WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER

As Presbyterians — from joining our friends at Sunday service to vital congregations working together for the church in the world; from the gathering of thousands of teenagers at Youth Triennium, to meeting friends, new and old, at General Assembly — we know what it means to come together.

The Special Offerings and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are another way we come together to unify the collective effort of Presbyterians, from every corner of the nation and the world.

In this Action Kit, you will find lots of information about the mission and purpose of Special Offerings, as well as inspiring ideas from congregations around the country. Included are resources available to help you promote the Offerings, new ideas for engaging youth and ways to connect with our team for support.

Let’s face it, it feels good when we do good. Especially when we are all pulling together to share God’s grace and love in very meaningful and tangible ways with those who need it most.

We are the Church, together...and together, we are building the household of God.

Please keep this Action Kit on hand to guide your faithful giving efforts for the entire year.
WITH GRATITUDE TO GOD … FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

A MESSAGE FROM ROSEMARY MITCHELL
Senior Director, Mission Engagement & Support

Your gift to Presbyterian mission is a blessing for all of God’s own family.

You are supporting love in action. Special Offerings turns your gift of gratitude into action. Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to take action, to engage in the world. There is no better way to do that than to support Presbyterian mission and ministry.

Together, our gifts work to build God’s household where all can find shelter, where all can find love.

You are a member of a remarkable tradition. Your gift to the four church-wide Special Offerings as well as through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog shares Christ’s love with millions of people around the world.

Your gift of gratitude is a blessing. You bring hope and joy to a broken world.

May the God of grace continue to bless you with hope and joy.

Rosemary C. Mitchell

2020 SPECIAL OFFERINGS ACTION KIT | 3
OUR WORSHIP OF GOD IS MEANT TO TAKE MANY FORMS.

From the songs, Word, and sacraments of the Sunday service, to the acts of kindness, and expressions of solidarity in which we engage beyond the walls of the church building we worship God in many ways. The four churchwide Special Offerings are mandated by the General Assembly as faithful responses to who we have known God to be, and who the church is called to be.

One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness and the Christmas Joy Offering, draw us together — together with God, together with one another, and together with our partners in mission across a broad range of causes, touching every stage of life. Together with God and one another, we build God’s household with the hurting and vulnerable, with children, youth and young adults, with active peacemakers, near and far, and with church leaders — past, present and future. The Presbyterian Giving Catalog allows the church to see and support the tangible forms our ministry takes, and provides opportunities for congregations to be energetic and creative in their participation.

By participating in each of these efforts, your congregation celebrates God’s transforming work in the world and points to God’s reign — where all are honored, violence and divisions cease, and every need is met. Together with God, with one another, and with our partners in ministry. We are the Church. Together.

Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings & the Presbyterian Giving Catalog
502-569-5414
Bryce.Wiebe@pcusa.org

BECOME A FOUR FOR FOUR CONGREGATION!

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

bulleted list:
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Pentecost
- Peace & Global Witness
- Christmas Joy

A Four for Four congregation declares its commitment to respond to causes that Presbyterians care deeply about and touch at every stage of life. By participating in each Offering, Presbyterians share God’s grace and endless love, around the corner and around the world.

To learn more and see a map showing all the Four for Four congregations nationwide, go to pcusa.org/4for4.

To update your congregation’s Four for Four status, contact us at special.offerings@pcusa.org.
Let’s Get Started

Leading your congregation in an Offering should be fun and easy. That’s why we have simplified the process by giving you everything you need — including individual teleconferencing, regularly scheduled webinars and abundant resources — to bring an Offering to your congregation. Find our step by step guide at specialofferings.pcusa.org/get-started.

Still have questions? Just want to talk? We want to hear from you.

From questions about resources to sharing your ideas and stories — please don’t hesitate to reach out to us! The Special Offerings team wants to know what is on your mind, and what we can do to help you take action to support Presbyterian mission.

And as your creativity flows, share that with us! Your congregation’s new idea may be just the thing that inspires someone else.

Reach us at 800-728-7228, ext.5047 specialofferings@pcusa.org

Share your action stories! See page 22 for a complete list of our social media outlets.

Through my long tenure with Special Offerings, I have had the opportunity to read (and share) stories that show the amazing things being done through the Church in the name of Jesus. If you need a pick me up, read a Special Offerings story — it will strengthen your faith.

Margaret Hall Boone
Project Manager, Special Offerings

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog is a tool that churches use to engage their members to be part of a collective effort, celebrating the grace of God and expressing it together. I enjoy sharing with the wider Church the creative ways Presbyterians are finding to broaden their mission work.

Teresa Mader
Project Manager, Presbyterian Giving Catalog

I enjoy providing help and resources to congregations across the country, and learning about their members, communities, and how they interact with Presbyterian mission.

Deidra May
Mission Specialist
WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

When your church receives one or more of our Special Offerings, you join together with Presbyterians around the nation and the world in supporting ministries working to provide food, shelter, disaster relief and hope for the “least among us;” to educate, inspire and guide today’s youth to become tomorrow’s leaders, to assist current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need, and to advance peace, justice and equality for all...

All who we welcome to God’s table, all who find peace and shelter in God’s household.

LET US BE THE CHURCH TOGETHER.

As church leaders share the ways they are interpreting the Offerings in their worship services, Session meetings and Sunday schools, I am struck by the depth of energy, intelligence and imagination God has granted to our leaders. That feeling of great hope and expectation for the Church is what inspires me in my own work.

Rev. Jon Reinink
Church Support Associate, Webinar Leader

I love that my role allows me to celebrate the creativity and generosity of Presbyterians as we work together to build the kingdom of God.

Lauren Rogers
Mission Specialist

I love my job because everyone shares the same vision and is dedicated to the mission. The work we do every day makes a difference to the people we live around, our community, as well as around the world. I know when I go home that I truly did something meaningful and important.

Melanie Roney
Mission Specialist
“Thank You Blue Shirt Ministry!” One Great Hour of Sharing Launch “Blue Shirt Sunday.”

The Pentecost Offering supports the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

Invernadero Comunitario Raíces

Members of Mission Presbytery, seminarians from Austin Seminary, PC(USA) staff and others gather for a student lead worship at the International Bridge in Brownsville, Texas, to pray for the asylum seekers and refugees trying to cross the border.

Front Porch Cafe
BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD TO SHELTER THE SUFFERING AND VULNERABLE

SEASON OF LENT
February 26–April 12, 2020

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

**REBUILDING HOPE — PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
32%
Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

**GROWING FOOD SECURITY — PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM**
36%
Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

**PARTNERING IN PROGRESS — SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE**
32%
Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.
“As we think of the word passion, I think of the ways we collectively work together as a denomination to demonstrate our gratitude to God through passionate and compassionate generosity. One way we do that collectively is through our One Great Hour of Sharing. I served in youth ministry and I remember seeing these little fish boxes floating around. A staff member explained that Presbyterians have this huge offering to make an impact in hunger, disaster relief, and socioeconomic development in the communities where we serve. I remember describing to my youth that this kind of generosity is like a huge wave of compassion to reach those who may have lost sight of the truth that God loves them and that there are communities of caring who surround them. I am thankful for the continued passion around ministries like One Great Hour of Sharing. It reminds me that passion can be expressed in quiet ways and it can be expressed in ways that are bold and vivid.”

Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle
Executive Presbyter,
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

To learn more, go to pcusa.org/oghs

Three congregations across the country team up to raise money for One Great Hour of Sharing in a creative and fun way, raising over $2,000. bit.ly/2LZKgfj

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. If necessary, order supplementary resources 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.

**FEBRUARY–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 congregation household.

**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 (usually the presbytery). Not sure? Call us at 800-728-7228, ext 5047.
BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

SEASON OF PENTECOST
April 13–May 31, 2020

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

SUPPORTING YOUTH IN YOUR OWN CHURCH
40%
The greatest portion of this offering stays with individual congregations to develop and support young people.

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS
25%
Young Adult Volunteers serve in communities around the world, and grow as leaders through transformative Christian service.

GUIDING YOUTH
25%
Supporting ministries that inspire and guide youth as they grow and walk with Christ.

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN AT RISK
10%
Providing advocacy to protect and education that nurtures our children and youth.
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. If necessary, order supplementary resources 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 Offering receipts. Collaborate with the children and youth in your congregation to promote the Pentecost Offering. Send a letter with a Pentecost Offering brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household.

**MAY:**
Promote the Pentecost Offering during the season leading up to Pentecost Sunday, or on any other Sunday highlighting youth.

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 (usually the presbytery). Not sure? Call us at 800-728-7228, ext 5047.

“Churches will always have their own unique mission project and offerings, but with the PC(USA) Special Offerings as a foundation, you can be confident you are making a difference.”

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert
Peace Presbyterian Church,
Lakewood Ranch, Florida

To learn more, go to [pcusa.org/pentecost](http://pcusa.org/pentecost)

Following the loss of a young member of their community, First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne, Wisconsin, rallied to provide mental health screenings for all youth.
BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH ACTIVE PEACEMAKERS

SEASON OF PEACE
September 6–October 4, 2020

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

RESPONDING TO CONFLICT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

25%
Participating congregations retain this portion of the Offering to support peacemaking and reconciliation in their own community.

CONNECTING MID COUNCILS FOR PEACEMAKING

25%
Linking congregations in ministries throughout presbyteries and synods.

ADVOCATING FOR CHRIST’S PEACE & JUSTICE

50%
Calling for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative initiatives of education and Christian witness.
“One of the great joys of supporting the Peace & Global Witness Offering is the opportunity to meet International Peacemakers like Monique Misenga Mukuna from the Democratic Republic of Congo. In a world that’s rife with violence and tragedy, it’s life-giving to hear the personal stories of people like Monique. The Peace & Global Witness Offering makes this possible.”

Rev. Jan Edmiston
General Presbyter, Presbytery of Charlotte
Co-Moderator, 222nd General Assembly (2016)

To learn more, go to pcusa.org/peace-global
BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH LEADERS — PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

SEASON OF ADVENT
November 29–December 20, 2020

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. Gifts support current and retired church workers in times of critical financial need. It also helps with leadership development for church leaders of color and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

SUPPORTING PAST AND PRESENT LEADERS
50%
Honoring the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in critical financial need — whether it is a family emergency, a health care crisis or even assistance to pastors affected by natural disasters.

PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS
50%
Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
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. If necessary, order supplementary resources, 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 and 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 (usually the presbytery). Not sure? Call us at 800-728-7228, ext 5047.

“Chapel by the Sea receives all four of the PC(USA) Special Offerings. The Sunday worship before Christmas and at the Christmas Eve service, the NOW Testament (Minute for Mission) gives regulars and guests a more in-depth message about this annual offering and the reason it is received. It seems to touch many, including those who may not have been aware of the reason for the Joy Offering.”

Cindy Stearns, Ruling Elder, St. John’s Chapel by the Sea, Moclips, Washington

To learn more, go to pcusa.org/christmasjoy

Using the Christmas Joy Offering poster as inspiration, ChristChurch created beautiful stained glass windows.
The Presbyterian Giving Catalog facilitates something very special and life-changing.

The purchase and distribution of animals, the building of wells to provide life-giving clean water to entire communities, support for urban farms, fishing equipment, heating fuel for refugees and many more options are among the many ways your gift is filling a basic human need.

Your gifts are making an impact and providing hope to those here in our nation and around the globe.

EXPLORE a wide variety of gifts that provide real and positive impact around the world — including aid for refugees, access to clean water and helping to end hunger.
1. YOU CHOOSE A GIFT FROM THE CATALOG
   Give a gift that represents a cause that’s close to your heart. Or make a gift in someone’s honor and choose a ministry they’d love.

2. YOUR GIFT JOINS WITH OTHERS
   You unite with thousands of others giving to Presbyterian Mission through the Giving Catalog, increasing your gift’s capacity to bring hope to communities around the world.

3. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE
   Your gift provides help, hope and relief to people, families and communities in need.

Find a wide array of gift options, resources to share the Giving Catalog with your congregation, children’s activities and stories of impact at presbyteriangifts.org.

For orders totaling $150 or more, you are eligible to receive a beautiful fair trade artisan handmade ornament, which is a symbol of skillful craft and your generosity.

facebook.com/GivingCatalog
twitter.com/presbygifts
presbyteriangifts.org/videos
instagram.com/GivingCatalog
A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Many congregations report that the youth of the church are excited and motivated to participate in Special Offering activities; and in so doing, form a lasting understanding of the mission of the Church in the world.

Plus...it’s fun! Here are some ideas to encourage the youngest members of your congregation to take action for compassion, peace and justice.

Find many, many Curriculum Resources online at specialofferings.pcusa.org/resources/curriculum. We provide a variety of opportunities to engage the young people of your congregation with materials for each Special Offering. Not only is this material free (a dream for any educator!), but it is written by professionals in the field. These resources are perfect for using in Sunday school as full lessons or to enhance your established programs.
First grader, Paul, awaits tooth fairy visit to supplement his One Great Hour of Sharing giving.

Children engage in environmental peacemaking at a Peace Camp.

Young Adult Volunteer at a Peace Bench project in Kenya.

Students from Menaul School, a recipient of Christmas Joy funds.
We prepare an order form for each and every Special Offering to make ordering your resources easy. Or if you would rather, you can set up a standing order and we will send your Special Offering resources directly to you. If you are receiving too many (or too few!) resources, we can fix that for you by using the standing order form found in the folder. Call us and we will tell you exactly how it works.

800-728-7228, ext. 5047

AND

You can participate in webinars to learn everything you need to know to get going quickly. A full schedule and registration form are available at pcusa.org/webinars.

AND

Even more resources are available online for free download. We offer PowerPoint™ slides, social media posts and adaptable artwork to help you promote the offering, sample sermons, bulletin inserts, large print Minute for Mission readers and lots more. Find everything that is available for each individual offering at specialofferings.pcusa.org.

QUESTIONS about your order and other printed resources?
Call Customer Service at 800-533-4371 or email us at customer_service@presbypub.com
There are printed resources for each individual offering to order or download, digital images to use in your church bulletin or on social media, sample letters for your newsletters and stories of impact and engagement to help you and your congregation grow your participation.

**MOST RESOURCES ARE FREE.**

Go to specialofferings.pcusa.org to check out the dozens of resources available to you to help in promoting the Special Offerings.

- Webinars
- Leader’s Guides
- General Brochures
- Bulletin Inserts
- Posters
- Stories of Impact
- And much more
WE INSPIRE EACH OTHER!

SHARE YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES!

Share your Special Offering activities on any of our social media platforms and celebrate the good we are accomplishing together.

FIND US AT

facebook.com/specialofferings
twitter.com/pcusa_so
youtube.com/specialofferings
pinterest.com/specofferings
instagram.com/special_offerings

Use your own social media platforms to promote each individual Special Offering. Multiple Facebook posts and covers are available for download at specialofferings.pcusa.org
Thank you FOR YOUR ESSENTIAL SUPPORT!

As result of your commitment, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is able to share God's love with communities across the world. Research shows that when church leaders encourage their congregations to support initiatives like the Special Offerings, their members give significantly more...and as we always say, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

QUESTIONS?
Call 800-728-7228, ext. 5047
Email special.offerings@pcusa.org
Online at specialofferings.pcusa.org

CUSTOMER SERVICE
800-533-4371
customer_service@presbypub.com

CONGREGATIONS
(Please remit funds through your normal receiving agency, usually the presbytery, or)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
Matthew 25:31-46 calls us to actively engage in the world around us so that our faith comes alive. The Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts which place us in partnership with those who have least. Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger.