



Your church. Your mission.

For the past few years, I've heard the question in multiple conferences and events, in email surveys and on social media: "What does it mean to be Presbyterian?"

There may be at least as many answers as there are people asking the question. A favorite of mine draws from the Brief Statement of Faith. In it, we are described as people given courage by the Holy Spirit to "pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace." The Statement identifies us as people in mission with each other and with God.

The four churchwide Special Offerings and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are ways we do just that. **Collectively, Presbyterian congregations participate in the Special Offerings more than any other ministry or mission at the national level.** Through these Offerings, congregations of every size from every part of the country come together to participate in ministries of compassion, justice, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, and global witness.

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog is a growing part of this important work. By highlighting the specific tools and impact, the Catalog has offered individuals, small groups, and congregations a way to better connect to the results of their giving. In three short years, support through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog has increased almost 60% per year!

Our goal with this guide and in our work is to help you, as a leader in your congregation, to live out this important part of our Presbyterian identity. We are your partners in ministry and can assist you whether you're hoping to participate in an Offering for the first time, or to reinvigorate your congregation's commitment. We look forward to what God will do through our shared effort.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce Wiebe", is positioned below the text "In gratitude,".

Bryce Wiebe

Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings
502-569-5414
Bryce.Wiebe@pcusa.org





Paul Jeffrey/ACT ALLIANCE

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

SEASON OF LENT

Through this longstanding, ecumenical effort, Presbyterians share God's love by giving to ministries that provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support towards the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.



32% | RESTORING HOPE (PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE)

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



36% | REDUCING HUNGER (PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM)

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



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

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

INSPIRED IDEAS FOR CHURCHES

“Before going to seminary, I worked as a commercial fisherman in Alaska. For the past six years, I’ve led my church in an OGHS ‘Fishing Derby’ leading up to Easter. We distribute the fish boxes to everyone in the congregation and have them fill them up.

“On Easter Sunday, we weigh all the fish brought in. Two years ago we had a record catch of 415 lbs. of

coins received. Last year, we thought about going for 500 lbs., but getting all those coins to the bank became a bit overwhelming, so we encouraged paper money, too. The Fishing Derby has been a fun way to raise funds and awareness for OGHS.”

Rev. Dave Thompson
First Presbyterian Church – Billings, MT



STORY OF IMPACT | Self-Development of People Helps Open Doors for Ex-offenders

Your support of OGHS bolsters organizations like Neighbor to Neighbor, and people like Olga Pedraza. Olga left prison drug-free and ready to start her new life and career as a substance abuse counselor, but the state required over \$4,500 to reinstate her driver's license, which she needed for her new job.

She joined Neighbor to Neighbor in their efforts to change public policy to help educate and reintegrate ex-offenders and decrease the possibility that they return to lives of crime. In March 2016, their Jobs Not Jails campaign won a major legislative victory.

Massachusetts repealed the automatic suspension of driving privileges for most drug offenses and abolished the accompanying fine. With her license reinstated, Olga could start her new life and career, helping others recover from their drug addictions.

“More than 7,000 lives are being transformed, thanks partly to a grant from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People,” says Lena Entin, an organizer with Neighbor to Neighbor. “This victory means that stories like Olga’s will be repeated over and over again.”

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

“The OGHS ministries are driven, not so much by who the recipients are, but by who we are—faithful and generous followers of Christ Jesus. As such, our intention is to follow the lead of Jesus who looks upon everyone as a valued child of God, worthy of God’s good gift of life abundant. This is our foundation and motive.”

Rev. Joseph Johnson | Evergreen Presbyterian Church – Dothan, AL

■ Important Dates and Resources

- **November: Watch for your One Great Hour of Sharing standing order confirmation.** Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this Offering in your church.
- **January: One Great Hour of Sharing resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary by calling Presbyterian Distribution Services at 800-524-2612.
- **February: Ensure you have all the promotional materials you need.** Visit presbyterianmission.org/oghs for additional resources.
- **March: 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.



Pentecost

SEASON OF PENTECOST

Receiving this Offering allows Presbyterians to invest in faith formation of one of the church's greatest resources—our youth—and join in ministries that address the needs of at-risk children and encourage, grow, and support our young people.



40% | CONGREGATIONAL INITIATIVES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

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



25% | SERVING COMMUNITIES (YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS)

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



25% | GUIDING YOUTH (YOUTH MINISTRIES)

Ministries that guide youth in their walk with Christ and inspire those called to accompany them.



10% | CHILD ADVOCACY

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

INSPIRED IDEAS FOR CHURCHES

Ligonier Presbyterian Church in Indiana used their portion of the Pentecost Offering to help fund their Lighthouse Daycare Ministry, which provides care for children of teen and low-income mothers at below market cost. This helps mothers finish their high school diploma, and families free up income for their household needs.

A few ways your church could use retained gifts:

- Provide scholarships to Presbyterian Youth Triennium
- Contribute to a backpack program to provide low-income children with food when school is out
- Contribute to a center that provides support for children of abused spouses



STORY OF IMPACT | Five Days at Triennium Can Shape an Entire Life

Rev. Perryn Rice was 16 when he attended the Presbyterian Youth Triennium in 1986. There, he stood side by side with thousands of other teens worshiping, praying, and seeking answers for what God had in store for their lives. It was there that he felt the call to ministry.

“I took a workshop about ministerial calls that helped me understand what the Lord was doing in my life. I did not accept the call at the time, but I left Triennium knowing what the Lord was calling me to do.”

Perryn is now a Presbyterian pastor. Nearly 30 years after his first Triennium, the event is still a priority for him. He has since served in five Trienniums, as a preacher, small group leader, chaperone, and exhibit hall worker.

Perryn’s story is one of many examples of how your support of the Pentecost Offering benefits ministries that raise up today’s youth and young adults to lead lives of faith and action, and help to meet the needs of at-risk children.

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

“We use our church’s portion of the Pentecost Offering to help our youth go on amazing and educational mission trips, like working on a Native American reservation in South Dakota. And we know our money is also being used for Young Adult Volunteers, like the ones in our city, to make the world a better place for everyone’s children.”

Rev. Krystal Leedy | Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry, University Presbyterian Church – Austin, TX

Important Dates and Resources

- **February: Watch for your Pentecost Offering standing order confirmation.** Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this Offering in your church.
- **March: Pentecost Offering resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary by calling Presbyterian Distribution Services at 800-524-2612.
- **April: Meet with your session or mission committee to plan how your congregation will use its share of the Pentecost Offering.** 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.
- **June: Receive the Offering and thank your congregation; let them know how the congregation’s portion (40%) of the Pentecost Offering will be used.** Remit your congregation’s gifts through your normal receiving agency.



Peace & Global Witness

SEASON OF PEACE

When your congregation supports this Offering, you join in sharing the Peace of Christ by promoting ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict—including our own.



25% | CONGREGATIONAL PEACE INITIATIVES

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



25% | MID COUNCIL PEACE INITIATIVES

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



50% | ADVOCATING PEACE AND ADVANCING JUSTICE

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

INSPIRED IDEAS FOR CHURCHES

We know our churches are heavily involved in peacemaking in their own communities. To that end, 25% of your receipts from the Peace & Global Witness Offering stays with your congregation to support your favorite local ministries.

A few ways churches have used their retained gifts:

- Donate to programs working toward the elimination of human trafficking
- Donate to programs supporting people living with HIV/AIDS
- Support the Freedom Rising Initiative, designed to address the plight of African American males in our country
- Help fund civilian re-entry and educational assistance for veterans



STORY OF IMPACT | Swords to Plowshares, Guns to Life-giving Water Spouts

The ancient biblical vision of turning swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks has stirred the modern-day imagination of Columbia Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia. They are converting guns—instruments sometimes used to inflict death—to tools used to access life-giving water.

Congregation members and people from the community donated guns to the project. They were taken to a local artistic blacksmith, who forged working rope pumps with metal from the guns. The pumps are displayed

around the community to symbolize the congregation's conviction that there are too many guns in society and too few resources devoted to meeting human needs. Those who agree with the message are invited to make donations toward the purchase of African-made rope pumps for villages in Malawi.

“We’re saying we need guns off the streets because people are dying in Atlanta, Decatur, and elsewhere,” said Columbia’s pastor, Tom Hagood. “If we can prevent one death and help a village get potable water, it’s worth our effort.”

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

“The Peace & Global Witness Offering supports a range of ministries devoted to peacemaking and reconciliation, including bearing witness in communities of conflict around the world, hosting educational programs to raise awareness, driving local peacemaking efforts, offering catalyst support to our mission coworkers, and much more.”

Rev. Dr. Mark D. Hostetter | Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church – New York, NY

Important Dates and Resources

- **June: Watch for your Peace & Global Witness Offering standing order confirmation.** Make updates if necessary, or order materials to begin promoting this Offering in your church. Plan with your session or mission committee to determine how you will use your congregation’s share (25%).
- **August: Peace & Global Witness Offering resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary by calling Presbyterian Distribution Services at 800-524-2612. Review resources for *A Season of Peace* at presbyterianmission.org/seasonofpeace.
- **September: Promote the Peace & Global Witness Offering.** Send a letter with a brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household. Share *A Season of Peace* resources with your congregation.
- **October: Receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering** on World Communion Sunday. **Thank your congregation, and let them know how your 25% of the Offering will be used.** Remit your congregation’s gifts through your normal receiving agency. Your mid council office will receive 25% of your gifts.



Christmas Joy

SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

This Offering provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church, and supports leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



50% | PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES (RACIAL ETHNIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT)

Leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



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

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

INSPIRED IDEAS FOR CHURCHES

To celebrate your past and future church leaders, host a town hall discussion that highlights your church's leadership and the roles each person plays in helping the church grow. Lead your members in a conversation about the current state of the church and how they envision the future of not only your congregation, but of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a whole. Discuss how diversity and inclusion are key teachings of Christ, as well as important considerations for the future growth of the church.

As part of the discussion, share your favorite Minutes for Mission as a way to illustrate how the Christmas Joy Offering supports past leaders, and advances the development of future racial ethnic leadership attending Presbyterian-related school and colleges. If anyone from your church has received support from this Offering, invite them to share their story and the impact the assistance had on their life.



STORY OF IMPACT | Safety from Violence, Pan American Alumna Hears God's Call

Monika Ruiz is a college sophomore who wants to serve as a nurse in international mission, and tend spiritual needs through pastoral ministry in a developing country. Her call to service was nurtured as a high school student at the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas, a school supported by the Christmas Joy Offering.

Monika came to Pan American from a community in Mexico where drug cartels hold tremendous sway, where some days she was unable even to attend school due to drug trafficking and violence.

At Pan American, she not only found a safe and caring environment, but also hit her stride academically and learned lessons beyond the classroom.

Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools afford opportunities that students like Monika might not otherwise be able to experience. "Without a doubt, attending the Presbyterian Pan American School has been one of the greatest blessings in my life," Monika says. "Without that opportunity, I would not be who I am or where I am now."

PRAISE FROM OUR CHURCHES

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

Dr. Jim Irwin | First Presbyterian Church – Othello, WA

Important Dates and Resources

- **September: Watch for your Christmas Joy Offering standing order confirmation.** Make changes to your order if necessary, or order resources to begin promoting this Offering in your church.
- **October: Christmas Joy Offering resources arrive.** Order supplementary resources if necessary, or order materials to start promoting the Offering in your church. Call Presbyterian Distribution Services at 800-524-2612.
- **November: Send a letter with a Christmas Joy brochure/mailer or bulletin insert to each congregation household.**
- **December: Promote and receive the Christmas Joy Offering** during the Advent & Christmas season.
- **January: Thank your congregation for their generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering.** Remit your congregation's gifts through your normal receiving agency.

Presbyterian Giving Catalog

SMALL GIFTS. BIG IMPACT.



Praise from our churches

“Our children probably gained more from this than the recipients will—to give and know your gifts will make a difference in someone’s life—and perhaps even save that life—it was a good lesson for them! This was their gift from the Lord! ‘...it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).”

Sandra Silker | United Presbyterian Church – Princeton, IN

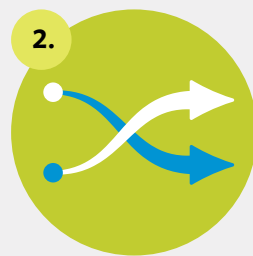
WAYS TO USE THE GIVING CATALOG THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Teach the children in your congregation about the joy of giving to others by using the curriculum found on our website.
- In March, celebrate World Water Day with your church using the Overflowing Generosity activity available in your free Activation Kit.
- Incorporate the Giving Catalog into your VBS activities, highlighting the difference your children can make in the world when they work together.
- Celebrate “Christmas in July” by hosting an Alternative Giving Market.
- As December approaches, order new Giving Catalog bulletin inserts to share with your church members, and encourage them to use the catalog for their holiday gift-giving.

HOW IT WORKS



A gift is given.



Gifts are designated to causes and programs you have chosen.



Gifts are distributed to share Christ's love where it's needed most.

Visit the online catalog at presbyteriangifts.org to learn more.

Get Started with the Giving Catalog!

Activation Kits for Advent and Lent provide you with tools to help you easily promote the Giving Catalog in your church. Kits include posters, suggested activities, display stands, and more. Contact us to request one today.



Phone | 800-524-2612



Email | specialofferings@pcusa.org

“...the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as
Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church
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A Brief Statement of Faith
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

