of ourselves, our time, our talent and our treasure, it helps to think of it as an invitation to imagine and be a part of God's reign on earth. And on World Communion Sunday, I can think of no more appropriate word than 'invitation.'

Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, invites us to the table. And not just us, but Christ invites, and we open doors open to believers from all over the world, and we even profess that believers from every time and place join us. At this table we proclaim that Christ joins us into one body despite our differences. Christ invites and our doors open to the broken, the hurting and the survivors of violence—those who suffer, as he suffered, to be nourished by his compassion. Christ invites, and our doors open to those all those who work for reconciliation and advocate for God's justice, which makes for peace.

Christ invites, and we also offer ourselves to the pursuit to end violence and bring about reconciliation through the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Through our gifts, we offer a healing hand to women experiencing abuse, here in this country and in places like Guatemala, even as we seek to remedy the structures that create their vulnerability.

Our giving offers a word of peace to those incarcerated here and those crushed by civil war in places like the



Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our offering draws together those who were once at war, creating opportunities for veterans from this land to return to Iraq and build relationships that offer a start to healing and understanding. And this offering will [**SHARE YOUR OWN STORY**] with the 25% that we retain in this congregation.

It is one of the ways we RSVP 'yes' to Christ's invitation and offer, as the words in 2 Thessalonians say, 'peace, at all times, in all ways.' At Christ's table, and in these gifts, we are invited to believe those words. But for peace to truly be offered 'at all times, in all ways' we will start at THIS time and in THESE ways. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~

*Christ invites, and our doors open
to believers from all over the world,
and from every time and place.*

*Christ invites, and our doors open
to those all those who work actively
for reconciliation and
advocate for God's justice,*

Christ invites, which makes for peace.

Amen

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

ONE IN EVERY THREE

Here is a statistic you may find shocking and sad, but when you think about what we know about our troubled world, even our own community, it may not be as surprising as it should be.

The United Nations reports that violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations **in the world**. One in every three women worldwide will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. Gender-based violence knows no social, economic or national boundaries.

These are our daughters, our mothers, our sisters. Not only are they hurting, but in many cases so are children exposed to this violence. And make no mistake, gender-based violence extends beyond the physical pain. Trauma can, and usually does, permeate every aspect of life.

Our General Assembly encourages us to become **active** participants in the church's mission of healing and preventing sexual violence. God is calling us to act, to do what we can to ease this pain, and many are answering that call, encouraging peace at all times, in all ways (2 Thess. 3:16). Presbyterians at all levels of the church are involved in ministries that deal with the trauma inflicted by gender-based violence. They strive for the empowerment and equality of women and girls with help from the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

At the national level, resources with the tools for effective and compassionate action were created to help congregations deal with this violence that can directly affect their members. *Striking Terror No More: The Church Responds to Domestic Violence*, includes background articles on the issue, material for group study, and worship resources. *Anguished Hearts*, another publication, focuses on **healing** after violence has occurred. Each year, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations facilitates PC(USA) involvement in the UN Commission on the Status of Women, helping shape global standards on the empowerment of women.

The National Presbyterian Church of Guatemala is facilitating men's groups called *Men in the Mirror*, encouraging men to challenge the prevalent machismo culture. The groups hope to build appreciation for women, thus diminishing domestic violence and creating better opportunities for women in church and society. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina has long been a partner of the Guatemala church and has an active role with *Men in the Mirror*.

Every year, when asked about the locally retained portion of Offering funds, many congregations say they seek to address the abuse of women and children more than any other issue that affects — let me say this again — one in every three women. One in every three. Whose face do you see when you hear the words “one in every three?”

[**DOES YOUR CONGREGATION SUPPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS? TALK ABOUT IT HERE...**]

Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~

*All are welcome and honored at your table,
O Lord.*

*In the ways that abuse passes without
notice or care, we ask forgiveness.*

*May we work for a world in which
every woman and girl knows
the promise you intend for their lives
through our gifts to the
Peace & Global Witness Offering.*

Amen

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

MENDING LIVES NEAR AND FAR THROUGH THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

We all have known challenges — some greater than others, and not all the same. Far from it. This morning I want to introduce you to someone who faced a tremendous challenge: the task of re-entering the workforce carrying the stigma of a criminal conviction. His name is Craig Rockenbach.

Employers tend to be skeptical of ex-offenders, but for those without a job, another criminal conviction and more jail time is statistically likely. That was Craig's challenge and one he desperately wanted to face down, so he sought the help of the Inside Out Re-entry Community, an Iowa City, Iowa, program that offers job assistance, mentoring, and other resources for those returning from incarceration.

His experience with Inside Out helped him land a job as a housekeeper at a downtown Iowa City hotel. He was thrilled by the opportunity. "It might be a small thing, but it's programs like this that give people a second chance," Rockenbach said.

First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City helps people like Craig by devoting a portion of their Peace & Global Witness Offering to Inside Out. But as we all know, challenges take many shapes, many forms, and show themselves in many places. With this in mind, the Iowa City congregation also chose to use some of the Peace & Global Witness Offering it retains to help individuals in challenging circumstances abroad; they also gave a portion to Healing Hearts, a ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

While Congo may be geographically distant from Iowa City, it is close to the hearts of people at First Presbyterian. Several of the congregation's members have fled violence in Congo. They are among more than 20 African members, predominantly Congolese, who have started worshiping at First Presbyterian in recent years. Healing Hearts helps children and teens in Congo recover from the trauma inflicted through brutal internal conflicts. Thousands of Congolese children have seen their villages attacked by militiamen who were wielding guns and machetes.



First Presbyterian's support of Healing Hearts and the Inside Out Community illustrates the congregation's concern for people near and far — a concern shared by Presbyterians around the country. Congregations just like ours. As you may know, here at [CHURCH NAME] we have used our share of the Peace and Global Witness offering to [TO DO THIS...]

Across the U.S. and around the world, the Peace & Global Witness Offering supports empowering ministries that work for reconciliation and facilitate healing for those scarred by conflict. Half of the Peace & Global Witness Offering goes to the national church to address these issues around the world. Twenty five percent is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work and 25 percent goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level.

By taking this offering, we stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We stand with those like Craig, like the people of Congo, like those who live among us. We stand together. We stand for peace.

Let us pray ~

*Christ, you invite us to your table
and offer us your peace.*

*Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors
who suffer violence and war.*

In your healing presence we pray.

Amen

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

WAR VETERAN FINDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALING AND PARTNERSHIP IN IRAQ — SUPPORTED BY PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY AND THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Fifteen years after serving as a soldier in the Iraq War, the Rev. Matthew Fricker felt compelled to return to Iraq.



In his own words: “I could feel God calling me back.”

Fricker, associate pastor at John McMillan Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, was among eight members of the Iraq Partnership Network who travelled to Iraq. The network is a Presbyterian group whose members share an interest in building relationships with Iraqi Christians and sharing in mutual ministry with them.

“I could feel God calling me back.”

The group visited the three small Presbyterian congregations that remain in Iraq. Since 2003, hundreds of thousands of Christians have fled the country to escape the war, the devastation left in its wake, and intense persecution at the hands of ISIS.

“I could feel God calling me back.”

Fricker was deeply moved by what he experienced in Iraq. “I sat with people and we talked about our families, war, rebuilding, and hope for a brighter future,” he said. “We talked about reconciliation in partnership. We talked with passion about unity in peace. What I received from the people I met was healing...it was true love.”

Pittsburgh Presbytery helped fund Fricker’s trip through the presbytery’s share of the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The Rev. Henk Bossers, chair of the presbytery’s Peacemaking Committee, emphasized the committee’s support of Frickers’ dream of getting more Iraqi War veterans involved. He is reaching out to veterans and wants to connect them with Iraqi Presbyterians through texts, emails, and possibly through visits. “True healing and peace can come out of these kinds of conversations, these kinds of partnerships, and these kinds of visits,” he said.

Across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), congregations and mid councils use their shares of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to work for Christ’s peace on the local and regional levels as well as extend their witness to more distant places. PC(USA) mission co-workers are sometimes called upon to assist in connecting Presbyterians with these opportunities, as Elmarie Parker, who facilitates relationships with partner churches in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon did for the Iraq Partnership Network. Twenty-five percent of the offering is retained by congregations, and 25 percent goes to mid councils. The remaining 50 percent is used by the national church to support its peace and reconciliation ministries.

Right here in our congregation, we have used our share **[TO DO THIS...]**

“I could feel God calling me back.”

I think Rev. Fricker is just one of many of us who feel God’s call to join together as active peacemakers, and to stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere. Please give generously to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~

O God, call us back
to who you created us to be.
Make us part of
your ministry of reconciliation
and inspire us to make peace
in every part of our lives.

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

PEACE AT ALL TIMES, IN ALL WAYS

Today is World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. It's perhaps the most appropriate day of the year to receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering — to think about what it means to be peace-makers, to be witnesses and advocates for compassion, peace and justice. To seek “peace in all times in all ways” (2 Thess. 3:16).

Celebration of World Communion Sunday, as it was originally known, was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us, extending the celebration to a large number around the world. World Communion Sunday is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church, and today it is being celebrated around the world by many denominations.

Today, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, invites us to the table. It is a big table and we share it with many.

We share our table with those around the nation and the globe who are united in their belief that a culture of rape is not acceptable. Our Peace & Global Witness Offering supports a multitude of ministries and programs on the local and national level to address the fact that one in every three women has suffered gender-based violence.

We share our table with those who are currently incarcerated, and those who were previously incarcerated. Congregations and mid councils around the nation are choosing to use their share of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to help lift up those who seek a better path.

We share our table with those seeking refuge and reconciliation arising from conflict. Our Peace & Global Witness Offering allows many to work for Christ's peace on local and regional levels, as well as to extend their witness to more distant and war-torn places.

We share our table.



We open our doors.

We answer God's call, expressed in 2nd Thessalonians, to seek “peace, at all times in all ways.”

And we do this with open hearts. We do it together. Today, on World Communion Sunday, please think about all those with whom we share our table — with all those with whom we share a commitment to “peace at all times, in all ways.” 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 ~

*We come at your invitation,
to be nourished at your table.*

*We are nourished, restored, and
reconciled in your feast, so that
we might become reconciled
to one another and to you.*

*May the gifts we give to the
Peace & Global Witness Offering
create tools for the whole Church
to engage in your mission to make
peace, at all times, in all ways.*

Amen.



INSIDE-OUT

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, or nonviolence. Partner with other faith communities and community groups. Organize a walk to significant community locations.

2 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 the them in their daily prayers.

3 Learn about the Belhar Confession. Provide copies of the *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. *\$1.00 each.*

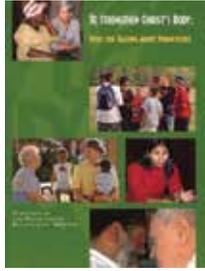


4 Study cultural diversity and building inclusive communities. Offer a study of *Living the Gospel of Peace: Tools for Building More Inclusive Community* (PDS 70270-04-014). Invite members of another congregation or the community. Use Offering funds to pay for participants’ books and other expenses. *\$3.00 each*

5 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. The Peace & Global Witness Offering packet order form has ordering information. *\$5.00 each*

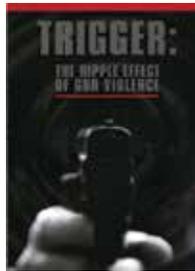
6 **Talk about the tough issues of 2019.** Study *To Strengthen Christ's Body: Too for Talking about Tough Issue* (PDS 24358-08-001). This study

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. \$3.00 each



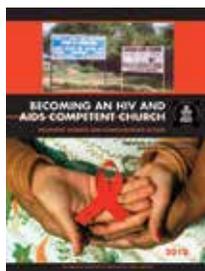
7 **Work ecumenically to address gun violence.**

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. Use the *Trigger* (PDS 25412-12-006) documentary to examine how one shooting impacts individuals, families, and communities and gives voice to the questions and insights that arise. Contact the Peacemaking Program to request a *Trigger* screening kit.



8 **Show support for those living with AIDS.** Host a resource day or worship service to support and pray for people living with AIDS and those who care for them. For resources, visit

presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/pan.



9 **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.

10 **Actively oppose children in war.** Take a stand against child soldiers and participate in the Red Hands Campaign. Call Ryan Smith at 212-697-4568 for more information or visit presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/no-child-soldiers.

11 **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, and Justice Training Day” on Friday, April 17, 2020, in Washington, D.C. Call 202-543-1126 and Follow “PCUSA Washington Office” on Facebook.

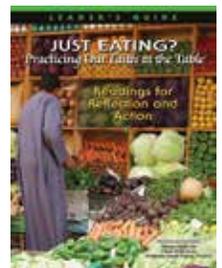
12 **Increase awareness and efforts to combat human trafficking.**

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 US, 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.



13 **Learn about faith and food.** Download “*Just Eating: Practicing Our Faith at the Table*” at pcusa.org/justeating.

Discuss and implement some of the ideas for further education, action, and advocacy.



14 Work to address racism. As part of an ongoing campaign to address racial injustice, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sharing a wealth of antiracism resources — including studies, books, and training — to equip the greater church to work against racism. Visit facing-racism.pcusa.org.



18 Send someone to attend the Privilege Institute's 20th annual White Privilege Conference, April 1–4, 2020 in Mesa, Arizona. Presbyterians from across the country have been attending this conference to learn strategies to combat racism and dismantle structures of privilege.

19 Invite a PC(USA) mission co-worker engaged in ministries that promote peace and reconciliation to speak at your church. Learn how God is at work in the world and how to get more involved. To learn more about speaker availability, contact Destini Hodges at destini.hodges@pcusa.org or 800-728-7228, ext. 5075.

15 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.

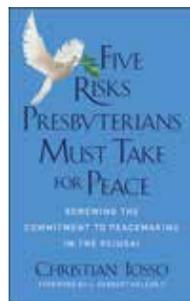
16 Invite an International Peacemaker to visit your region during the fall. 2019 dates are September 13–October 7. Visit www.presbyterianmission.org/international-peacemakers for details



20 UN member countries adopted a 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 <https://www.pcusa.org/sustainable-development-goals/>.



17 Form a study group to study *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take For Peace*. This book, published in 2017, outlines the Five Peacemaking Affirmations approved by the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. *Risking Peace*, a companion study guide, can be downloaded from the *Season of Peace* webpages.





PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

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
presbyterianmission.org/specialofferings

Equipping for Mission Involvement

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

Peacemaking Program

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

Standing Orders

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



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

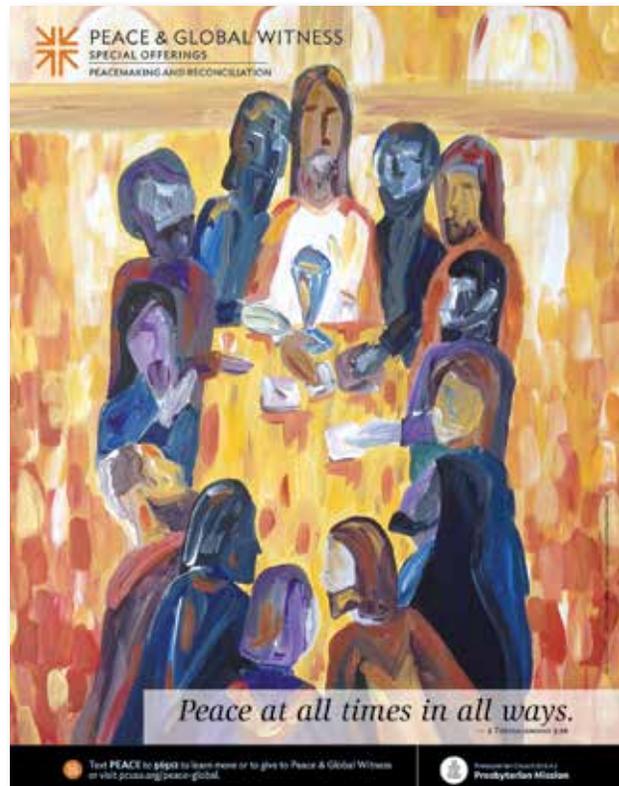
9 RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

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.

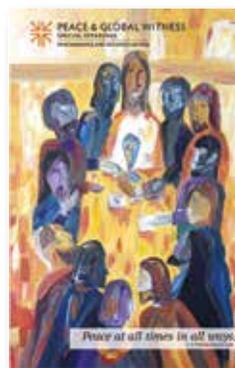


DOWNLOADABLE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ❖ Bulletin inserts: *Come to the Table* and *Opening Doors to Peace*
- ❖ Poster: Display in a high-traffic area in your church
- ❖ Sample pastor's letter: Use as a reference when writing a letter to your members
- ❖ Facebook cover photo: Use on your church's Facebook page throughout *A Season of Peace*
- ❖ Blog post or newsletter content: A brief article to post on your church blog or reproduce in your newsletter
- ❖ Minutes for Mission: Five stories about the transformative power of the kinds of peacemaking and reconciliation efforts the Offering supports (large print reader version)
- ❖ Worship resource
- ❖ Written and 60-second video sermons
- ❖ PowerPoint™ slides: To illustrate Minutes for Mission or for other presentations in support of the Offering



Come to the Table poster



Come to the Table insert



Opening Doors to Peace 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
	Each	12142-19-281	Poster	—
	P25	12142-19-282	Bulletin Insert— <i>Come to the Table</i>	—
	P25	12142-19-283	Bulletin Insert— <i>Opening Doors to Peace</i>	—
	P50	12142-19-285	8.5" x 11" Bulletin Cover	\$4.00
	P50	12142-19-286	8.5" x 14" Bulletin Cover	\$4.00
	P25	12142-19-287	Brochure/mailer	—
	Each	12142-19-288	Leader's Guide	—
	P25	12142-19-275	Offering Envelope	—

OTHER USEFUL ITEMS:

	Each	24358-08-001	<i>To Strengthen Christ's Body: Tools for Talking about Tough Issues</i>	\$3.00
	Each	24358-09-001	<i>Justice and Peace Shall Kiss: Praying through the Year</i>	\$3.00
	Each	24358-12-001	<i>Ways to Engage in Peacemaking Brochure</i>	—
	Each	24358-16-004	<i>30 Days with the Belhar Confession: Reflections on Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice</i>	\$1.00
	Each	24358-10-007	<i>Resurrection Living: Journeying With the Nonviolent Christ</i>	—
	P25	70270-06-033	<i>Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement</i> (pocket size)	\$5.00
	Each	70-270-06-001	<i>The Shalom of God in the Midst of Empire</i>	\$5.00

(Spanish and Korean resources will be available online)

If you are only ordering Peace & Global Witness materials, then no sales tax or billing details are required. However, if this is part of a larger order, or you are adding non-Pentecost resources, sales tax and billing info are needed for your other items. Please add appropriate sales tax for orders being shipped to CA, DC, KY, NY, and PA.

Note: Orders will be shipped by USPS unless otherwise requested. Please include a street address. Any special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.

SHIP TO: (Please use a street address—UPS cannot deliver to a PO box.)

CHURCH: _____

ATTENTION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

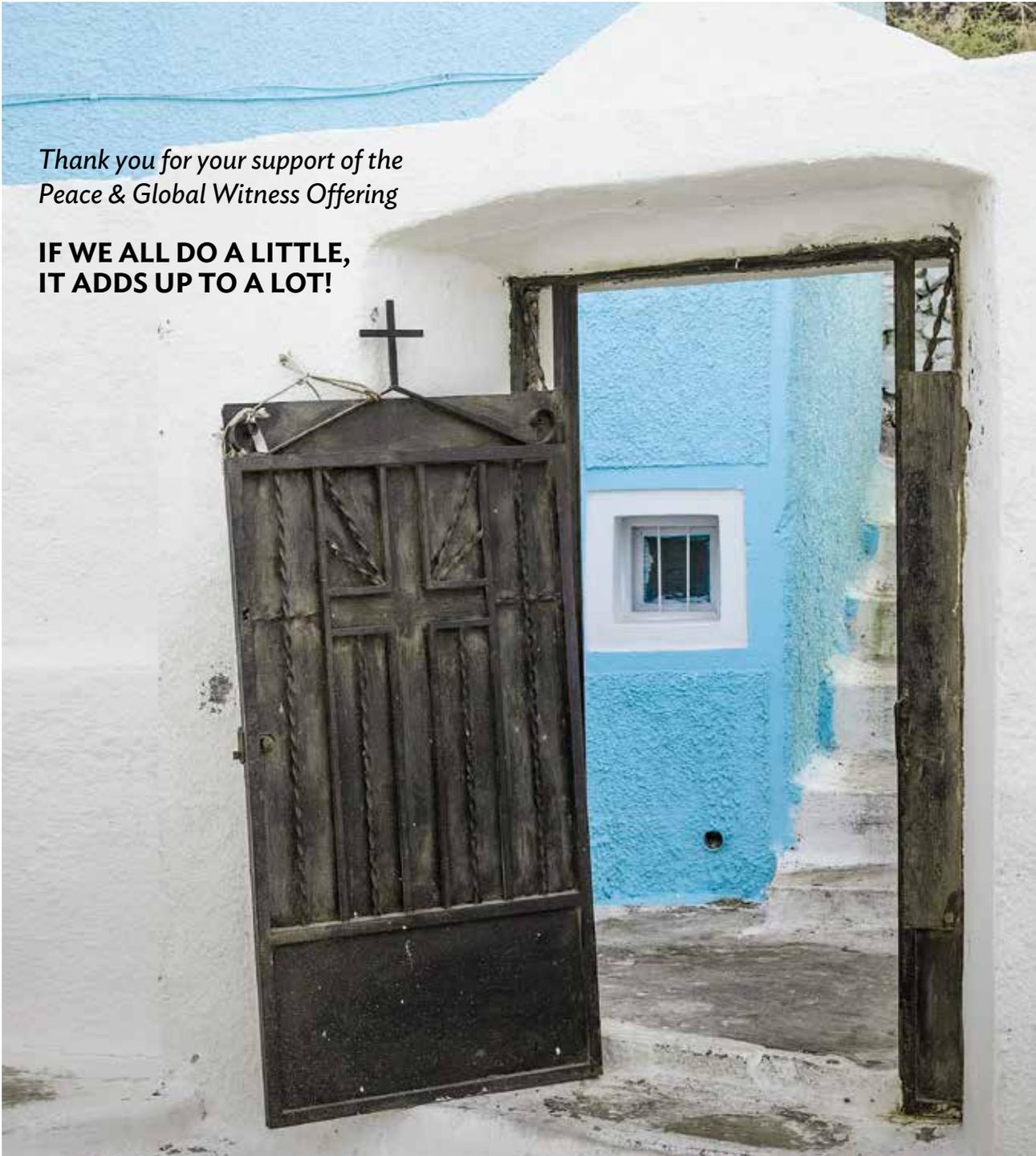
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

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

- 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
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



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

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.