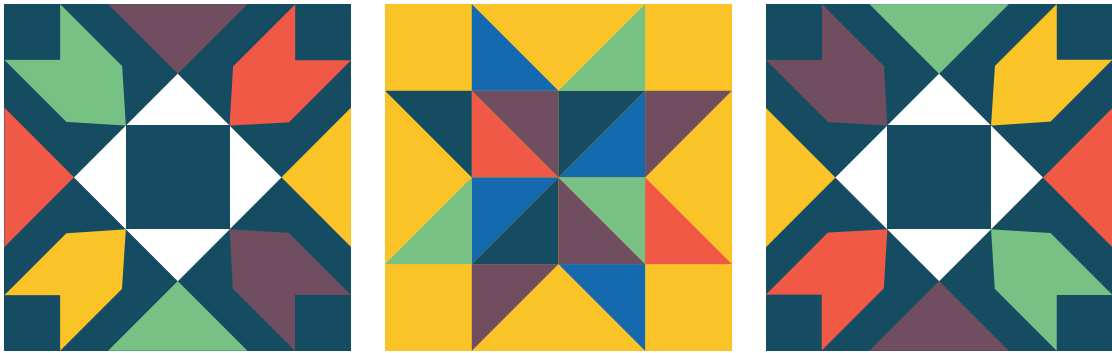




threads of

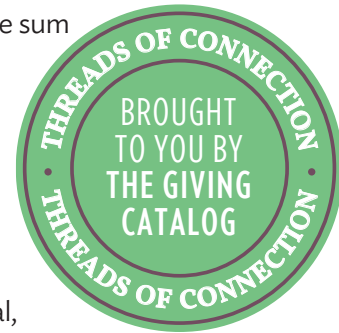


connection



A PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG ACTIVITY
FOR MOST AGES AND ABILITIES

Quilters can share with us a powerful truth: The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. When carefully cut and crafted blocks, or gathered pieces leftover from other projects are sewn together, they make something beautiful, which meets a need for warmth, while perhaps also reflecting a particular culture, heritage, story or place. Each piece is needed and every piece needs threads that connect it with the whole in order to create the pattern, or story, to make a piece of art that meets an essential, embodied need.



When each person in our community connects more fully with their neighbors, God creates with us something beautiful and warm, which also shares the story of who we are as a Church: people committed to be with one another and with our neighbors in need as a witness to our faith in Jesus. Threads of Connection weave each offering of energy, intelligence, imagination and love together, into something *big* — a tapestry of people and communities knit together in common cause to make a more beautiful world, where essential needs are met for each and every person.

SO WHAT ARE THREADS OF CONNECTION?

Threads of Connection might be anything a person can offer: a need, a gift, a talent, a prayer as individuals and part of a community. As an activity, Threads of Connection invites each member of your community, congregation or small group to make something beautiful together and connect with others in need.

These simple, step-by-step patterns can be used, as shown, or as inspiration for the pattern, story or image you imagine. Knitters, weavers, quilters or more from within your community might offer what they have to share. Engage the most relevant or accessible Scripture stories for your context in the Bible and in your community which share these truths:

That each gift and each giver (*in all sizes and all types*):

- have value
- are valuable as part of the whole, and
- create even more value as the new thing, together: the quilt, or blanket, or tapestry — a gift of beauty, warmth or story — than any could alone.

That sounds like what God does with us in the church and with our neighbors all over the world. The quilting activities we’ve outlined here are intended to include most ages and abilities. If you want to help us become more inclusive, please email us at presbyteriangifts@pcusa.org.

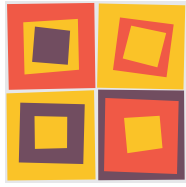
Threads of Connection need your energy, intelligence, imagination and love to make happen. You’ll notice that particular Scripture stories or lessons are NOT part of this content. This intentional step is left open for the discernment of your community, as are many particulars related to planning and scaling what you create. **Each gift and each giver are important, and your planning, reflection on theology and Scripture, and planning participation are part of the gift!**

To make any Connection strong:

- Organize your event, lesson or series in advance.
- Invite voices with connections to quilting, sewing, weaving or textile work.
- Spread the connections by publicizing your engagement anywhere your participants connect: in your newsletter, during services and on social media, reminding members of how much more they can achieve when they work together.
- Consider making gifts through the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* as part of sharing with your neighbors through Threads of Connection.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Single Paper Quilts.....	4	Creativity Boosting Templates.....	11
Paper Quilt Instructions.....	5	Farm Scene Template.....	12
Paper Weaving Instructions.....	6-7	Garden Well Scene Template.....	13
Large Paper Quilts for Congregations.....	8	Fishing Boat Scene Template.....	14
Large Paper Quilt Instructions.....	9	Community Garden Scene Template.....	15
Prayer Quilts for Stitchers.....	10	Share Your Work.....	16



FOR SMALLER HANDS

SMALL PAPER QUILTS

Everyone has a part in this patchwork. Smaller “quilters” (even those who’ve never quilted before) can offer this creative way to express their care for others at an early age. It also provides an opportunity for trusted community members to share a tradition or meaning of quilts, like a prayer quilt, to help participants of most any age to practice the idea that every piece, in every size, is important to the whole.



SCALABLE FOR

Most ages and abilities. Whether your weavers are younger or older, crafty or craft-cautious, you can adapt this activity (or one like it) to the design, complexity or age group which suits your needs or connects with your energy, intelligence, imagination and love.



PLANNING AHEAD

- Invite helpers in your community who might best share the meaning of the symbol you will create.
- Share stories from Scripture which might connect your themes, images, traditions and context.
- Connect the stories and themes of your choosing with items in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* and other community ministries which might create Threads of Connection between your members and neighbors with whom your community serves.
- Create a design template for either a quilt or a weaving (or use those found on pages 10–13) and plan for a *big* impact with your group.



WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Paper for Shapes (choose your favorite colors — bright and bold are sure to stand out)
- Scissors
- Ruler and Pencil
- Glue or Tape
- Template and Base Paper (should be the same size as your finished design)

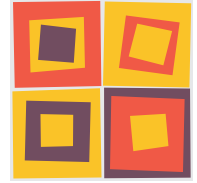


AS YOU BEGIN

- Lay out your design (or use our helpful templates on pages 11-15).
- Be sure the space is set up to include each participant.
- Begin with a simple prayer that celebrates each individual and God’s gift of our shared connection. Quiet your mind and stay focused on your goal — this is a great way to engage children in a mindful and meaningful activity. Come up with your own prayer or use this one:

*Weave us with the thread of your love, Creating God. Make each of us one with all of your creation, and all whom You love. **Amen.***

PAPER QUILT INSTRUCTIONS



1 Cut shapes to fill in our simple scene quilt templates, or you might choose a traditional quilt square pattern. Ultimately, the design is up to you, and is limited only by your imagination. Let your creativity shine!

2 Sketch your design on your template paper (or print the templates included in this guide). If possible, make a copy to use as your base. Take a photo for reference. It's also helpful to label each piece with the color you envision.

3 Cut the pattern shapes out of your template paper. Use these to trace and cut the same shapes from your brightly colored quilt paper.

4 Using glue or tape, secure your colored shapes to the base paper or the printed template, then share your work of art!



BONUS STEP

Ask quilters to write a special note on the back of their creation. Quilts can be sent as inspirational and encouraging cards to congregation members, friends, or can be displayed for all to admire. A few prompts to get them started:

- What does “working together” mean to you?
- A “Piece-ful” prayer for [Name of Recipient]
- If you could offer one thing to help another person, what would it be?



ARTWORK THAT WORKS

Connect your paper quilts with communities in need by holding a “silent quilt auction.” Winning bids receive a piece of art made by their peers, and the money raised can be used to purchase an item from the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* in the name of your congregation or small group.



Find more detailed instructions for paper weavings here:

Paper Weaving 101

A step-by-step introductory video for first-time paper weavers.

Viewing Digitally?

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



QR1.BE/00P8

Advanced Paper Weaving

Build on the basics with techniques you'll learn from this video.

Viewing Digitally?

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



QR1.BE/3RS7

PAPER WEAVING INSTRUCTIONS



ADJUST YOUR PATTERN

Groups with different numbers of participants, or with varying ages and abilities will connect and create differently. This activity's flexibility means endless creative possibilities, and numerous ways to include, support, and encourage participation. To help facilitate this activity in all its possible forms, we've created video instructions to help guide beginners, in addition to sharing advanced techniques for more practiced participants.



PLANNING AHEAD

- Invite helpers in your community who might best share the meaning of the symbol you will create.
- Share stories from Scripture which might connect your themes, images, traditions and context.
- Connect the stories and themes of your choosing with items in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* and other community ministries which might create Threads of Connection between your members and neighbors with whom your community serves.
- Create a design template for either a quilt or a weaving (or use those found on pages 11-15) and plan for a big impact with your group.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Paper for Shapes (choose your favorite colors — bright and bold are sure to stand out)
- Scissors
- Ruler and Pencil
- Glue or Tape
- Template and Base Paper (should be the same size as your finished design)



AS YOU BEGIN

- Be sure the space is set up to include each participant.
- Begin with a simple prayer that celebrates each individual and God's gift of our shared connection:

*Weave us with the thread of your love, Creating God. Make each of us one with all of your creation, and all whom You love. **Amen.***

PAPER WEAVING INSTRUCTIONS

1 Finalize your design. Even simple two-color weavings are a great option for creating a beautiful symbol. More complex, multi-colored weavings will inspire more-diverse expressions of the truths you share with the activity.

2 Cut your colored paper into uniform strips. Save one sheet of paper to use as your “loom.” Make the appropriate cuts and begin weaving your paper strips through.

3 Fold and glue the edges down or leave them “frayed” for a more rustic, fringed look.



BONUS STEP

Decorate your paper strips with doodles or patterns before weaving, or embellish with sequins or rhinestones once the weaving is complete.



ARTWORK THAT WORKS

Using the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*, have your weavers write different items (using various price points) on several of the paper strips used in their weaving. Use the weavings as ornaments on a congregational Christmas tree and ask members to select an ornament and to commit to giving one of the items from the Giving Catalog.



Find more detailed instructions for paper weavings here:

Paper Weaving 101

A step-by-step introductory video for first-time paper weavers.

Viewing Digitally?

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



QR1.BE/00P8

Advanced Paper Weaving

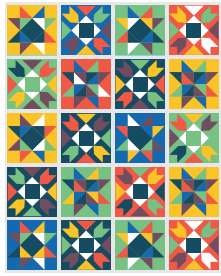
Build on the basics with techniques you'll learn from this video.

Viewing Digitally?

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



QR1.BE/3RS7



FOR BIGGER IMPACT

LARGE PAPER QUILTS

Looking for a simple but fun way to get the entire congregation involved in making a large-scale work of art? An oversized paper quilt is inexpensive, colorful and collaborative, giving each participant a chance to come together to create something beautiful and meaningful.



SCALABLE FOR

Most ages and abilities can participate, together, in this activity at the same time.



PLANNING AHEAD

- Invite helpers in your community who might best share in developing your event or learning series.
- Share examples and stories from Scripture which might connect the themes, images and traditions which might encourage a commitment to generosity of energy, intelligence, imagination and love in your community.
- Connect the stories and themes with the outreach and ministry of your congregation using the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* and perhaps other ministries your congregation or group partner with in your community.
- Create a design template or set of design examples for reference so that you create a quilt which will involve your group effectively during your series or event, and create something you can be excited to share!



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Colorful construction paper or cardstock (just make sure it's easy to cut and that there's lots of it)
- Scissors (include numerous pairs of both blunt-edged safety scissors for the smaller hands and others for adults)
- Pre-printed templates or examples of what they can create, from detailed patterns to freehand mosaics
- Glue to piece together their part of the quilt
- Wall-safe adhesive (like masking tape, painter's tape or sticky putty)



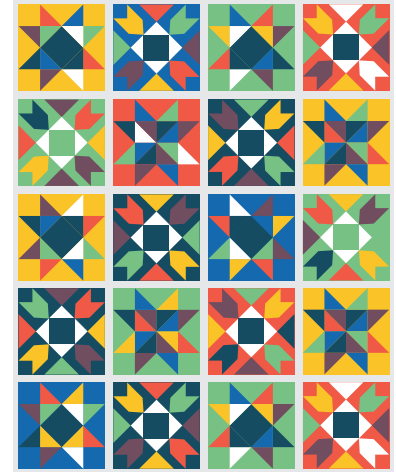
AS YOU BEGIN

- Set up the space for participation where the community can gather to create at the same time, or a space where passive or partner participation will be encouraged.
- Give verbal instructions or share instructions and how-to videos on-screen, or share links and images with your group.
- Make sure crafters needing extra assistance or a helper in order to participate have what they need in order to take part.
- Start the activity with a group prayer. Come up with your own prayer or, use this one:

*Piece by piece, bit by bit, You make, with us, a beautiful community with much to share. Stitch us together with your threads of connection to make warmth of peace and justice, in a broken and fearful world. **Amen.***



LARGE PAPER QUILT INSTRUCTIONS



- 1** Select a spot for your paper wall art that is highly visible. Use painter's tape to make a grid of squares the same size as your paper. This will be the space each crafter will need to fill. Be sure there are plenty of lower spots for little ones to reach.
- 2** Set up a crafting station where all the supplies can be easily accessed. Be sure to have plenty of tables and seats available. Make the environment fun and inviting by playing music.
- 3** Put out copies of the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* (<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/page/giving-catalogs/>) for crafters to look through while they work on their pieces. Choose an item or category of items and glue shapes onto some of the pieces, which make reference to the item they chose or, the need it might help to address. Ask them to write a short prayer for a person or community whose needs might be met by such an item (even if it might be the participant themselves).
- 4** As each square is completed, ask them to add it to the wall grid using masking tape, painter's tape or sticky putty, then step back to enjoy the beauty created when all the small pieces come together as one.

FOR STITCHERS

PRAYER QUILTS

Prayer quilts have a long and rich tradition. They are objects of comfort and warmth, stitched with love and care from the maker or makers. By taking on a tangible form, the prayer quilt offers a powerful symbol for each person connected by it: in its making, giving, receiving and perhaps even offering, anew, each person it connects.



- Prayer quilts can be made by individuals (if you want to make a larger number of small quilts) or by groups of quilters (if you'd like to make a larger quilt).
- They can be used in small groups or in services, where members can tie knots, pin on prayer requests or place them in pockets to be stitched onto the whole.
- They can be distributed to those in need of either warmth, connection, prayer or comfort. (And, perhaps, reflect on the truth that each of us need all of those things.)



PRAYER QUILT DISPLAY

- If you choose to make a large quilt for display in your church, ask quilters to stitch squares in a standard size.
- Ask them to create their squares at home, or host a quilting bee where they can come together to stitch, socialize and support one another.
- Ask for a volunteer or group to finish the quilt by assembling the squares and stitching the backing and border.
- Make sure the quilt is accessible for members to pin, tie or slip in prayer requests.
- While requests should be anonymous, you can ask a church leader to read several requests each week to encourage more people to pray for those in need.



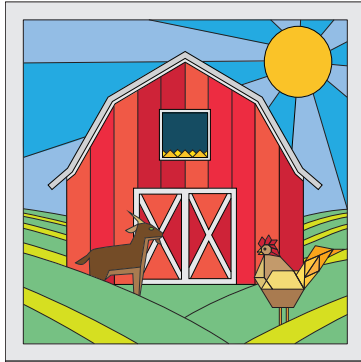
ARTWORK THAT WORKS

Use the prayer quilt display as a prayer center. Each category in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* has a short prayer of dedication, written by someone connected through its support. Cut out those pages or print out the prayers, found online at presbyteriangifts.org/prayers, as examples to pin onto your quilt display. Set out small sewing notions, safety pins or other ways individuals can remember their prayers, either taking a notion or pin with them, or pinning a bead, thread, piece of paper or scrap cloth containing or symbolizing their prayer to the larger quilt.

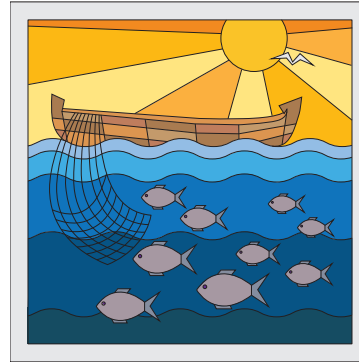
CREATIVITY BOOSTERS

READY-MADE SCENE QUILT TEMPLATES

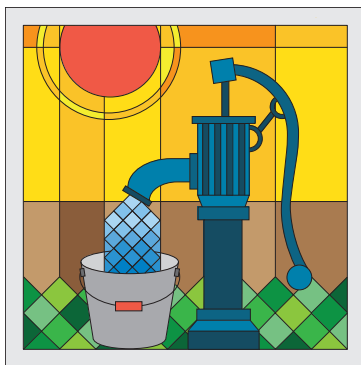
Need a spark of inspiration, or simply looking for ways to make this activity accessible to most ages and abilities? Try our ready-made templates depicting some of the most impactful gifts found in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*.



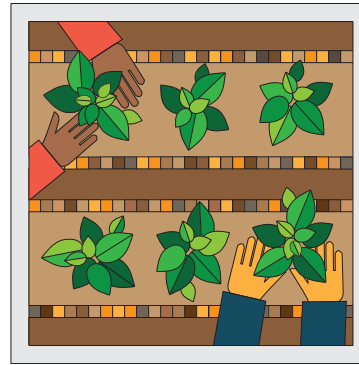
Farm Scene



Fishing Boat Scene



Garden Well Scene



Community Garden Scene

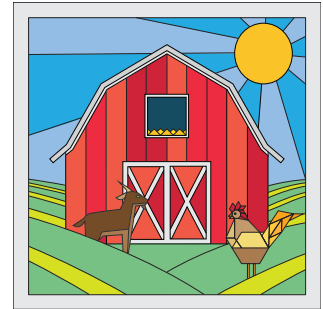


STITCHING IT ALL TOGETHER

- These templates offer more than inspiration. They can also be a motivating and engaging way to raise support for an item in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*.
- As a group, decide which item you'd like to donate.
- Print the selected template and distribute it to your congregation's groups.
- Make sure each participant receives two template sheets — one to trace and cut the shapes, and one to glue the pieces on.
- Ask each crafter to think about what they can share with others.

FARM SCENE TEMPLATE

Access to land, tools, training and inputs help people create sustainable lives and livelihoods with neighbors near and far. Farming items are more than a one-time offering; they can be long-term solutions that provide ongoing nourishment, income and independence.



Farm Scene



WONDERING QUESTION

“Where do your favorite foods come from?”

View the livestock items the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* offers that express your generosity and share your faith with the world.



OR CLICK HERE

presbyteriangifts.org/livestock

A Farmer's Prayer

*God of the garden, plant us as a people growing your hope, help and love with neighbors near and far. We share in tending your abundance, as each of us share in your gift. **Amen.***

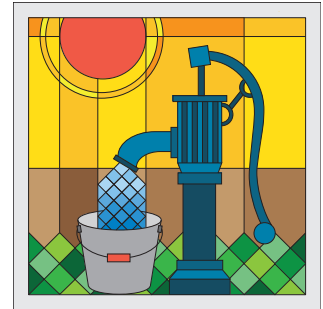
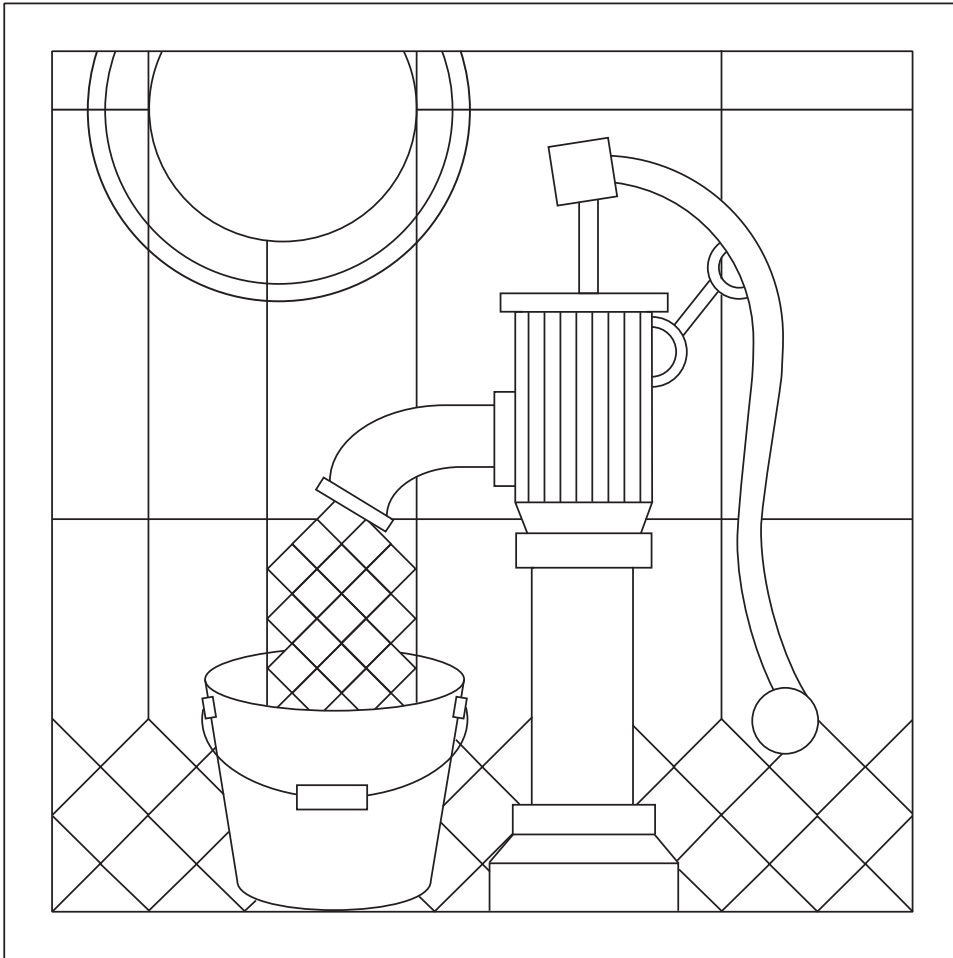


Read more at presbyteriangifts.org/prayers



GARDEN WELL SCENE TEMPLATE

Clean water is vital to survival, but it is also a source of well-being. Access to fresh water eases worries and brings communities together.



Garden Well Scene

WONDERING QUESTIONS

“How far is the nearest water source from you now? Nearest natural body of water?”

See the water gifts the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* offers that express your generosity and share your faith with the world.



OR CLICK HERE

presbyteriangifts.org/water

A Prayer of Hope

Spring up as a joyous fountain with all those who need water to drink.

*Offer your living water in us. **Amen.***

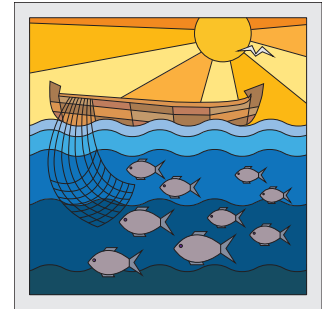


Read more at presbyteriangifts.org/prayers

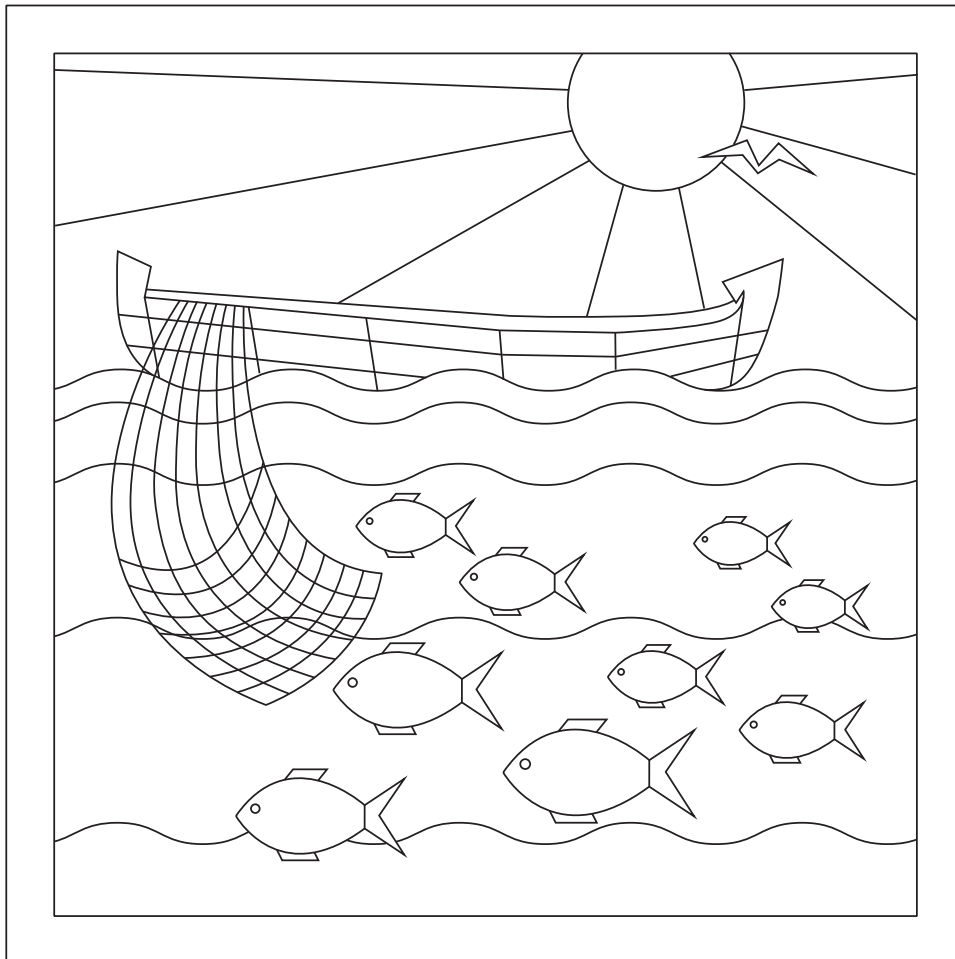


FISHING BOAT SCENE TEMPLATE

Give a person a fish, and they eat for a day. Teach someone to fish, and ... you know the rest. And when a person in need knows how to fish, has supplies in order to fish, and access to healthy waters and the rights to fish, the *impact* only gets bigger and better for communities in need.



Fishing Boat Scene



WONDERING QUESTION

“When you think of a ‘job,’ what tools and training are necessary to do it?”

View the fishing items the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* offers that express your generosity and share your faith with the world.



OR CLICK HERE

<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts/?search=fishing>

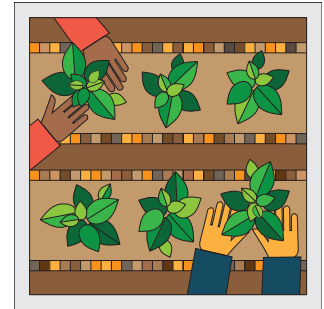
A Prayer of Abundance

*Teach us to be fishers of people working together for wholeness and justice with all; until Creation's nets teem with the abundance of your kinship and love. **Amen.***

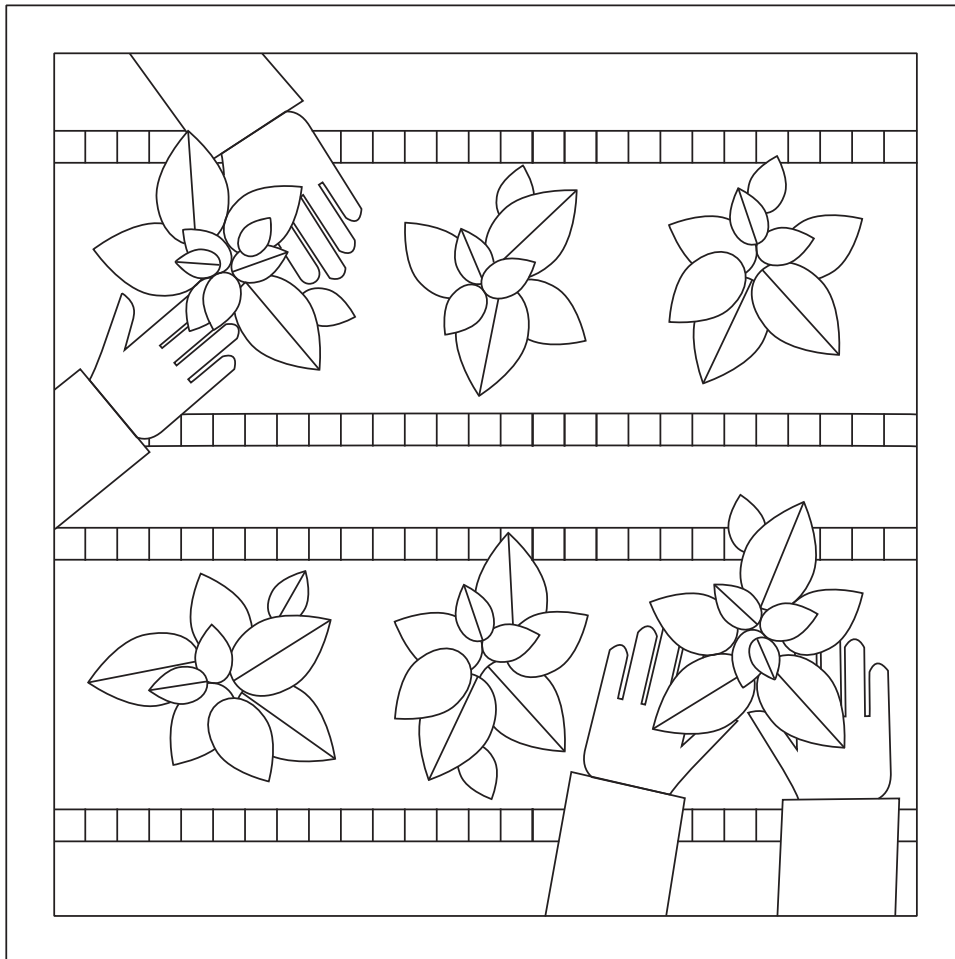
Read more at presbyteriangifts.org/prayers

COMMUNITY GARDEN SCENE TEMPLATE

Gardens are places of peaceful contemplation, where the beauty of creation is on full display. They nourish bodies and souls, and provide a space for communities to come together to support and nurture one another.



Community Garden Scene



WONDERING QUESTIONS

“What do gardens do? What do gardens need?”

View the nourishing items the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* offers that express your generosity and share your faith with the world.



OR CLICK HERE

presbyteriangifts.org/agriculture

A Prayer of Growth

*Meet us in the garden you grow, full of food and full of life. May we share what we have to offer in growing a world of abundance, together. **Amen.***

Read more at presbyteriangifts.org/prayers

THANK YOU
FOR BEING A PART OF

threads of
connection

Please share your works of art with your PC(USA) community on social media.



Facebook
[@GivingCatalog](#)



Twitter
[@PresbyGifts](#)



YouTube
[Giving Catalog](#)



Instagram
[@givingcatalog](#)



Don't forget to use the Giving Catalog hashtag **#presbygifts** when you post about your involvement!

PRESBYTERIAN
GIVING CATALOG