



“... the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to
Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in
Church and culture,
to hear the voices of
peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for
justice, freedom, and peace.”

A Brief Statement of Faith
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) SEASON OF LENT

During Lent, as we intentionally focus on aligning our lives with God’s calling for us, One Great Hour of Sharing provides an opportunity to become, as Isaiah proclaims, repairers of the breach. For 70 years, Presbyterians have joined together in this ecumenical effort to share God’s love through ministries that provide relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry, and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.



32% | RESTORING HOPE (PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE)

Working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters.



36% | REDUCING HUNGER (PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM)

Supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed.



32% | PARTNERING IN PROGRESS (SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE)

Providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from.



GO ONLINE TO FIND RESOURCES

[PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/OGHS](https://presbyterianmission.org/oghs)

STORY OF IMPACT | PDA responds quickly to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

Even before Hurricane Maria made landfall in September 2017, Presbyterian leaders in Puerto Rico received promises of help from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Just days after the storm hit, the first wave of PDA grants arrived and immediately began meeting pressing needs of the community.

In the Presbytery of San Juan, PDA's grants were matched by the presbytery's own funds and then distributed among congregations to provide desperately needed items such as food, water, diapers, and medical supplies.

Presbyterians in the region never doubted that PDA would respond quickly and commit to long-term support, but they have been blessed by the increased visibility of the church in their communities.

“In many places here, Presbyterians are not very well known, but through [the significant relief efforts] like this, the Presbyterian name becomes familiar and people see that our church is here to help,” says Edwin González-Castillo, Hurricane Consultant for Puerto Rico, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Your support of OGHS enables our church to bear the caring witness of Christ in Puerto Rico and around the world.

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

“To send in people from outside to be the presence of Christ in the midst of chaos is literally the presence of God showing up. One Great Hour of Sharing makes programs that do this possible.”

Rev. Dr. David Holyan, First Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood, MO

■ Important Dates and Resources

- **November: Watch for your One Great Hour of Sharing standing order confirmation.** Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this offering in your church.
- **January: One Great Hour of Sharing resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371.
- **February: Ensure you have all the promotional materials you need.** Visit presbyterianmission.org/oghs for additional resources.
- **March–April: Promote One Great Hour of Sharing during the season of Lent.** Send a letter with an OGHS brochure/ mailer or bulletin insert to each household in the congregation.
- **April: Receive the Offering and thank your congregation for their generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.** Remit your congregation's gifts through your normal receiving agency.



Pentecost SEASON OF PENTECOST

In celebrating Pentecost, we recognize the birth of the church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Christ's followers. That Spirit remains with the church — and surely with each of us — connecting us with the church of the past, inspiring the church of today, and pointing toward the church of the future.

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church wide effort to support young people by inspiring them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world and to build a life of faith. The Offering serves to nurture the faith of our members in their first third of life—children, youth, and young adults—locally and around the world.



40% | CONGREGATIONAL INITIATIVES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Retained by the congregation for investment in local programs focused on children at risk, and development of youth and young adults.



25% | SERVING COMMUNITIES (YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS)

Volunteer programs that bring young adults together in fellowship, worship, and service throughout the world.



25% | GUIDING YOUTH (YOUTH MINISTRIES) that guide youth in their walk with Christ and inspire those called to accompany them.



10% | CHILD ADVOCACY

Advocacy that protects and education that nurtures our children and youth in mind, body, and spirit.

STORY OF IMPACT | Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer saw lives renewed in Peru.

Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer (YAV), Kristen Young, served in Peru at a shelter for young survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence. The women she met became testaments of the Holy Spirit's work for her. She remembers Diana, who arrived at the shelter scared and refusing to smile. In the weeks that followed, Diana's countenance brightened and peaked when she held her newborn son. Kristen saw it as a moment that gave witness to a song often sung at the shelter: "The Spirit of God is in this place; the Spirit of God moves in this place."

As Kristen served in the shelter, she saw the Spirit move as teen moms who had been raised in abusive homes

learned to be caring and conscientious parents. She saw God at work as the residents graduated high school and took steps toward independent living.

After Kristen completed her year of YAV service in 2017, she followed the Spirit's call to serve in a church internship at home in Hawaii. Kristen continues to be inspired by what she learned in Peru and in her ministry in Hawaii.

Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering celebrate the work of the Spirit and support the faith formation of the youngest members of the church and our world.

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

"We encourage congregations to participate in the Pentecost Offering to support Triennium, or similar local youth events. If a congregation has no youth in their membership, they can give their retained portion to the presbytery so we can provide the opportunity for other local youth to participate!"

Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter | West Jersey Presbytery

Important Dates and Resources

- **February: Watch for your Pentecost Offering standing order confirmation.** Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this offering in your church.
- **March: Pentecost Offering resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371.
- **April: Meet with your session or mission committee to plan how your congregation will use its 40% of Pentecost receipts.** Collaborate with the children and youth in your congregation to promote the Pentecost Offering. Send a letter with a Pentecost brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each household in the congregation.
- **May: Promote the Pentecost Offering during the season leading up to Pentecost Sunday, or on any other Sunday highlighting youth.**
- **June: Receive the Offering and thank your congregation; remind them how the congregation's portion (40%) of the Pentecost Offering will be used.** Remit your congregation's gifts through your normal receiving agency



Peace & Global Witness SEASON OF PEACE

In the closing of the second letter to the Thessalonian church—a community distracted by division, hopelessness, and fear—Paul proclaims a blessing to calm all anxiety: “May the Lord of peace ... give you peace at all times in all ways.”

The Peace & Global Witness Offering supports ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict — including our own. The Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear and embrace God’s boundless peace through resources that promote and teach peace and sharing in the work of our sisters and brothers in Christ who walk through turmoil holding the tools of reconciliation. The peace of Christ quiets the anxiety of every soul and reconciles us to one another and to God. The Peace & Global Witness Offering serves to share this peace at all times and in all ways.

25% | CONGREGATIONAL PEACE INITIATIVES



Retained by congregations to invest in local responses to injustice and violence, and connect with the global witness to Christ’s peace.

25% | MID COUNCIL PEACE INITIATIVES



Linking congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation throughout presbyteries and synods.

50% | ADVOCATING PEACE AND ADVANCING JUSTICE



Advocating for peacemaking and justice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



GO ONLINE TO FIND RESOURCES

[PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/PEACE-GLOBAL](https://presbyterianmission.org/peace-global)

STORY OF IMPACT | Congregations Nurture Neighborliness Across Ethnic, Racial, & Religious Lines

Just days after the racially charged violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2016, Rev. Jon Brown found God’s reassuring peace in the presence of several dozen children at Old Bergen Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. His congregation was hosting a peace camp gathering for elementary-aged children with help from local Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations.

“To see children of different races, ethnicities, and faith traditions, singing, laughing, and creating together was a powerful medicine,” Brown says.

The children learned about ways to resolve conflicts and how to handle angry and sad feelings. They talked and dreamed together what and who makes up a good neighborhood and how they can be good neighbors.

Across the U.S., Presbyterians are helping shape peaceful and neighborly communities. Your gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering help continue this work of building a peaceful world—in our communities nearby and around the world.

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

“When we learn acceptance through the eyes of Jesus, we see people who are like us: in need of the caring and embracing love of Jesus. Thank you for bringing this important reflection to mind through the Season of Peace and this offering!”

Rev. Elmer “Bud” Frimoth, Pastor Emeritus, Kenilworth Presbyterian Church | Portland, OR

📅 Important Dates and Resources

- **June: Watch for your Peace & Global Witness Offering standing order confirmation.** Make updates if necessary, or order materials to begin promoting this offering in your church. Plan with your session or mission committee to determine how you will use your congregation’s share (25%).
- **August: Peace & Global Witness Offering resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371.
- **September: Promote the Peace & Global Witness Offering.** Send a letter with a brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each household in the congregation. Share A Season of Peace (www.pcusa.org/seasonofpeace) resources with your congregation.
- **October: Receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday.** Thank your congregation and remind them how your 25% of the Offering will be used. Remit your congregation’s gifts through your normal receiving agency. Your mid council office should receive 25% of your gifts.



Christmas Joy

SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

In a season when we are considering the perfect gift—the gift that communicates how much we know and love our friends and family—we are reminded of God’s perfect gift to us. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. Jesus Christ was God’s perfect gift.

During Advent, we celebrate the gift of leaders—past, present, and future— through the Christmas Joy Offering. Leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, serving as models for our own journeys of faith. We need well-equipped future leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, to reflect the wideness of God’s intended diversity. We want church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with critical financial need to receive assistance. For those leaders—past, present, and future—the Christmas Joy Offering truly is a gift from above. For those who give, may it live as a reminder of the One whose birth we celebrate, the one truly perfect gift.



50% | PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR (LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT)

- Education through Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color
- Leadership development efforts of the Racial Equity Office of the Presbyterian Mission Agency



50% | GIVING BACK (ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF PENSIONS)

Critical financial assistance for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



STORY OF IMPACT | Menaul School Molds Academic Achievement and Spiritual Formation

Since the eighth grade, Lucianna (Luci) Astorga's summer priority has been earning tuition for the upcoming academic year. Her efforts to pay for education at Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, have been supported in part by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering. Gifts to the Offering help open the door for Luci and others to attend Menaul despite having limited financial means.

Luci says Menaul lives up to its reputation, academically and spiritually. "Chapel and religion classes really help with my spiritual growth," she says.

"Being able to grow spiritually is one thing that really drew us here."

She says Menaul's service projects and mission trips have helped shape her career aspirations. She would like to be a nurse or a teacher. "I really do want to help people," says Luci. "I know that sounds like a cliché, but that (desire to help) is what I got from Menaul."

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering support students like Luci and her sisters so they enter adulthood prepared to serve others.

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

"We've always supported the Christmas Joy Offering because it contributes to the well-being of those who have made a life decision to serve the church. It helps them not to have to choose between housing and food."

Jim Irwin, Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Othello, WA

■ Important Dates and Resources

- **September: Watch for your Christmas Joy Offering standing order confirmation.** Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this offering in your church.
- **October: Christmas Joy Offering resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary, or order materials to start promoting the Offering in your church. Call the PC(USA) Store at (800) 533-4371.
- **November: Send a letter with a Christmas Joy Offering brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household.**
- **December: Promote and receive the Christmas Joy Offering during the Advent & Christmas season.**
- **January: Thank your congregation for their generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering.** Remit your congregation's gifts through your normal receiving agency.

Make your congregation

FOUR

for

FOUR

By receiving all four of the
Special Offerings mandated by the General Assembly,

a **FOUR** for **FOUR** congregation

declares its connection with the ministries of the PC(USA) and
joins in the efforts of Presbyterians **to share God's grace and endless love.**

Are you
FOUR for **FOUR**?

Check out our new website for the map
with **FOUR** for **FOUR** congregations!

specialofferings.pcusa.org

Looking for help
sharing this with your congregation?

We can help you celebrate your **FOUR** for **FOUR** status,
or share ways to help your congregation achieve that goal!

special.offerings@pcusa.org

I'M LEARNING TO
PULL MY OWN WEIGHT
(AND THEN SOME).



This calf is in training to become a strong ox, learning to pull a plow to free a farmer from burdensome hand labor. Your gift of a pair of oxen with a plow from the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog** provides years of reliable service for more productive farming.

GIVE TODAY AT presbyteriangifts.org/livestock



Your church. Your mission.

“Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors, see all the people.”

The children’s rhyme teaches us about the church. When we “open the doors” to “see all the people,” we remember the church is not the building, but the people inside the doors. As the people who sit inside church buildings most Sundays, though, we must remember that we “open the doors” and “see ALL the people” outside the doors of our church buildings—the people to whom we are called.

The church’s makeup may be determined by who comes in, but the church’s identity is defined by opening its doors, to venture out and partner with the most vulnerable of God’s children in the world. The four church wide Special Offerings are the largest ways Presbyterians join together to become the church in the world. As a church leader, you can help your congregation unlock that door this year, through your representation and participation in One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness, and Christmas Joy.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce Wiebe".

Bryce Wiebe

Bryce Wiebe

Director, Special Offerings

502-569-5414

Bryce.Wiebe@pcusa.org



We want to hear from you!

We might even call you!

The Special Offerings team is here to support your engagement in the ministries of Special Offerings. From technical questions to inspired ideas, please don’t hesitate to reach out. And as your creativity flows, share that with us too! Your congregation’s new idea might be just the thing that inspires someone else.



Margaret Boone
Project Manager



Teresa Mader
Project Manager



Rev. Jon Reinink
Church Support Associate



Lauren Rogers
Mission Specialist



Deidra May
Mission Specialist