



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE.

ZECHARIAH 8:12

SOWER OF THE SEEDS - ANNELI ANDERSON STUDIO - ANNELI.COM



2024

LEADER'S GUIDE
SEPTEMBER 8-OCTOBER 6





PEACEMAKING

is central to the gospel and the mission of the Church.

Peace is possible, and it begins with us sowing the seeds of peace
in every interaction and decision we make.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering provides the tools and resources
for us as we join together, connected as active peacemakers.

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

-  BLOG | pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings
-  INSTAGRAM | instagram.com/special_offerings
-  FACEBOOK | facebook.com/specialofferings





2024

LEADER'S GUIDE
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws us together by providing education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global siblings, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

We've put together a variety of materials to help you promote the Offering and share with your members about the work supported by their gifts, motivating them to give. This guide will walk you through sharing these materials and some effective ways to participate in and celebrate the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

BUT THIS GUIDE IS JUST A START. We encourage you to add your own ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm to help increase awareness and giving in your congregation.

In this Leader's Guide, you'll find:

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SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE.

ZECHARIAH 8:12

The prophet Zechariah casts a vision for peace.
He shows forth a world where each person lives without enmity, fear and destruction.

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us ... and God in Christ is with us through the Sacrament of Communion, celebrated on World Communion Sunday. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

QUICK FACTS

- Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity.
- This year marks the 40th anniversary of *Peacemaking: The Believers Calling* approved by the 192nd General Assembly (1980).
- World Communion Sunday (October 6) is the most common Sunday for receiving the Offering, but many congregations promote the Offering throughout *A Season of Peace* (September 8 – October 6).
- 25% of the Offering stays with local congregations, and 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. *See page 5 for examples of how others have used their retained funds.*
- 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

1 MAKING A DIFFERENCE: IDEAS FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

Here are some of the ways congregations and mid councils use their portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering on behalf of those struggling through oppression and injustice.

How will these ideas inspire your congregation?

- Support of global issues
- Donate to programs working toward the elimination of all forms of human trafficking.
- Send participants on mission trips, to overseas work projects, or to attend global conferences.
- Support the work of a mission co-worker.
- Donate to a program working with people living with HIV/AIDS.

Peace education & training for children

- Organize local peace camps that teach children how to resolve conflict and handle angry and sad feelings.
- Work with your local middle or high school to create a monetary “peacemaker award” for a student per grade. That student then donates the money to an organization they feel promotes a kinder and more compassionate way of life.
- Support volunteers at a summer youth program.

Help for families in need

- Help families with laundromat expenses — SNAP benefits don’t cover cleaning supplies.
- Support a family resource center with things food stamps don’t cover: diapers, shampoo, laundry soap, toilet paper, etc.
- Implement a backpack program, sending food home with schoolchildren over the weekend.

Assistance for teens and young adults

- Work with young women in correctional facilities.
- Support a ministry to help young adults who have “timed out” of the foster system but are still in college.

Community care and engagement

- Help fund educational assistance for veterans.
- Support suicide prevention programs.
- Work with a support center for individuals transitioning out of prison or homelessness.
- Begin a Senior Companion Program that pairs senior citizens to help with light chores, errands, and transportation to the doctor.



FOUR WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text PCUSAPEACE
to 41444 to give



pcusa.org/peace-global



Scan this QR code



2 PROMOTING THE OFFERING

BEFORE THE OFFERING

JUNE-JULY

- Ask your session to approve the receipt of the Peace & Global Witness Offering during *A Season of Peace*. Resources for *A Season of Peace* can be found at: pcusa.org/seasonofpeace.
- Set dates with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday (October 6).
- Commit to an ambitious giving goal—higher than the amount received last year—and discuss ideas for how to use your congregation’s portion (25%).
- Locate and open the shipment of resource materials you received. Check out the outline of available resources on pages 22 and 23 for more tools to help with developing your interpretation plan.
- Contact Presbyterian Customer Service (800-533-4371 or customer_service@presbypub.com) to order additional materials.
- Ask members to present Minutes for Mission from the pulpit. Distribute the corresponding bulletin inserts for additional impact.
- Consider sending a promotional email or letter to each person in your congregation. Be sure to include the link to the Peace & Global Witness Offering website (pcusa.org/peace-global), so your members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.
- Host an International Peacemaker this fall to help in your promotion. Visit pcusa.org/internationalpeacemakers to find out how.



AUGUST

- Create an article for your newsletter about the congregation's past and current ministries of peace and reconciliation.
- Use our online resources to fully engage your congregation in *A Season of Peace*, which begins September 8.
- Sign up to receive our daily reflections, *A Season of Peace* at pcusa.org/subscribeSOP.
- Follow us on social media.

Be Creative

This guide offers helpful tips, but it can't replace what you know about your congregation. What kinds of activities around the Offering will get them motivated and excited? Here are a few thoughts to get you started:

- Involve your young people in promoting the Offering by having them choose a gift related to peacemaking and reconciliation from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Have them present it to the congregation along with how they think their gift will make a difference for others. For help, see page 9 for the Value for Values.
- Think about how you can integrate the worship resources into your service, emphasizing the ways our witness in the world magnifies our personal discipleship.
- Ask for suggestions from your youth and young adults about how to use the 25% kept by your congregation.



**Between
2 Pulpits**

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST:

Between 2 Pulpits connects congregations with the work done by the PC(USA) worldwide and provides support to those participating in the Special Offerings and Presbyterian Giving Catalog. We'll feature special guests discussing ministries supported by the Special Offerings and share resources and ideas for congregations who participate. Visit pcusa.org/B2P.

3 PROMOTING THE OFFERING

DURING THE OFFERING

SEPTEMBER

(Any time during the month)

- Use the PowerPoint slides in a worship service and/or other church gathering. Download it from pcusa.org/peace-global/resources.
- Create a display or bulletin board. If you don't know where to begin, take a look at an idea from the Special Offerings team by visiting the website. You can also call 502-569-5047 to speak with a staff member who can help you with ideas for your own promotional boards. Whether building on these ideas or coming up with your very own, remember to tag us on Facebook when you post pictures of your congregation's Peace & Global Witness display.
- Sign up for *A Season of Peace* daily reflections delivered to your email (pcusa.org/subscribeSOP).

SEPTEMBER 8

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

SEPTEMBER 15

- Place Offering Envelopes in the pews.
- Place a folded insert in your Sunday bulletin — there are two of them.
- Present a Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in your bulletin (they are both in print and video form).
- Remind the congregation how its 25% share of the Offering will be used.
- Share that the following Saturday, September 21, is the *International Day of Peace*.

SEPTEMBER 22

- Today is the celebration of the Gifts of New Immigrants. Share the minute for mission about Central America. Or, Friday is Native American Day, share the minute for mission on the Native Lands.
- Place an Offering insert in your bulletin, or insert the brochure mailer in the bulletin if you have not already sent it to members of your congregation.
- Present a Minute for Mission from this guide or reproduce one in your bulletin.

SEPTEMBER 29

- Place Offering envelopes in bulletins or pews for your congregation's use on World Communion Sunday and in the weeks to follow.
- Remind your congregation how it can make a difference in the community through its 25% share of the Offering, and encourage members to continue to contribute throughout the month.



OCTOBER

OCTOBER 6

- Use the worship resource for World Communion Sunday.
- If your youth sponsor a gift, have them present the gift during worship and share how it relates to peacemaking and to the congregation.
- Receive the Offering.

4 VALUE FOR VALUES

Looking for ways to interpret the offering and increase your giving?

Listed below are examples of resources for families in need. The prices reflect the approximate/average cost of providing the items to families where most needed. Consider making a donation at one of the levels listed and note the impact your gift can make.

SUPPLIES FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS



\$30

REFUGEE FOOD BASKET



\$50

TEACHER TRAINING



\$85

5 PROMOTING THE OFFERING

AFTER THE OFFERING

Thank your congregation for their generous gifts and share the total raised. Celebrate meeting or exceeding your original goal.

- Keep 25% of the Offering for your congregation's use to engage in the peacemaking and reconciliation ministries that your members are most passionate about.
- Send in the remaining balance through your normal receiving agency. If you choose to mail directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, make the check payable to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "Peace & Global Witness Offering" on the memo line.

Congregations

(through your normal receiving agency, usually your presbytery, or)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Mid Councils


may use the Payer Express system or remit to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643751
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751


SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US!


We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted the Peace & Global Witness Offering, as well as how you use your congregation's funds. Your story could inspire another congregation in ways they hadn't considered. Contact us via social media or email specialofferings@pcusa.org.

Throughout the year, periodically update your congregation with news of the local efforts that were made possible through its Peace & Global Witness Offering gifts.

Stay up-to-date on all things Special Offerings by subscribing to the Special Offerings blog, "liking" the Special Offerings Facebook page, or following Special Offerings on Twitter. Update your congregation throughout the year on how the money is being used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

 BLOG | pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings

 INSTAGRAM | [instagram.com/special_offerings](https://www.instagram.com/special_offerings)

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



6 A SEASON OF PEACE

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

This year's *Path of Peace* reflections will highlight Presbyterians in the United States who have contributed to civic well-being and made a significant impact for the common good in a variety of sectors both within this country and beyond. Drawing upon the resources of the Presbyterian Historical Society, we will be introduced to Presbyterians both well-known and little-known who have challenged injustice, broken down barriers and dividing walls, advocated for the marginalized, stewarded the common good, taught peace and been agents for the transformation of society. We aren't able to include every Presbyterian who has made this kind of significant impact, but we offer a representative sample of those who can encourage and edify us for the work before us. In the highly charged and deeply partisan political season of 2024, may these reflections be a sorely needed balm and breath of fresh air. May they provide a counternarrative of good news, real hope and genuine inspiration. May these daily reflections remind you what Presbyterians can do and have done to ensure a "path of peace" and well-being for everyone and for all of God's creation.

The Peace of Christ be with us all!

A Season of *Peace* 

RESOURCES INCLUDED IN A SEASON OF PEACE



Path of Peace Daily Reflections

Subscribe to daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox from September 8 – October 6 (pcusa.org/subscribeSOP), or download the entire set of reflections as a single file (pcusa.org/seasonofpeace).

Peace Fair

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

Children's Curriculum Lessons from the Table

is a five-session curriculum that focuses on the communion table. It can be used in a variety of contexts with children of various ages.

Adult Bible Study, The Things that Make for Peace

is a five-week adult study focusing on the inner and outer paths to peace as foundational to faithful discipleship. Each session has a “dig deeper” section for study throughout the week.



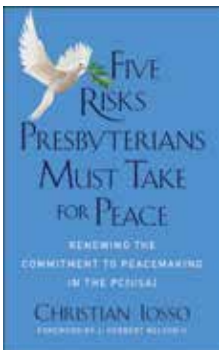
Peace Cards

There are three sets of 30 cards from which to choose. The cards can be placed in a central location such as a kitchen table. Peace Cards can be used anywhere and with anyone — at meals or family gatherings, during fellowship at church, as icebreakers for study groups, or for in-depth conversations on long bus rides with youth. Use one card per day during *A Season of Peace* and let the conversations lead to new perspectives and practices for making peace.

Children's Coloring Poster



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



Adult Book Study

This five-session guide helps participants explore, reflect upon, and apply the five peacemaking affirmations approved by the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. It is a companion to *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace* by Christian Iosso, published in 2017 by Westminster John Knox Press.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

“SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE” (ZECHARIAH 8:12)

We’ve all witnessed it, haven’t we?

Flowers miraculously blooming across a ravaged landscape. Children holding hands and smiling in the face of war.

We’ve all seen it and wonder how it’s possible. Such scenarios seem unlikely when we’ve all but given up hope.

And yet ...

The prophet Zechariah casts a vision for peace. He shows forth a world where each person — old and young, all genders and races, people from north, south, east and west — lives without enmity, fear and destruction. In Zechariah’s vision, there is “a sowing of peace” where the world is restored, made whole and abides in peace. People in Zechariah’s prophecy bind themselves together in love for one another, imbued in them by God, where all people have dignity and worth.

The Presbyterian Confession of 1967 invites us, the Church, to be “emissaries of peace.” It also reminds us that “with an urgency born of this hope, the Church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.”

Peacemaking is central to the gospel and the mission of the Church. Peace is possible, and it begins with us sowing the seeds of peace in every interaction and decision we make.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one way we can begin to bring peace. Through our generous support, our gifts will combine with churches across the PC(USA) to sow seeds of peace around the globe. Twenty-five percent of this offering will stay with our church to promote peace through our own ministries, and 25% is retained by our presbytery for peace and justice ministries in our region.

This World Communion Sunday, let us remember the Christ who we meet at the Table of Grace and affirm that in Christ all Christians are one, regardless of nationality, race or ethnicity.

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



Let us pray —

God, you are
the bringer of peace.

We recommit ourselves to you
as you bring peace
to our world.

May the works of our hands,
the marching of our feet and
the meditations of our hearts
join with you as we sow
the seeds of the peace
only you can bring.

In your name we pray,

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

MINISTERING TO MIGRANTS ON THE BRINK OF DESPAIR

The plight of the thousands of migrants in her native El Salvador keeps Carmen Elena Díaz awake at night.

“Knowing their experiences, their stories, and in ministering to the migrant people, my life has been transformed,” said Carmen. “Their stories mark you, transform you, sensitize you. They make you realize what a hard and difficult subject this is.”

Carmen helps coordinate the Reformed Church of El Salvador’s (IRCES) migrant ministry with deported and displaced people. Addressing the terror and pain of migrants in a country characterized by high rates of violence, political volatility, high unemployment and escalating poverty entails looking not only at immediate solutions but also at other root causes that have led so many in El Salvador to flee their homeland.

Joseph Russ, Presbyterian World Mission’s coordinator for migration issues, advocacy and mission in the Northern Triangle of Central America, which includes El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, first came to El Salvador in 2016 as a young adult. Now he works in close partnership with Carmen and her colleagues and is dedicated to offering leadership training in nonviolence and investing in peacemaking to help reduce migration.

Through a shelter program for internally displaced people and returnees — run in collaboration with the International Red Cross Committee — IRCES reduced people’s exposure to violence and poverty and helped them find stability amid difficult and even dangerous situations. In addition, through community farming programs, they support sustainable agriculture efforts for families, so they have healthier food as well as the opportunity to generate income.

Such efforts are made possible, in part, by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church

level to address critical issues around the world, like migration. Twenty-five percent is retained by congregations for our own peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level. **(TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR CHURCH AND MINISTRIES HAVE USED YOUR PORTION OF THE OFFERING.)**

The Offering also supported the launch of the Central America Migration Mission Network bringing together organizations from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México and the United States. The network brings together efforts to address the roots of violence and sow the seeds for peace through social transformation in people’s hearts and minds, in public policy and in local communities.

Supporting such collaborative projects of education and Christian witness as the migration network launch is a hallmark of the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

With our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we are helping to make a difference. Please give generously, for if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray —

*O God, you are the
bringer of peace.*

*In Jesus, you showed us
the way of peace.*

*Bless our efforts to do the work
Jesus showed us to do
as we bring peace through
our mission and ministry,
our tithes and our offerings.*

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

SEEKING RECONCILIATION ON THE ROAD

“Everybody has a story,” said Kathy Mitchell, a Native American ruling elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Chinle, Arizona, in the heart of the Navajo Nation. “Everybody deserves to be heard.”

Kathy’s desire to share peace and seek reconciliation — both “with those parts of yourself and who you are called to be” as well as through others along life’s journey — unfolded on the road from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Phoenix during a travel study seminar hosted in 2023 by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

The “Native Lands of the Southwest: The Doctrine of Discovery and its Legacy Today” Travel Study Seminar was a collaborative effort with the Presbytery of Santa Fe and the Synod of the Southwest.

The seminar included opportunities for participants to visit historic sites, hear about Native American experiences and interact with PC(USA) Native American churches to understand the implications of the Doctrine of Discovery, which gave Christian European governments the religious and legal justification to claim lands occupied by Indigenous peoples.

The seminar is made possible, in part, by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, which this year falls on Oct. 6, the Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical issues around the world. Twenty-five percent is retained by our congregation for our own peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level. **(TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR CONGREGATION AND MINISTRIES HAVE USED THE OFFERING.)**

One congregation deeply committed to the healing and repair of Indigenous nations and communities — thanks to two of its members who participated in the seminar — is Second Presbyterian Church of

Richmond, Virginia. Once Lucretia and Dan shared what they had learned about the Indigenous nations in their area, Second Presbyterian approved a large gift to help with necessary repairs and improvements at Native American churches and chapels.

“We are committed to sharing our gifts that will help address systems of conflict and injustice in the world,” they said. “We also need to live out the denomination’s commitment to peace and justice in our communities and across the world. Small and large contributions to the Offering work together to make significant changes for peace.”

Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray —

God of Every Nation,

*we thank you for the gift of diversity,
and we commit to a future where
all people, equal in your sight,
are treated as equal in our world.*

Bless us by your Holy Spirit

*to be agents of change as we work
to live out your reign in this place
today and every day.*

In your Son’s name, we pray.

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

PENNSYLVANIA CHURCH OFFERS COMMUNITY A ‘FRESH START’

The local laundromat was Linda’s chapel. It was where she first shared a prayer concern that had been weighing heavily on her mind — and on her family’s heart — to say nothing of their budget.

At the time, Linda was dealing with stage 4 cancer.

She confessed to the pastor and volunteers from the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, who were gathered around Linda and her daughter, “Since I got sick, my washer and dryer can’t handle the volume of blankets and bedding.”

The cost of doing laundry was driving Linda’s family and other families deeper into poverty. And so began the church’s “Fresh Start: Loads of Love” laundry outreach program, funded in part by a grant received from the Presbytery of Carlisle’s portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The presbytery grants empower congregations and individuals to become peacemakers in their communities and in the world.

Traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, the Peace & Global Witness Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical justice issues around the world.

Twenty-five percent is retained by our congregation for peace and reconciliation work, and 25% is kept by mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level. **(TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR CONGRGATION HAS USED/WILL USE YOUR OFFERING.)**

“The Waynesboro church’s laundry outreach program exemplifies the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s longstanding commitment to peacemaking,” said the Rev. Wilson Kennedy, the PC(USA)’s associate director for Special Offerings and Appeals. “Even the simplest tasks, like washing clothes for those on the margins of our communities, helps sow seeds of peace like Jesus commands us.”

And following Jesus’ commandments is integral to the mission of “Fresh Start.”

The Rev. Caroline Vickery says, “We know that Jesus makes it clear that how we treat the vulnerable is how we treat Jesus. Most of our members are college-educated, literate and middle-class. Our laundry outreach has put them in touch with a world whose hardships they’re unaware of. It comes as a shock for people to realize how costly doing your laundry can be and to know that people can’t use their SNAP benefits to buy detergent, cleaning supplies or personal hygiene items. Not being able to keep yourself clean robs people of their dignity. There’s something restorative about knowing that people will be able to be their best selves. That’s why we call it ‘Fresh Start.’ It’s a chance to start over.”

“There are many other small churches who want to improve the lives of people in their communities so that the love of God can be made visible through their ministries,” Vickery said. “By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, people can help other small churches make God’s love real — in their town and around the world.

And as we always say, when we all do a little — it adds up to a lot! Please give generously.

Let us pray —

God of Peace,

*even the simplest acts of love
and care for another person
are counted as peace to you.*

*Thank you for showing us the way
of peace in the person of Jesus,
and walk with us as we work
to sow seeds of peace in our world
through our gifts.*

In Jesus’ name, we pray.

Amen.

7 MINUTE FOR MISSION

WE SOW THE SEEDS

We look around, and we see so much — here at home and in many places around the world — that makes us feel helpless. But we need to hold on to and believe that peace is possible, and it begins with us sowing the seeds of peace in every interaction and decision we make.

Peacemaking is central to the gospel and the mission of the Church. Peace is active, not passive; peace is doing, not waiting. Over the past few weeks, we have heard amazing and moving stories of people who are not waiting. People who are sowing seeds of peace at home and around the world.

We heard about Carmen and Joseph sowing seeds of peace in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras at the launch of the Central America Migration Mission Network. The goal of the network is to seek solutions to the root causes of migration and offer support for those who have had to flee their homelands.

We heard the story of the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, and their Fresh Start program that helps people with a real, but often overlooked, need with their “Loads of Love” laundry program, supported by Peace & Global Witness Offering funds. The Rev. Carolyn Vickery says, “People can’t use their SNAP benefits to buy detergent, cleaning supplies or personal hygiene items. Not being able to keep yourself clean robs people of their dignity. There’s something restorative about knowing that people will be able to be their best selves. That’s why we call it ‘Fresh Start.’”

Lucretia and her husband, Dan, learned firsthand about the implications and enduring legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery, which gave Christian European governments the religious and legal justification to claim lands occupied by Indigenous peoples. They joined the Peacemaking Travel Study Seminar to the Native Lands, a collaborative effort with the Presbytery of Santa Fe and the Synod of the Southwest. Lucretia and Dan shared what they learned with their congregation, and as a result,

Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Virginia, voted to send funds to help with necessary repairs and improvements to Native American churches.

Through our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we are able, as a single congregation, to participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. Through our generous support, our gifts will combine with churches across the PC(USA) to sow seeds of peace around the globe. Twenty-five percent of the Offering will stay with our own congregation to pursue peacemaking and reconciliation ministries, and an additional 25% will stay with our mid council for similar work.

(TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR CHURCH AND MID COUNCIL USE THESE FUNDS.)

We are the peacemakers. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray —

God of Peace,

*we commit our offering this day
to you and to the way of peace
you showed us in the person of Jesus.*

*Thank you for the opportunity
to give back a portion
of what you have given to us.*

*Help us continue to sow seeds of peace
every day as we work
to bring about your reign of love
in this world.*

In Jesus’ name.

Amen.



WAYS YOUR CONGREGATION CAN ENHANCE ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACEMAKING

1 Plan a community event to celebrate the life of a notable peacemaker. You can choose a past or present public figure or make it even more personal and meaningful by highlighting a member of your congregation or community. Choose a theme such as gun violence, poverty, racism, immigration, climate change, or nonviolence. Partner with other faith communities and community groups. Organize a walk to significant community locations.

2 Renew your Commitment to Peacemaking. If it has been a while since your congregation made the commitment, visit pcusa.org/peacemaking for “Making the Commitment” resources, including a one-session study guide for sessions.



3 Take your peacemaking commitment from study to action. Use the steps outlined in the new *Companion Guide to the Commitment to Peacemaking* to address an issue of your congregation’s choice:

poverty, racism, violence, climate change or immigration/migration. The guide outlines a unique process of worship, spiritual grounding and reflection, community building and partnership, study and preparation, and direct action and advocacy for Presbyterians to deepen their peacemaking work and witness around the chosen issue. It includes a curated collection of suggestions, best practices, resources and hyperlinks to help Presbyterians take their peacemaking commitment to the next level. Visit pcusa.info/companionguide to download a copy of the guide.



4 Give a box of *Peace Cards* to each of your congregation’s households with small children. This set of over 90 cards (PDS 24358-20-016) can be used in a variety of settings and occasions — as a daily or seasonal practice with family members, as a sharing activity for small and large groups, as a table activity at church events, or for conversation while on a trip. They offer questions for conversation, prayers and activities related to peace in a variety of areas including personal, family, church, community, environment and the world. \$10.99 per box.



5 Create a “peace prayer” display. Postings can include joys and concerns, prayers, and pictures of people and places in need. Include the joys and concerns in worship services and encourage your members to include them in their daily prayers.

6 Learn about the Belhar Confession. Provide copies of *30 Days with the Belhar Confession: Reflections on Unity, Reconciliation and Justice* (PDS 24358-16-004) to congregation members who are homebound, in nursing homes, serving in the military or away for other reasons. \$1 each.



7 Invite an International Peacemaker to visit your region during the fall. 2025 dates are September 12 – October 6. Visit pcusa.org/internationalpeacemakers for details.

8 Engage your congregation in an event to combat gun violence. Apply for a grant from the Decade to End Gun Violence to help fund a congregationally-based action. Visit pcusa.info/gunviolenceprevention

9 Learn about Ukraine and other places of war, conflict and unrest in the world. The new “Sowing of Peace” series helps to focus Presbyterians’ attention on contexts of war with resources for worship, study and action. Visit pcusa.info/sowingpeace.



10 Take action to confront militarism. Make use of the PC(USA)’s “Connecting the



Dots” militarism webinar series. Engage your congregation in a study group or sermon series on the impacts of militarism. For more information visit pcusa.info/confrontingmilitarism

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



12 Study “Honest Patriotism” and dig a little deeper into a theological and reformed understanding of patriotism.

13 Care for military personnel, veterans and their families. Learn about the needs of veterans and the families of military personnel in your area. Sponsor a dinner or other event for returning veterans and those with family members who are currently deployed.

14 **Subscribe to receive Action Alerts** from the PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness in Washington D.C. Sign up at votervoicenet.org/PCUSA/home and follow "PC(USA) Washington Office" on Facebook.

15 **Become a Matthew 25 Church.** Many peace-making congregations are already doing the work of Matthew 25. Consider becoming a Matthew 25 Church that builds congregational vitality, dismantles structural racism and eradicates systemic poverty. Learn more at pcusa.org/matthew-25.



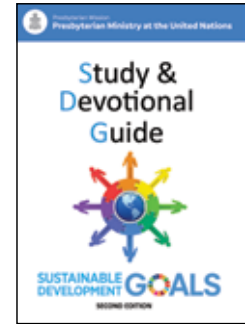
16 **Respond to immigration issues.** Learn more about immigration issues and how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations can respond. Visit pcusa.org/immigration to find resources for study, advocacy, worship and action.

17 **Invite a PC(USA) mission co-worker engaged in ministries that promote peace and reconciliation to visit.** Be inspired by an in-person or virtual visit how God is at work in the world and how to get more involved. To learn more about speaker availability, email mission.live@pcusa.org or call 800-728-7228, ext. 5075.

18 **Increase awareness and efforts to combat human trafficking.** An estimated 800,000 people, of which approximately 80% are women and up to 50% are minors, are trafficked across national borders. In the fields, in mines, in raw materials processing, in hotels, in the supply chain, down your street, in the U.S. and around the world, slavery is flourishing in a new form. Download the *Human Trafficking Toolkit* at pcusa.org/traffickingtoolkit to learn how your community can help combat human trafficking.



19 **Study the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals.** U.N. member countries adopted this set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Learn about relevant PC(USA) efforts to making our world a better place and how to get involved. Visit pcusa.org/sustainable-development-goals.



20 **Study cultural diversity and building inclusive communities.** Offer a study of *Living the Gospel of Peace: Tools for Building More Inclusive Community* (PDS 70270-04-014). Invite members of another congregation or the community. Use Offering funds to pay for participants' books and other expenses. \$3 each.

21 **Learn and practice nonviolence.** Organize a group to use the resource *Resurrection Living: Journeying with the Nonviolent Christ* (PDS 24358-10-007). This journal helps people explore nonviolence individually or together. \$5 each.

22 **Talk about the tough issues of 2024.** Study *To Strengthen Christ's Body: Tools for Talking about Tough Issues* (PDS 24358-08-001). This study explores skills and tools to approach conflict in ways that increase the possibility the experience will be a constructive and creative one, in which we discover God's grace and the body of Christ is strengthened. Use Offering funds to pay for participants' books, refreshments, child care or other expenses. \$3 each.



9 CONTACT INFORMATION



NELSON SANTOSHIN

PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP!

Special Offerings

800-728-7228, Ext. 5047
special.offerings@pcusa.org
pcusa.org/specialofferings

Peacemaking Program

Carl Horton 800-728-7228, Ext. 5200
carl.horton@pcusa.org
pcusa.org/peacemaking

Equipping for Mission Involvement

Stephanie Caudill 800-728-7228, Ext. 5279
stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org
pcusa.org/missionresources

Standing Orders

Presbyterian Customer Service
800-533-4371
customer_service@presbypub.com

Where do you remit your gifts?

Congregations

(through your normal receiving agency, usually your presbytery)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
special.offerings@pcusa.org

Mid Councils

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643751, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751



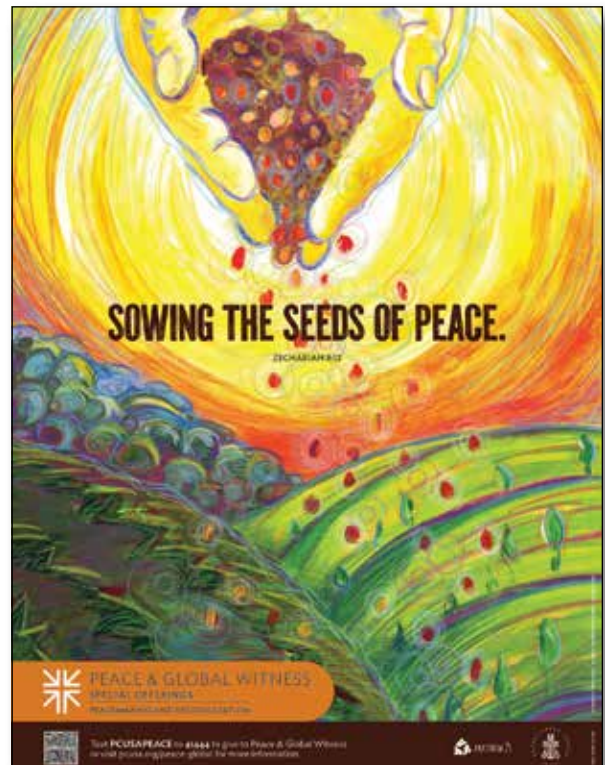
10 RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

Hopefully you'll find this guide answers most of your questions. Your standing order contains the foundational materials you'll need to promote the Offering in your church. On our website, you'll find more materials and other great ways to learn about the Peace & Global Witness Offering and the ministries it supports, and how to stay in touch with the Special Offerings.



DOWNLOADABLE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

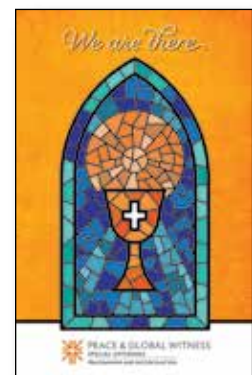
- **Bulletin inserts:** *Sowing the seeds of peace* and *We are there*
- **Poster:** Display in a high-traffic area in your church (in English, Spanish and Korean)
- **Sample pastor's letter:** Use as a reference when writing a letter to your members
- **Social media images:** Use on your church's Facebook page throughout *A Season of Peace*
- **Minutes for Mission:** Five stories about the transformative power of the kinds of peacemaking and reconciliation efforts the Offering supports (print and online)
- **Worship resource**
- **Written and video sermons**
- **PowerPoint slides:** To illustrate Minutes for Mission or for other presentations in support of the Offering
- **Children's Curriculum**



Sowing the seeds of peace poster



Sowing the seeds of peace insert



We are there insert

Ways to get additional copies of Peace & Global Witness resources:

- Contact Presbyterian Customer Service at **800-533-4371** between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST; email customer_service@presbypub.com; or fax this order form to 800-541-5113
- Mail this form to Presbyterian Store, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202.
- Order from the PCUSA store — pcusastore.com.

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

QTY.	UOM	PDS#	ITEM	PRICE
ENGLISH RESOURCES				
	Each	12142-24-281	Poster	
	P25	12142-24-282	Bulletin Insert— <i>Sowing the seeds of peace</i>	
	P25	12142-24-283	Bulletin Insert— <i>We are there</i>	
	P50	12142-24-285	8.5" x 11" Bulletin Cover	\$4.00
	P50	12142-24-286	8.5" x 14" Bulletin Cover	\$4.00
	P25	12142-24-287	Brochure/mailer	
	Each	12142-24-288	Leader's Guide	
	P25	12142-23-275	Offering Envelope	

SPANISH RESOURCES

	Each	12142-24-201	Poster	
	P25	12142-24-202	Bulletin Insert— <i>Sembrar semillas de paz</i>	
	P25	12142-24-203	Bulletin Insert— <i>Estamos ahí</i>	
	P25	12142-24-276	Offering Envelope	

KOREAN RESOURCES

	Each	12142-24-211	Poster	
	P25	12142-24-212	Bulletin Insert— 평강의 씨앗을 뿌리며	
	P25	12142-24-213	Bulletin Insert— 우리가 함께합니다	
	P25	12142-24-277	Offering Envelope	

QTY.	PDS#	ITEM	PRICE
OTHER USEFUL ITEMS:			
	24358-23-001	40 Reflections for 40 Years of the Commitment to Peacemaking	
	24358-20-008	Commitment to Peacemaking	
	24358-20-009	Spanish Commitment	
	24358-20-010	Korean Commitment	
	24358-20-001	Companion Guide to the Commitment to Peacemaking	
	24358-20-016	Peace Cards	\$10.99
	24358-22-001	Building a Neighborhood Together: An Intergenerational Peacemaking Project (Updated 2022)	
	24358-23-002	Peacemaking in the Family by Mister Rogers: Four Intergenerational Events for Your Church (Updated 2023)	
	24358-16-004	30 Days with the Belhar Confession: Reflections on Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice	\$1.00
	24358-10-007	Resurrection Living: Journeying with the Nonviolent Christ	\$7.50
	24358-20-002	Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement	
	24358-20-003	Spanish Guidelines	
	24358-20-004	Korean Guidelines	
	24358-20-005	Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement Pocket Guides (25)	\$5.00
	24358-20-006	25 Spanish pocket guides	\$5.00
	24358-20-007	25 Korean pocket guides	\$5.00

SHIP TO:THIS IS A: CHURCH ADDRESS PERSONAL ADDRESS

CHURCH: _____

ATTENTION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ PIN/CUSTOMER I.D.#: _____

*Permanent Identification Number. See General Assembly Statistics Book.

- Bill me (shipping and handling will be included). Will bill to listed shipping address unless told differently.
- Check or money order enclosed (include 10 percent of the order total for priced items: \$7.50 minimum, \$65 maximum).

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

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

Let us pray~

*God, you are the
bringer of peace.
May the works
of our hands and
the meditations
of our hearts
join with you
as we sow the seeds
of the peace
only you
can bring.
Amen.*



Thank you for your support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering
IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact us at

800-728-7228, ext. 5047

or email special.offerings@pcusa.org

PC(USA)

Office of Special Offerings

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202



The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The four church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering — play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns; and offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.