

**Advent is a time of anticipation and promise, of thanksgiving and celebration.** Every year, we pour out our gratitude by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering which supports church workers and their families in need and nurtures the promise of our future racial ethnic leaders.

---

**50% provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need**

- Support grants that help retired church workers and their families with financial and housing needs
- Provide aid to church workers with urgent financial and medical needs

**50% supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools**

- Give scholarships for racial ethnic students and future church leaders
  - Equip racial ethnic leaders for ministry
- 

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY**



Through your church



Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10



[presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy](https://presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy)

12136-17-305

# Finding Family in Times of Tragedy

*Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift.*

—2 Corinthians 9:15



**LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

# In 2014, tragedy struck Rev. John Scotland's family when his daughter, Elisabeth, suffered a severe brain injury.

John was granted leave from his church in New Jersey so he and his wife could be by their daughter's side in Boston during her recovery. This meant finding someone to cover pastoral duties during his absence as well as additional living expenses.

With a shared grant from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and West Jersey Presbytery, the Scotlands were able to remain with their daughter while she underwent surgery and an intense two-month rehabilitation.

*"Having a Presbyterian family was a big blessing to us and helped us come through tragedy."*

—Rev. John Scotland

---

**Present Day:** This year, Elisabeth passed her CPA exam and lives in Philadelphia where she works as an accountant. Rev. Scotland and his wife are back in New Jersey continuing to serve the church family that cared for them in their time of need.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND GRATITUDE FOR THOSE WHO FAITHFULLY SERVE

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you help provide critical financial assistance for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



**Nearly 291 households received Income Supplements**, which help provide for retired church workers and surviving spouses in need.



**Over 211 households received Housing Supplements**, which help retired church workers maintain their current home or afford assisted living and long-term care.



**More than 110 households received assistance through Shared and Emergency Grants**, which provide relief to church workers facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.



**Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering.**