Dear Members,

Sometimes it feels like the world is coming at us so quickly that we don’t know which way to turn, where to look, what to do next. In a chaotic world, we find strength in knowing that God is always near. That is why I’m grateful for *A Season of Peace* we are in, which culminates with the Peace & Global Witness offering on World Communion Sunday. The ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation witness to the Prince of Peace. It is good to be reminded that, with all the discord, pain, and conflict in our communities and in the world, we serve a God who promises harmony and responds to violence with reconciliation and peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It has helped support our church partners in Madagascar recover from years of destructive development. Scriptural resources helped congregations, like the one in Old Bergen, New Jersey, find common ground with neighbors of many faiths, bringing their children together to learn from one another and to build a peaceful future. And the whole church joins together, through this Offering, to work for an end to all forms of human trafficking, specifically, the sin of child soldiers.

This is why we give to the Peace & Global Witness offering. We give because we know that every level of society is in need of Christ’s peace – at all times, in all ways. From our congregation, where we retain 25 percent of this offering to support [*???*]and its important role in our community; to the region, where 25 percent is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts being pursued, together with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the earth, where the remaining 50 percent is deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website ([www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global)) to find out more information on how your support of this offering helps. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community. I challenge each of us to consider how we might increase our witness, and increase our giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. I pray that the God of Peace might open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, October 7, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

As Presbyterians, we claim Jesus Christ as Prince of Peace and pattern our lives in the compassion, kindness and grace that he shows us.

Yours in the Peace of Christ,

Rev. ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_