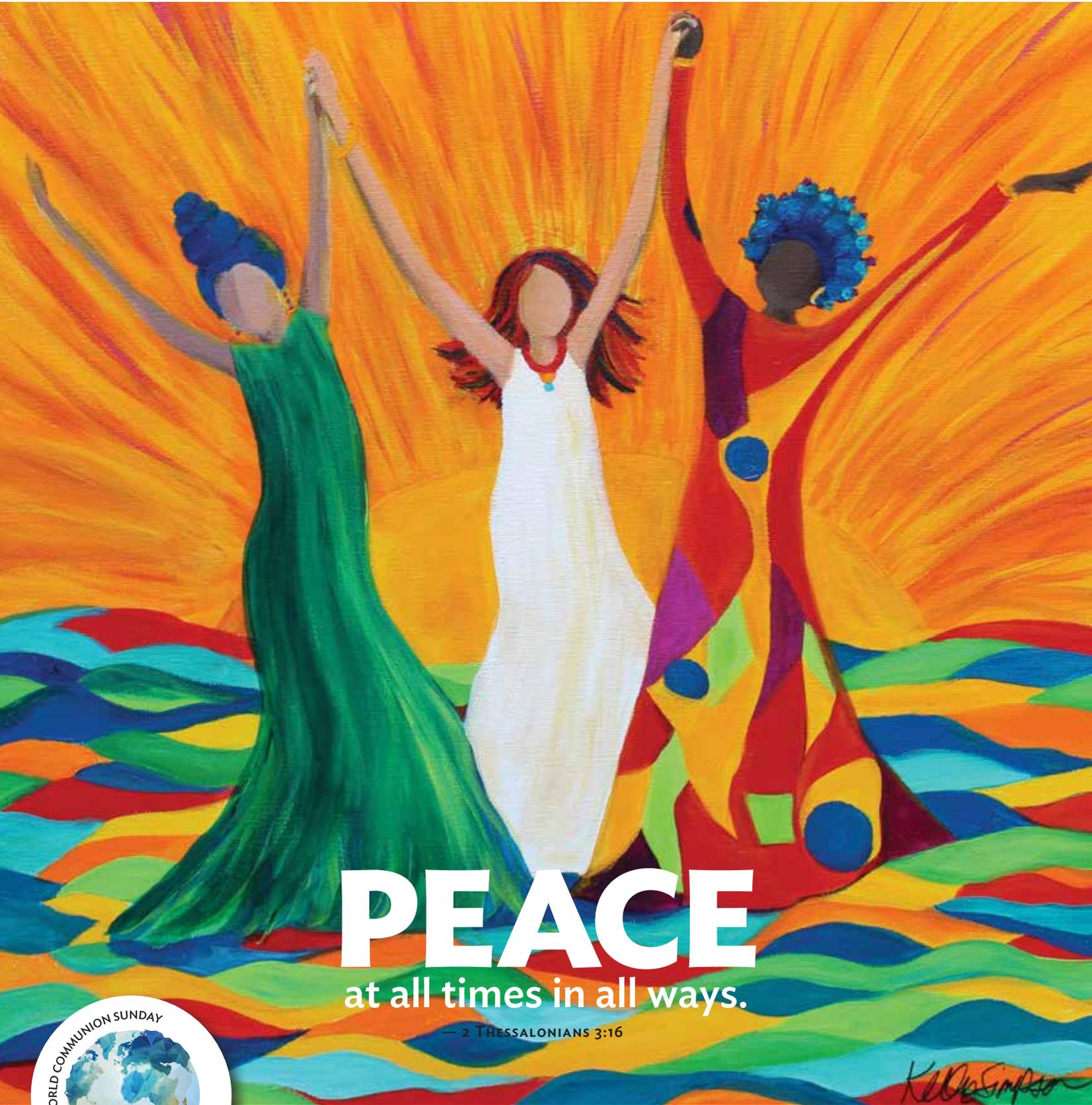




PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
 PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



# PEACE

at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

*K. DeSimpson*



2021

LEADER'S GUIDE  
 SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 3



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.*

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

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

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

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



2021

LEADER'S GUIDE  
SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 3

## 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**



# PEACE

at all times in all ways.

— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the communion table, in God's house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God, with active peacemakers here at home and around the world. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith — a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. We celebrate the truth found in 2nd Thessalonians, "Peace at 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 3) is the most common Sunday for receiving the Offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout *A Season of Peace* (September 5 – October 3).
- ✦ 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

- ✧ 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 suicide prevention programs.
- ✧ 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 PCUSAPEACE to 41444 to give

[pcusa.org/peace-global](http://pcusa.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](https://presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace).
- ✦ Set dates with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday (October 3).
- ✦ 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](mailto: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 ([pcusa.org/peace-global](https://pcusa.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](https://pcusa.org/internationalpeacemakers) to find out how.



## 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 5.
- ✧ Sign up to receive our daily reflections, *A Season of Peace* at [www.pcusa.org/subscribe](http://www.pcusa.org/subscribe). Look under Advocacy and Social Justice.

### 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 a 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 WEEKLY CONVERSATION:

- ✧ Each week features a special guest. We discuss theology, mission and the Special Offerings and include ideas for promotion and engagement. The show takes place live on Mondays at 1 p.m. (ET) on the Special Offerings Facebook page ([facebook.com/specialofferings](https://facebook.com/specialofferings)).

## 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 [pcusa.org/peace-global](http://pcusa.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](http://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 delivered to your email ([www.pcusa.org/subscribe](http://www.pcusa.org/subscribe) — under Advocacy and Social Justice)..

#### SEPTEMBER 5

- ✧ Remind congregants that today *A Season of Peace* begins.
- ✧ Hang the poster in a prominent area.
- ✧ Use provided graphics in your newsletters. ([pcusa.org/peace-global/resources](http://pcusa.org/peace-global/resources)).

#### SEPTEMBER 12

- ✧ 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 (they are both in print and video form).
- ✧ Remind the congregation how its 25% share of the Offering will be used.

#### SEPTEMBER 19

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

#### SEPTEMBER 26

- ✧ Present a Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in your bulletin.
- ✧ 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 3

- ✧ 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

## 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](mailto: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](https://pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings)

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

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



## 6 A SEASON OF PEACE

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), this month-long pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education. Participants are invited to define and deepen their calling as peacemakers.

This year's *A Season of Peace* resources are designed to help participants explore the various forms of peacemaking through the arts. The theme for the 29 days of this year's Season of Peace is *The Things that Make for Peace: Witnessing to Peace through Art and Action*. We are invited to reflect upon ways to practice peace through:



SPOKEN  
& WRITTEN  
WORD



SONG  
& MUSIC



VISUAL  
ARTS



ACTIONS/  
ADVOCACY/  
SERVICE

Featuring video and written reflections from artists and peacemakers who engage these various art forms in their peace work, we'll explore how the arts enhance our peacemaking witness and are a form of peacemaking in their own right.



## 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 5 – October 3, or download the entire set of reflections as a single file ([pcusa.org/seasonofpeace](http://pcusa.org/seasonofpeace) — *A Season of Peace* under Advocacy and Social Justice).



### Peace Cards

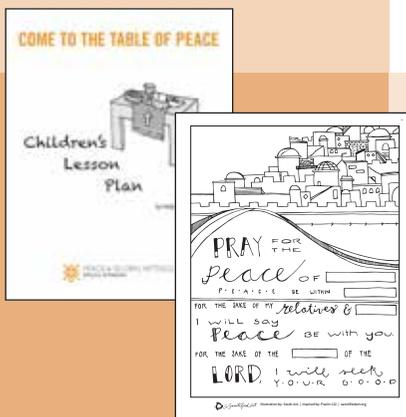
There are three sets of 30 cards from which to choose. The cards can be placed in a central location such as a kitchen table. Peace Cards can be used anywhere and with anyone — at meals or family gatherings, during fellowship at church, as icebreakers for study groups, or for in-depth conversations on 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.

### Peace Fair

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

### 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.



### Children's Coloring Poster

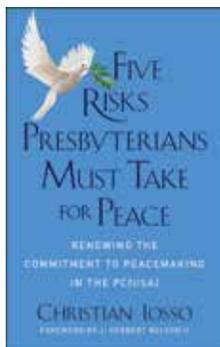
This reproducible, original artwork can be used as an individual coloring sheet or enlarged to poster-size for a group coloring project throughout the weeks of *A Season of Peace*. It was produced by A Sanctified Art LLC.

### 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.



## 7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### “MAY THE GOD OF PEACE ... GRANT YOU PEACE AT ALL TIMES IN ALL WAYS.”

It was a daring prayer, all things considered, to ask the Thessalonians to pray — and it is also a daring one for us, I imagine. The second letter to the Thessalonians arrived at a time of turmoil, strife and confusion. The Christian community was experiencing persecutions so severe that some believed the time of judgment had come, while others took advantage of their doubt, spreading misinformation and sowing dissent. The letter ends with a benedictory prayer: for God’s peace to be granted at all times in all ways. It might have been daring enough to consider asking them to imagine peace at “any time,” much less at “all times,” or to imagine peace in some sort of way at all, much less in all of them. Have you ever felt so far from God’s peace that you couldn’t even imagine it?

Peace is so often a daring prayer and so often provoked in the imagination, first. Artistic expression and movements for justice and peace often dance together. In turmoil, strife and confusion, visual artists and theatrical performances can point us to God’s peace-creating presence in our midst. We can listen for God’s voice in lamenting or angry poems, and in songs of freedom from those most vulnerable to violence and oppression. And the Church can dance with all whom God loves.

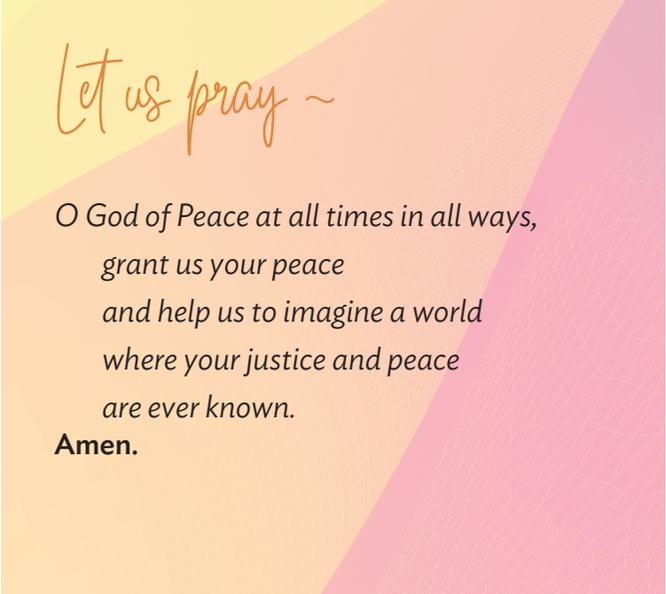
Artistic expression can light up our imaginations and lift our spirits. Our own choir is a shining example of this, as I am sure you will agree. Art may help imagine peace, as it has in Lebanon where war has been a daily reality for far too long; or at the southern U.S. border, where Presbyterians are imagining a season of peace with those who flee from violence; or it might join in songs of hope and inner peace with those considering taking their own lives. The Church joins with those imagining a new world, so we can create it, together.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering helps us imagine and create in each of our individual expressions, and together as a whole Church, a witness to the God of Peace. Twenty-five percent of our collection will be used by our congregation to (**Share your local work**

**here**). Twenty-five percent is shared with our mid council region, and 50% is shared with our denominational partners so that our witness to peace is extended, and we help fulfill the daring prayer in 2nd Thessalonians: that the God of Peace is known “at all times in all ways.”

There is so much peace we are only beginning to imagine, and so we pray hard, with our minds, our gifts, with our Church and all those who inspire a sense of God’s peace.

For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



*Let us pray ~*

*O God of Peace at all times in all ways,  
grant us your peace  
and help us to imagine a world  
where your justice and peace  
are ever known.*

**Amen.**

## 7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### A LIGHT IN THE CLEARING

When the prophet Elijah, deep in the throes of an existential crisis, fled to Mount Horeb in search of God, he was met instead with the sound of sheer silence.

Natalie Pisarcik knows just how he felt.

“There was a time in my life where I was on the bottom,” Natalie testified during Sunday worship in her home congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Boonton, New Jersey. “I cannot even describe how hard and difficult that time was. Only those who have been there know how it feels.”

Natalie’s story recollected a significant turning point in her life. “On that fateful day, I went for a walk in a wooded area where I kept repeating over and over in my wounded brain how I would end the pain. As I walked, I came across a field, which oddly seemed to call to me. As I walked into the field, a beam of warm sunlight hit my face. It was at this exact moment that I realized I had made a terrible mistake. It was like God was saying to me, ‘What are you doing? You have a reason to live.’ I was so overcome.”

Natalie found herself compelled to address the growing mental health crisis not only by sharing her story with her church, but also by getting her congregation more involved. The church’s board of deacons was persuaded to take immediate action to address the suicide crisis.

Because deacons in the Presbyterian tradition are called to a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service,” the board voted to designate the church’s share of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to support the New Jersey Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, an organization in which Natalie had participated for years.

Natalie’s personally moving experience resonates anew during the pandemic, and underlines the importance of this work. “Sadly, and tragically, our community has lost more people to suicide in 2020 than it has to COVID-19,” said Natalie.

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout the world. The offering supports ministries that work for

reconciliation and facilitate healing. Half of the Peace & Global Witness Offering goes to the national church to address these issues around the world, 25% is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level. And as you may be aware, our own church has used/will use our portion of the offering (**To do what? And why that is important and meaningful to your congregation**).

Natalie has a message to share with us all during these unsettled times. She reminds us to “listen and look for the light, and remember that you have a purpose, too. God is with you.

To support congregations and individuals facing the devastating impact of suicide, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program offers several webinars and publications, including the “Companion Guide to the Commitment to Peacemaking,” — specifically the section on “Violence in Families and Communities,” which lists multiple resources related to suicide — and the PC(USA) Policy, “Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness,” approved by the 217th General Assembly (2008).

*Let us pray ~*

*Loving God,*

*when we walk in the valley of the shadow,  
remind us that we are  
only steps from your light.*

*Draw nearer to life, by the arms of  
our shared ministry, all who feel hopeless,  
lost, or deserted into your loving embrace,  
into the warmth of your sight.*

**Amen.**

## 7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### SEEKING LIGHT THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION

#### **Peace & Global Witness Offering helps address anxiety and foster creativity through new arts and culture program in Lebanon**

Beirut's 2020 port explosions shattered Nada Raphael's world. The devastating blast that tore through the port area of Beirut — one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history — left hundreds dead, thousands injured, an estimated 300,000 people homeless and artists like Raphael psychically wounded.

"Beirut is my city," said the Lebanese-born photographer, videographer and journalist. "Its pain [is] my pain. I felt the aftermath of the explosion in every bone of my body and I wanted to show this. I want to make sure we will remember. I consider we have a duty to remember what happened and to never forget."

And now, through a unique program called NABAD, Nada and a host of artists across Lebanon have a new platform through which the memory of the port explosions may be preserved, the resulting trauma processed and some measure of healing achieved by seeking light through creative expression.

NABAD — an innovative program launched by Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in response to the tragedy in Beirut — aims to empower artists, arts organizations and creative enterprises in Southwestern Asia and North Africa. Dar al-Kalima, established in 2006 in Bethlehem, Palestine, focuses its educational objectives on the performing arts, visual arts and cultural heritage. With needed support, artists are able to adapt and share creative ways to keep people connected.

Dar al-Kalima is supported in part by the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which promotes the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, president of Dal al-Kalima states, "The support of the Offering is very crucial especially at times when everything is falling apart and people in the region feel abandoned. This support is a sign that we are not forsaken or forgotten."

The Offering is unique in that half of it goes to the national church to foster peace globally, 25% percent is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level.

Artistic expression and movements for peace and justice often sing together, dance together, seek the light of peace together — and point us to God's peace-creating presence in our midst. "Art and culture help us not to forget that we are all connected and all similar, in spite of all our differences," said Nada. "It helps connect humans in different countries and continents. It helps us grow as individuals and learn from one another. It helps us try and challenge our own misconceptions and biases. Art and culture have made us feel less alone, less isolated."

Please give generously and help facilitate the healing some communities need.

*Let us pray ~*

*Creative God,  
you painted the skies  
and filled the world with song.  
Inspire your people  
to imagine your peace,  
fashioned by all our gifts  
and all our imaginings  
offered together.  
Amen.*

## 7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### THE LIGHT OF UNDERSTANDING

#### Peace & Global Witness Offering facilitates healing and reconciliation along the U.S.-Mexico border

As well traveled and as fully versed in Presbyterian mission as he is, Tom Elander was still surprised by what he witnessed and learned at the U.S.-Mexico border last winter. As a participant in a travel study seminar hosted by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to help better understand the real-world impact of migration and immigration law, Tom appreciated the group's itinerary, which struck just the right balance between taking in important information and putting hands and feet to work.

"I walked away with a much greater appreciation for how difficult life is for many people from Mexico and Central America," said Tom of his four-day experience in Los Angeles and Tijuana, "and how they often look to the U.S. as a beacon of hope to help them escape the misery in their lives — whether from poverty, violence, lack of education or lack of opportunity."

Tom is grateful that his church, Brentwood in West Los Angeles — especially the associate pastor, the Rev. Lora East — has been very supportive of his efforts. He said, thanks in large part to Rev. East, that Brentwood has become a Matthew 25 congregation during the past year. Through their continued engagement with Matthew 25 and the Peace & Global Witness Offering, the church commits to sharing the peace of Christ with all God's children.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering supports ministries that work for reconciliation and facilitate healing. Half of the Peace & Global Witness Offering goes to the national church to address these issues around the world — including the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program — 25% is retained by congregations just like ours for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level.

Tom's experience on the border has sparked a light of understanding that comes from seeing things firsthand and has emboldened him to speak out wherever and whenever necessary.

"My service on the Pacific Presbytery task force in particular has helped me to know that there are times when I must push back on my own government when the basic needs of human beings and fellow Christians are not only ignored, but also when obstacles are deliberately put in the way of people seeking freedom and a safe and decent life with hope for the future," he said. "These experiences have allowed me to know how a little support can go a long way. The Peace & Global Witness Offering can really make a difference in the lives of people in need."

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

*Let us pray ~*

*God, make us a people of peace,  
at all times and in all ways.*

*Challenge us to reach out  
and connect with all your people  
to shape your "kin-dom"  
together.*

**Amen.**

## 7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### THE LIGHT SHINES ON

Have you ever felt so far from God's peace that you couldn't even imagine it?

Natalie Pisarcik testified during Sunday worship in her home congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Boonton, New Jersey, that she was in that place. A place so dark that she was ready to end her pain. Ready to take her own life. But then, there was light. She recalls, "A beam of warm sunlight hit my face. It was at this exact moment that I realized I had made a terrible mistake. It was like God was saying to me, 'What are you doing? You have a reason to live.' I was so overcome."

God's peace shone down in Natalie's place of turmoil. And the light shines on.

Tom Elander, a member of Brentwood Presbyterian Church in West Los Angeles, was shocked at what he saw firsthand at the southern border. "I walked away with a much greater appreciation for how difficult life is for many people from Mexico and Central America who are desperate to escape the misery of their lives — whether from poverty, violence, lack of education or lack of opportunity."

His four-day experience as part of a Presbyterian Peacemaking Program travel study shed a new light of understanding. And the light shines on.

Nada Raphael's world exploded. A devastating blast that tore through the port area of Beirut left hundreds dead, thousands injured and an estimated 300,000 people homeless. Nada, a Lebanese-born artist, said, "I felt the aftermath of the explosion in every bone of my body and I wanted to show this with my art. I want to make sure we will remember." And the light shines on.

Three stories. So different from each other but in each, God's light — God's peace — extends into the lives of Natalie, of Tom, and of Nada, at some time and in some way. And in each case, that light shines back to us in the Church, through our gifts to the Peace &

Global Witness Offering. This Offering supports empowering ministries that are rays of light — illuminating both the sources of strife, as well as efforts toward healing and wholeness. Half of the Offering goes to the Mission Agency to partner with ministries around the world like NABAD, a program in Lebanon that aims to empower artists like Nada cope with trauma through creative expression and points us to God's peace-creating presence in our midst. Twenty-five percent is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work. Natalie's congregation used their portion to address the growing mental health and suicide crisis in their community. And 25% goes to mid councils for peacemaking ministries on the regional level like Tom experienced at the southern border. Our own church has used our portion of the offering (**To do what? And why that is important and meaningful to your congregation**).

Through our gifts, we draw closer to God's peace, and shine God's light at this time and in these ways, trusting in the God of peace, at all times and in all ways. Because when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously.

*Let us pray ~*

*Break forth in us,  
Light of peace, Light of the world.  
May your peace extend from our mouths,  
from our hearts and  
from our hands until it exists,  
at all times, in all ways.  
Amen.*



ADRIANNA GEO

## 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 Take your peacemaking commitment from study to action.** Use the steps outlined in the new *Companion Guide to the Commitment to Peacemaking* to address an issue of your congregation's choice: poverty, racism, violence, climate change, or immigration/migration. The Guide outlines a unique process of worship, spiritual grounding and reflection, community building and partnership, study and preparation, and direct action and advocacy for Presbyterians to deepen their peacemaking work and witness around the chosen issue. It includes a curated collection of suggestions, best practices, resources and hyperlinks to help Presbyterians take their peacemaking commitment to the next level. Visit [pcusa.org/peacemaking](https://pcusa.org/peacemaking) to download a copy of the Guide.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.



5

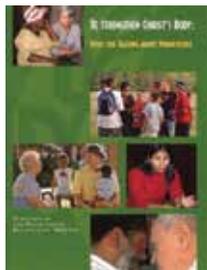
**Study cultural diversity and building inclusive communities.** Offer a study of *Living the Gospel of Peace: Tools for Building More Inclusive Community* (PDS 70270-04-014). Invite members of another congregation or the community. Use Offering funds to pay for participants' books and other expenses.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

6

**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. *\$5.00 each.*

7

**Talk about the tough issues.** Study *To Strengthen Christ's Body: Tools for Talking about Tough Issues* (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, childcare, or other expenses. *\$3.00 each*



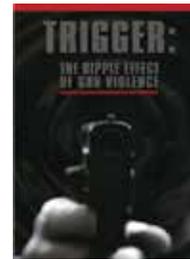
8

**Provide help in an election year.** Distribute a copy of *Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement* to each member. This guide has been a helpful resource to the church for decades and offers theologically-sound and biblically-grounded guidance for navigating contentious times and issues. There is also an abbreviated pocket guide. Guidelines (English) PDS# 24358-20-002; Pocket Guide (English) PDS# 24358-20-005. Also available in Spanish and Korean.

9

**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. Host a screening of the documentary *Trigger: The*

*Ripple Effect of Gun Violence* to examine how one shooting impacts individuals, families, and communities and gives voice to the questions and insights that arise. Watch episodes of the webinar series *Standing Our Holy Ground* to learn how faith communities can address gun violence. Visit [pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking) for links to the *Trigger* documentary resources and the *Standing Our Holy Ground* webinar recordings.



10

**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 [pcusa.org/ministries/phewa/pan](http://pcusa.org/ministries/phewa/pan).



11

**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.

12

**Actively oppose children in war.** Take a stand against child soldiers and participate in the Red Hands Campaign. Call the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations at 212-697-4568 for more information or visit [pcusa.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/no-child-soldiers](http://pcusa.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/no-child-soldiers).

13

**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” in Washington, D.C. Call 202-543-1126 and Follow “PCUSA Washington Office” on Facebook.

14

**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](http://pcusa.org/traffickingtoolkit) and share with members of your community.



15

**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](http://facing-racism.pcusa.org)

16

**Respond to immigration issues.** Learn more about immigration issues and how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations can respond. Visit [pcusa.org/immigration](http://pcusa.org/immigration) to find resources for study, advocacy, worship, and action.

17

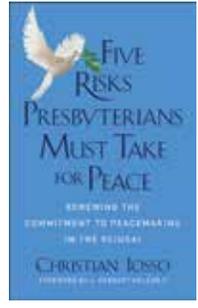
**Invite an International Peacemaker to visit** your region during the fall. 2021 dates are September 25–October 19. Visit [presbyterianmission.org/international-peacemakers](http://presbyterianmission.org/international-peacemakers) for details



18

**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.



19

**Attend the Privilege Institute’s virtual White Privilege Conference.**

Presbyterians from across the country have been attending this conference to learn strategies to combat racism and dismantle structures of privilege.

20

**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, email [mission.live@pcusa.org](mailto:mission.live@pcusa.org) or call 800-728-7228, ext. 5075.

21

**Study the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.**

UN member countries adopted this 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 [pcusa.org/sustainable-development-goals](http://pcusa.org/sustainable-development-goals).





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

[pcusa.org/specialofferings](http://pcusa.org/specialofferings)

**Peacemaking Program**

Carl Horton 800-728-7228, Ext. 5200

[carl.horton@pcusa.org](mailto:carl.horton@pcusa.org)

[pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking)

**Equipping for Mission Involvement**

Stephanie Caudill 800-728-7228, Ext. 5279

[stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org](mailto:stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org)

[pcusa.org/missionresources](http://pcusa.org/missionresources)

**Standing Orders**

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800-533-4371

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

**Where do you remit your gifts?**

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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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

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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PO Box 643751, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751

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



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Presbyterian Mission**

## 10 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: *Peace At All Times, In All Ways* and *Peace Without Walls*
- ✦ Poster: Display in a high-traffic area in your church (in English, Spanish and Korean)
- ✦ 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*
- ✦ Minutes for Mission: Five stories about the transformative power of the kinds of peacemaking and reconciliation efforts the Offering supports (large print reader version and video form)
- ✦ Worship resource
- ✦ Written and video sermons
- ✦ PowerPoint slides: To illustrate Minutes for Mission or for other presentations in support of the Offering
- ✦ Children's Curriculum



*Peace At All Times, In All Ways* poster



*Peace At All Times, In All Ways* insert



*Peace Without Walls* insert

## 2021 PEACE & GLOBALWITNESS OFFERING ORDER FORM

### 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](mailto: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](http://pcusastore.com).

### ALL PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS MATERIALS ARE FREE unless otherwise noted.

QTY.	UOM	PDS#	ITEM	PRICE
<b>ENGLISH RESOURCES</b>				
	Each	12142-21-281	Poster	
	P25	12142-21-282	Bulletin Insert— <i>Peace At All Times, In All Ways</i>	
	P25	12142-21-283	Bulletin Insert— <i>Peace Without Walls</i>	
	P50	12142-21-285	8.5" x 11" Bulletin Cover	\$4.00
	P50	12142-21-286	8.5" x 14" Bulletin Cover	\$4.00
	P25	12142-21-287	Brochure/mailer	
	Each	12142-21-288	Leader's Guide	
	P25	12142-19-275	Offering Envelope	

#### SPANISH RESOURCES

	Each	12142-21-201	Poster	
	P25	12142-21-202	Bulletin Insert— <i>Paz en todo tiempo y en todas formas</i>	
	P25	12142-21-203	Bulletin Insert— <i>Paz sin muros</i>	
	P25	12142-21-276	Offering Envelope	

#### KOREAN RESOURCES

	Each	12142-21-211	Poster	
	P25	12142-21-212	Bulletin Insert— <i>항상 모든 일에 평안하기를</i>	
	P25	12142-21-213	Bulletin Insert— <i>장벽을 뛰어넘는 평화</i>	
	P25	12142-21-277	Offering Envelope	

QTY.	PDS#	ITEM	PRICE
<b>OTHER USEFUL ITEMS:</b>			
	24358-08-001	To Strengthen Christ's Body: Tools for Talking about Tough Issues	\$3.00
	24358-09-001	Justice and Peace Shall Kiss: Praying through the Year	\$3.00
	24358-12-001	Ways to Engage in Peacemaking Brochure	
	24358-16-004	30 Days with the Belhar Confession: Reflections on Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice	\$1.00
	24358-10-007	Resurrection Living: Journeying with the Nonviolent Christ	\$7.50
	24358-20-002	Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement	
	24358-20-003	Spanish	
	24358-20-004	Korean	
	24358-20-005	Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement (pocket guide).	
	24358-20-006	Spanish	
	24358-20-007	Korean	\$5.00
	70-270-06-001	The Shalom of God in the Midst of Empire	\$5.00
	24358-20-008	Commitment to Peacemaking.	
	24358-20-009	Spanish	
	24358-20-010	Korean	

If you are only ordering Peace & Global Witness materials, then no sales tax or billing details are required. However, if you are adding Bulletin Covers or other cost items, sales tax and billing info are needed. Please add appropriate sales tax for orders being shipped to CA, DC, KY, NY and PA.

Note: All orders will be shipped by the most efficient method as determined by our distribution center. Any special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.

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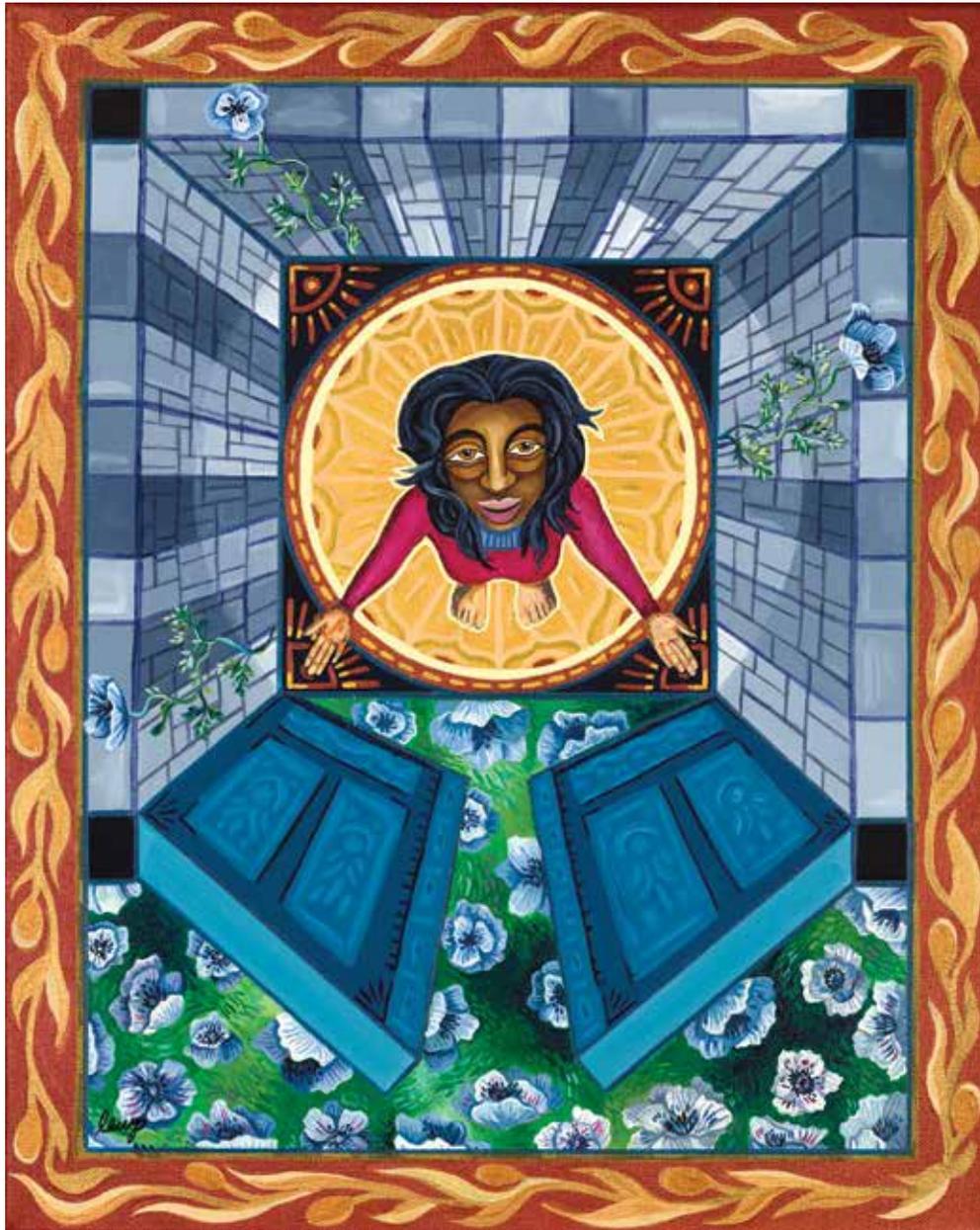
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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \$7.50 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](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 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.