Let's Build God's House

2021 SPECIAL OFFERINGS ACTION KIT
WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER

Being Presbyterian means being together. Connections made through worship, service and shared discernment continue strengthening our life together, even by new methods and even during times that stretch and challenge us. We are the Church because we are together, and that has rarely felt as important as it does right now.

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, and new ideas for engaging youth and how to connect with our team for support.

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER ... Let’s Build God’s House

Please keep this Action Kit on hand to guide your faithful giving efforts for the entire year.

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

Congregations:
(Please remit through your normal receiving agency, usually the presbytery, or)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Need printed materials or an update to your standing order?
Contact Customer Service:
Call 800-533-4371
Email customer_service@presbypub.com
WITH THANKS AND JOY!

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER.
Let’s Build God’s Household

Matthew 25 locates Jesus among those who have least; those who hunger and thirst, those who are strangers among us, those whose lives are ravaged by wars and disasters, those who are imprisoned and all who suffer from disease. To become a Matthew 25 Church means the Church finds itself and its Savior in relationships with those experiencing need. The four churchwide Special Offerings are mandated by the General Assembly as opportunities for the Church to actively join, together, with those who have least and build, together, God’s household on Earth.

One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, the Peace & Global Witness Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering offer us the opportunity to be together with God, with one another and with our partners in mission across a broad range of causes that touch every stage of life. Through our collective efforts, the Church joins 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.

By participating in each of these efforts, your congregation celebrates God’s transforming work in the world and answers the call we hear in Matthew 25, to be together with God, with one another and with those in need.

Thank you for joining together. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Rosemary Mitchell Bryce Wiebe
Senior Director Director, Special Offerings
Mission Engagement and Support and Presbyterian Giving Catalog
WE ARE JOYFUL PARTNERS IN MINISTRY!

If your congregation is like most others, you have felt and seen need in ways that were once unimaginable. As you journey through this year with your congregation, responding to the needs around you and that God places upon your hearts, the Special Offerings serve as a faithful reminder of God’s grace and love that is so powerfully shown through the Church as it acts across your neighborhood, all over our country and around the world.

And we are here to partner with you! Your local ministry is just as vital to the Church as any other program or ministry, and so we work hard to provide the resources, connections and opportunities that will help your community learn about and participate in the Offerings. Our step-by-step guide can be found at specialofferings.pcusa.org/get-started.

CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF!

It might feel cumbersome to walk through every resource we provide to determine what’s right for your community, but that’s where we come in! Behind the sea of printed materials, collections of children’s activities, decades of topical Bible studies and hours of video footage, there is an outstanding team eager to help!

Margaret Hall Boone
If it’s been printed for an Offering in the last three decades, I likely helped make it (and I definitely have record of it!). Want to see something new in print? Let us know!

Project Manager, Special Offerings
502-569-5183
margaret.boone@pcusa.org

Teresa Mader
We have great resources for leaders and educators wanting to connect Offerings gifts with their impact through mission! We’re happy to share lessons and activities with you.

Project Manager, Presbyterian Giving Catalog
502-569-5026
teresa.mader@pcusa.org
ASK US QUESTIONS!

• Request something unique …
• Share your church’s story of serving those who have the least.
• Need ideas for ways to distribute your congregation’s retained portion of an Offering?
• Want to listen in on our Lenten Bible study?

Our work is to serve leaders within the Church, like you, so that as your congregation works to bear the love, justice and mercy of Christ to the world, you will be equipped to lead and enriched by the experience.

YOU CAN ALSO REACH US AT
800-728-7228 ext.5047, special.offerings@pcusa.org

SHARE YOUR STORIES!
See page 22 for a complete list of our social media outlets.

Lauren Rogers
Have you “gone digital” or stepped up your game on social media? So have we! Follow our accounts for inspirational messages, timely reminders, engaging ideas and more!

Project Manager, Digital Fundraising
502-569-5069
lauren.rogers@pcusa.org

Deidra May
Need an inspiring story to encourage your congregation to participate in the Offerings? Or maybe you have one that we’d love, or that would brighten someone’s day? We love sharing them and hearing yours!

Mission Specialist, Midwest & West Regions
502-569-5187
deidra.may@pcusa.org

Melanie Roney
We want you to be as excited and informed about the Offerings as possible, so if you have any questions, please let us know. We are happy to provide — or find! — any information you might need!

Mission Specialist, South-Central & East Regions
502-569-5742
melanie.roney@pcusa.org
FOUR FOR FOUR

The four Special Offerings bring the whole Church together and place us in partnership with those who have the least. Together, the Offerings open communities of faith to respond to God’s call to act with boldness and compassion toward those in need, on behalf of the oppressed and for the sake of Christ’s Church.

Four for Four congregations receive each of the Special Offerings:
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Pentecost
- Peace & Global Witness
- Christmas Joy

WHY BE FOUR FOR FOUR?

- Responding in faithfulness to God’s call
- Nourishing the Relationship with the Body of Christ
- Trusting 300 years of Life-Changing Ministry
- Faithful Stewardship of our time and money in service to God
- Deep Commitment to Share the Gospel with the World through the Church
- Out of Gratefulness for God’s Generosity to Us
Join the hundreds of thousands of Presbyterians who are part of Four for Four congregations! The four Special Offerings unite us in mission as we share God’s love, peace and generosity with those in greatest need in our local communities, across our nation and around the world!

Join us in creating a Church where the love, justice and mercy of Christ is evident.

LET’S BE THE CHURCH. TOGETHER.
LET’S GO FOUR FOR FOUR.
BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD TO SHELTER THE SUFFERING AND VULNERABLE

SEASON OF LENT
February 17–April 4, 2021

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.

PHOTOS: PDS-ANTTI HELIN, PHP-VALERY NODÉMA, SDOP-FRONT PORCH CAFE

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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Important Dates and Resources
(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)

**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 [pcusa.org/oghs](http://pcusa.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.

Shirley Garrett, 85, has been baking homemade bread for the Soup Supper at Wells Presbyterian Church in Wells, Nevada, for 15 years.

Along with Mike Seech, Jackie Stanhope and church secretary Elaine Swanson, they have cooked up hundreds of gallons of savory soups to feed hungry souls over the years. Others make salads and desserts. Every Wednesday, the church opens their doors joyfully to share the meal with anyone in their small community of 1,500 who chooses to attend. People pay or donate what they can, and the church matches the total raised for their One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The Soup Supper began as an outreach to help people experiencing homelessness in their own community. But by joining their gifts with those of Presbyterians around the nation, their love is shared with those in need — the hungry, the thirsty and the oppressed — around the world.

With matching funds from the church, Wells Presbyterian Church is able to donate an average of $2,000 to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which represents about 10% of the church’s annual budget, Swanson said. Their goal in future years is to be able to give 15% to mission. Their small congregation is a truly meaningful example of what we always say: *When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.*
BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

SEASON OF PENTECOST
April 5–May 23, 2021

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%
Serving in communities around the world and growing 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 that protects and education that nurtures our children and youth.
The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church’s Early Learning Program preschool, housed on their church campus in The Woodlands, Texas, has partnered with ALL EARS!, a program where children who are deaf and hearing-impaired learn to speak and interpret sounds with the help of cochlear implants by learning and playing alongside their hearing peers, who are referred to as “role models.” Growing alongside their peers, students in the program and their parents gain a sense that they are not alone.

The program serves a foundational role in the lives of these children. Understanding the importance of the program, the congregation decided that their retained 40% of the Pentecost Offering would fund some of the scholarships that roughly 85% of the participants receive, in addition to the building space the congregation provides for ALL EARS!

Shelley Mathay, the program director of ALL EARS!, remarked, “This church is so giving and so open.” And with their gifts to the Pentecost Offering, The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church has provided hope, independence and a sense of belonging to these children and their families.

**Important Dates and Resources**

(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)

**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 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.

To learn more, go to [pcusa.org/pentecost](http://pcusa.org/pentecost)
BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH ACTIVE PEACEMAKERS

SEASON OF PEACE
September 5–October 3, 2021

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.

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ’s peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries.

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.
Guided by their commitment to be a Matthew 25 church, the members of First Presbyterian Church in Macomb, Illinois, are actively working to bring peace to their community.

As part of their commitment, this predominantly white community dove headfirst into the issue of structural racism in response to a local event that became national news due to racial overtones. The congregation’s Service and Justice Committee felt called to organize a series of interactive racial justice workshops where individuals could learn from and alongside one another. The curriculum was designed to equip white people with the information and tools they need to explore their commitment to racial justice. First Presbyterian designated their retained portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to promote this learning opportunity throughout their community.

First Presbyterian chose to designate their retained 25% of the 2020 Peace & Global Witness Offering to a campaign to purchase body cameras for the local police department. The campaign’s goal was met. Sarah Schoper, a member of the Service and Justice Committee at First Presbyterian, said, “This campaign will help move Macomb forward as a united community seeking to be welcoming to all people, and is part of a systemic, sustainable culture change that involves us finding ways to work together.”

**Important Dates and Resources**

*Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.*

**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. If necessary, order supplementary resources by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371.

**SEPTEMBER:**

Promote the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Send a letter with a brochure/mail or bulletin insert to each congregation household. Share A Season of Peace (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 (usually the presbytery). Your mid council office should receive 25% of your gifts.

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

SEASON OF ADVENT — November 28–December 19, 2021

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God’s gift to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us — retired, present and future — who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the church and the world for years to come.

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%

Making it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
Looking back over the years, Rev. Randy Harris of Highland Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was moved to discover within the church’s history “that what’s happening here in mission even now during the pandemic is a continuation of what has been Highland’s sense of calling in the community from literally almost the time that the church was established in 1949.”

“It just warmed my heart to see that the Christmas Joy Offering was received on that very first Christmas,” said Associate pastor Rev. Debbie Layman.

Among the recipients of the Offering are students of color, reflecting Highland’s commitment to racial justice. The Offering helps not only with their education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, but also with their spiritual awakening and faith formation as future leaders of the church and world.

Highland is a “Four for Four” congregation — meaning that they receive all four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The church’s community activism has always gone hand in hand with its denominational engagement and support.

**Important Dates and Resources**

*(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)*

**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.

To learn more, go to pcusa.org/christmasjoy
TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD ONE GIFT AT A TIME

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

presbyteriangifts.org
We’re building a paper chain, one that stretches as far as the eye can see. Our goal? To make it long enough to circle the globe! For every gift given through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, a link is added to the paper chain.

We want you to be a part of this amazing display of Presbyterian generosity. Visit presbyteriangifts.org/LinksofLove to learn more about this activity and how you and your congregation can get involved.
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 more Curriculum Resources online at pcusa.org/socurriculum. 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.
This young member of First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne, Wisconsin, celebrates Palm Sunday during a drive-by pick-up of palm branches at the church. Members were encouraged to do something fun with them.

Children at Circleville Presbyterian Church in Circleville, Ohio, prepare a welcome as they celebrated the Peace & Global Witness Offering by giving out sack lunches in a drive-through effort.

Members of Union Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, Iowa, visited the homes of almost every member of the church, handing out red balloons symbolic of the birthday of the church and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Children celebrating Pentecost at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona.
RESOURCES

Did you know?

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 that you will find in the pocket at the back of this 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.

We are making available more video resources than ever before! Whether it be a Children’s Message for you to incorporate into worship or a story of impact you can share on your social media, allow these videos to inspire your congregation’s generosity.

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.

- Videos
- Webinars
- Leader’s Guides
- Posters
- Stories of Impact
- And much more
WE INSPIRE EACH OTHER!

SHARE YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES!

Post your Special Offerings 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.pcusao.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.

Each of the four churchwide Special Offerings is situated during a season of the Church calendar to assist you and the members of your congregation in connecting these shared ministries with our understanding of theology and Scripture. Each Offering can be appropriately interpreted and received at any time of year, in any congregation.

Questions?
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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.