



# PHP POST

Fall 2016 | Presbyterian Hunger Program | [pcusa.org/hunger](http://pcusa.org/hunger)

World Food Day

## TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FOOD\*

In honor of World Food Day, we bring you the Ten Commandments of Food, with no disrespect to the original intended.

I.

Eat food grown as close as possible to where you live.

V.

Do not waste food.

IX.

Protect the biodiversity of seeds, soils, ecosystems and the cultures of food producers.

II.

Give thanks for the food you eat.

VI.

Be grateful to those who grow and prepare food for your table.

X.

Rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all.

III.

Strive for all people to have knowledge about and access to affordable, nutritious food.

VII.

Support fair wages for farmworkers, farmers and food workers.

IV.

Eat mindfully and in moderation.

VIII.

Reduce the environmental damage of land, water and air from food production and the food system.

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\*Developed by the World Council of Churches' General Secretary Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance's Food for Life Strategy Working Group, 2016.





## Letter From the Coordinator

By Ruth Farrell, Coordinator, Presbyterian Hunger Program

Have you ever read a book and thought “THIS so describes my own experience”? If you have ever been engaged in mission and wondered how to improve its impact and transformational power, please read *Slow Kingdom Coming* by Kent Annan.

Kent Annan describes the struggles of engaging in transformational mission through stories that many of us will recognize as ones we too have experienced. As other authors have done, Kent points out strengths and limitations in charity and justice models of mission, but he does so through Five Faithful Practices: attention, confession, respect, partnering and truthing. The Five Faithful Practices help us commit to deep change. We know in our souls that “shortcuts tempt us to settle for an easier-to-reach kingdom that ultimately crumbles.”

Instead of leaving me feeling defeated or that what I am doing is not good enough, this book offers practical ways to use those Five Faithful Practices to adapt what we are already doing to faithfully participate more fully in God’s work.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program and other Presbyterian Mission Agency programs like World Mission, the Office of Public Witness, and Mission Responsibility Through Investment, to name a few, are already set

“... shortcuts tempt us to settle for an easier-to-reach kingdom that ultimately crumbles.”

up to work with you and your congregation to provide the connections that make our mission work more faithful. Our church has been working with partners, often for over a hundred years. Mission co-workers are fluent in both language and cultural understanding and can help us cross those language and cultural differences so that our mission work is directed to something that really does love our neighbors as we would yearn to be loved. This is why our hunger work in Peru got involved in trade and extractives issues. Partners there showed us that no amount of development work would mitigate the contamination spewed by mining-related companies, especially when international companies’ right to do business was protected under trade agreements to the detriment of the nation’s right to protect its people from contamination and land from long-term environmental degradation (Investor-State Clause of the Trans-Pacific Partnership). If we loved our neighbor as ourselves, we would have to learn about trade agreements.

We also have country-based mission networks and issue-based tables, both of which ground our work. You can see a list of over 30 countries with Mission Networks at [pcusa.org/missionnetworks](http://pcusa.org/missionnetworks). We also have three issue-based tables focused on the causes of global poverty as identified by partners. The three tables grouped around issues – Land/Food, Trade and Extractives/Climate Change – meet once a month to organize campaign work with global partners. Contact Valery Nodem if you are interested in joining a table.

If you are more involved in hunger and poverty work in the U.S., we have two tables that can deepen your local community work – one on Food/Closing the Gap and the other on Workers’ Rights/Minimum Wage. These tables are just forming and are a wonderful way to learn about the work of other congregations as well as connect your work to advocacy on Child Nutrition Reauthorization which impacts children in all of our communities and neighborhoods. Contact Andrew Kang Bartlett to join a table.

This issue highlights World Food Day and Food Week of Action. Again, I think of Annan’s book which puts all of mission into perspective—it is indeed God’s work into which we are invited to experience our own transformation.

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## Cameroonian Grain Banks Lose Visionary: Vision Lives On

Valery Nodem, International Associate, PHP

On May 30th, 2016, Elias Gondji, a member of RELUFA's (PHP's Joining Hands Network in Cameroon) Board of Directors and the Director of GIE ADERSA passed away. Elias had been associated with RELUFA for more than 15 years.

In 2005, Northern Cameroon, exposed to increasing drought, faced one of the most severe food crises of its history. That year the far north province recorded a chronic food deficit, cereal production was largely hit by the poor weather. In markets, there was a severe shortage of food, and inflation skyrocketed. This situation made the lives of poor local communities even harder.

Elias . . . helped more than 25,000 people in 42 villages during periods of famine.

As is often the case, the government response was to make food donations to be distributed in selected villages to help people for a few weeks at the most. But RELUFA decided to invest in the search for lasting solutions to hunger. The network relied on GIE ADERSA, one of its member organizations based in the region and with extensive experience in community development, to help develop a plan.

Elias Gondji, the Director of GIE ADERSA, spent months with RELUFA designing a food security program that was different from everything being done at the time. Elias was convinced that the food



Valery Nodem

Elias was instrumental in designing a food security project in Cameroon that has helped more than 25,000 people.

distribution approach was not only making local communities lose their dignity, but he also knew that it kept them in a dependence mentality. Most importantly it did not solve the problem that was causing hunger in communities. Elias recommended setting up a cereal bank system that would enable communities to store their millet during the harvest when prices were low in the markets, and then would make the food available in the village during the lean season when families have no reserves, generally between July and September each year.

This system, since its inception in 2006, has helped more than 25,000 people in 42 villages to find the available food in their villages during periods of famine. It also put local communities at the center of management. Ten years later, the granaries are still functioning well and have allowed families to concentrate on other priorities like education.

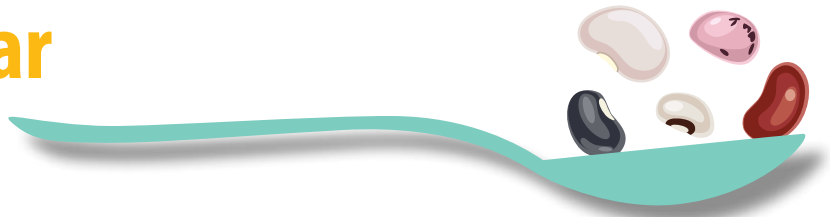
The son of a pastor, Elias had lived all his life in his native village Zidim, and had

acquired great knowledge of people, culture and understood early by watching his father who worked ceaselessly for the poor and the needy, what it meant to be of service to others. A little over 10 years ago, he was elected as a parliamentarian representing a lot of communities that he had served for years. Contrary to what many others did, he chose to forego the comfort of the capital and decided to stay in his village where he was close to the people he served.

At the beginning of this year, several churches in the U.S raised funds to construct new community granaries in the Far North Cameroon, in an area which is hosting thousands of refugees who fled from neighboring Nigeria to escape the terrorist group Boko Haram. Elias and his team built the granaries, which were dedicated the first week of June.

Elias was not there for the inauguration of granaries but his work has been accomplished and he has gone to the Lord.

# International Year of the Pulses



Each year the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) chooses an annual theme or crop that is critical to our lives and to the planet, and designates the International Year based on that.

This year was named to honor Pulses. Pulses, also called grain legumes, are grown for their seeds and dried. They include hundreds of types of beans, chickpeas, split peas, and lentils. Pulses generally exclude those legumes that are eaten green, used to make oil, and used solely for cover crops, such as clover and alfalfa.



## The Role of Pulses

They are a vital source of plant-based proteins and amino acids for people around the globe and should be eaten as part of a healthy diet to address obesity, as well as to prevent and help manage chronic diseases.



### Infants and young children

To meet their daily nutritional needs.



### Vegetarians and vegans

to ensure adequate intakes of protein, minerals and vitamins.



**Women at reproductive age,** when combined with Vitamin C, pulses' high iron content makes them a potent food for replenishing iron stores.



**Coeliac patients,** pulses are gluten-free.

## The Many Health Benefits of Pulses:

**Good for preventing iron deficiency anemia** in women and children when combined with Vitamin C.

**High in dietary fiber** and may reduce the risk of coronary disease.

**Reduces the risk** of neural tube defects like spina bifida in newborn babies.

**The calcium** found in pulses contributes to promoting bone health and reducing the risk of osteoporotic fractures

**Rich in phytochemicals** and antioxidants, may contain anti-cancer properties.



# Worship Resources for World Food Day

Rev. Abby Mohaupt, PHP Advisory Committee member

## Children's Sermon: Leviticus 23:22

When was the last time you had leftovers from a meal? What did you do with them? Did you save them for later? Did you give them away?

What? Why would you give away your leftovers? Well, what would you think the Bible says about leftovers?

(Read Leviticus 23:22.)

Ok, so what is this saying? Leviticus is a book of a lot of rules for the Israelites to follow as they are learning to be God's people. And here's one of those rules. Do you know what gleaning is? It is the process of picking over the field and taking what's been left behind of a harvest. You glean the leftovers. And here, we read that the Israelites were supposed to let the poor and needy go through the fields to glean, to take the leftovers. And then they won't go hungry.

Did you know that gleaning still happens? That it happens in the United States?

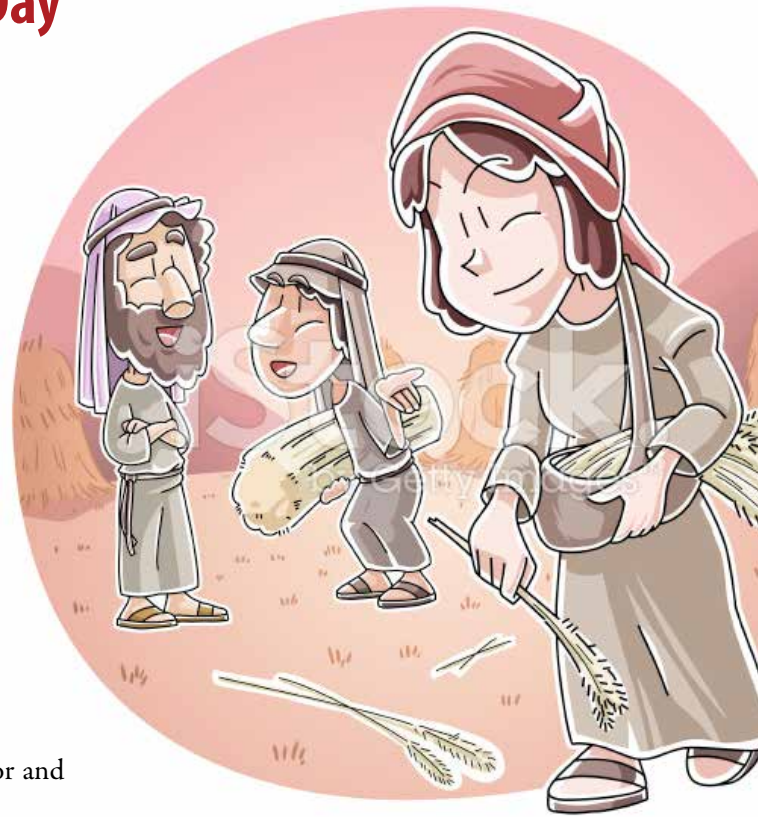
In California there are groups of people who visit the fruit trees in people's yards to pick apples, oranges, lemons, limes, pomegranates, avocados and other food from trees (with permission) to give to people who are hungry. Otherwise that food wouldn't get eaten and that would be wasteful.

Who do you think is poor and needy in your life?

I wonder if there are ways you can think about your leftovers. You probably don't want to give someone you meet who is hungry your leftovers from dinner but what other ways can you share your food with others?

Let's pray.

*God, thank you for the food that surrounds us and for asking us to care about other people. Help us feed others and love them as you have loved us. We love you. Amen.*



## A Prayer:

*Oh God we give you thanks for the hands that work the earth, planting seeds and tending the soil. We give you thanks for bodies bent over plants, pulling weeds and harvesting the food we eat.*

*We give you thanks for food from all over the world--and from right in our neighborhood--that feeds us. We give you thanks for strawberries and corn and papaya and okra and rice--God these are just some of the fruits of your land.*

*But God our hearts break whenever we remember that some people do not have enough to eat and that many of those people are farmers and farmworkers themselves.*

*God, you call us to feed the hungry and sometimes we fail miserably at this.*

*We refuse to fix broken food systems and are more concerned with getting food fast than getting food well.*

*The ministry of Jesus Christ reminds us that when we come to the table together, we build grace and community where all are welcomed and fed. Help us be like Jesus.*

*And so we pray for those who are hungry. We pray for those who are broken by the land. We pray for living wages and healthy soil and for enough.*

*Move our feet, God, that we may know that we are all connected.*

*In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.*

# CELEBRATE

## World Food Day

### Solidarity Actions for 2016



**Fair Wages!** Boycott Wendy's, tweet about it, and deliver manager letters. [boycott-wendys.org](http://boycott-wendys.org).



**Worker Justice!** Support an increase in the minimum wage at the national level *bit.ly/raise-wage* and work locally for worker justice.

## Global Food Week of Action

October 9-17, 2016

Our faith calls us to work for a world where everyone has sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food and those who produce and prepare the food are fairly compensated, respected and celebrated! One opportunity for Christians and others around the world to act together for food justice and food sovereignty is coming soon. We encourage congregations to celebrate **Global Food Week of Action**, which includes **World Food Day** (October 16) as well as the **International Day for Rural Women** (October 15) and the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** (October 17).



Red Ujirido, Manos Peru

**Trade!** Say yes to fair trade and no to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) at [bit.ly/wfd-tpp](http://bit.ly/wfd-tpp).



Andrew Kang Bartlett

**Food Sovereignty!** Raise your voice against land grabs at [bit.ly/wfd-grab](http://bit.ly/wfd-grab).

## Also available online

Visit [pcusa.org/foodweek](http://pcusa.org/foodweek) for worship and educational materials; go to [bit.ly/fbfoodweek](http://bit.ly/fbfoodweek) to interact on the Facebook event page; and register for the World Food Day & Land Grabs Webinar at 12 noon (EDT) on October 4, 2016 at [bit.ly/wfd-webinar](http://bit.ly/wfd-webinar).

For more information and to let us know what you are doing for World Food Day or the Global Food Week of Action, email [andrew.kangbartlett@pcusa.org](mailto:andrew.kangbartlett@pcusa.org).

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

## Oceans, rivers, and storms

### Know:

- Warmer oceans and acidity change ocean chemistry, bleach coral, and decrease sea ice needed for arctic animals like polar bears
- Glacial melt leads to sea level rise and flooding
- Climate change causes more frequent and stronger storms



Rooftops under water in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. (Liz Roll)

## Food, Hunger and Poverty

### Know:

- Floods, drought, hurricanes, typhoons, and fires lead to increased hunger and poverty
- Industrial agriculture emits greenhouse gases while also consuming and polluting local water sources
- Agroecology and healthy local community food systems help combat climate change by trapping carbon in healthy soils and reducing transportation miles of food



Salinization in Bolivia has reached level that impacts agricultural, environmental health, and economics. (UMAVIDA)

## Fossil Fuels

### Know:

- Local waterways are often contaminated by heavy metals, sediment, and chemicals in fossil fuel exploration and extraction, such as for hydraulic water fracturing (fracking) and coal mining
- Water has been called the “oil of the 21st century” and is increasingly a cause of violent conflicts

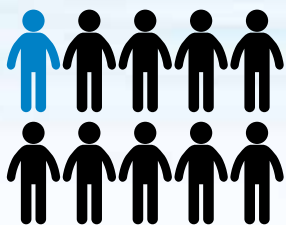


97% of children in of La Oroya, Peru have lead contamination (Jed Koball)



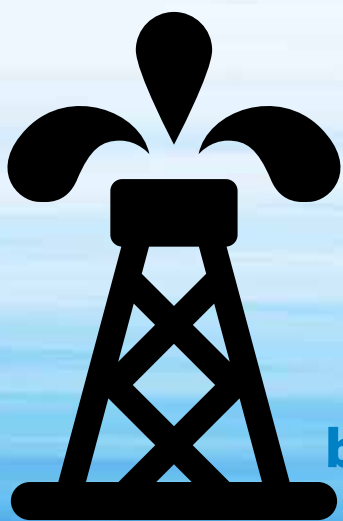
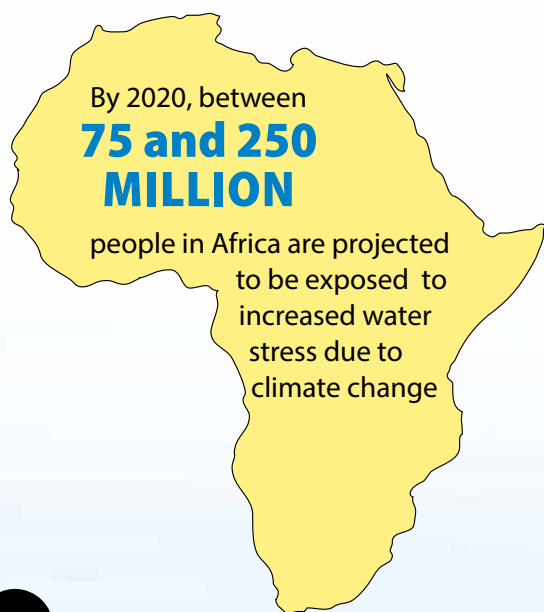
*"As our planet grows warmer, our Christian witness must become bolder."  
(PCUSA General Assembly 2008)*

Sources include water.org, WHO, UNEP, USGS, Pacific Institute, and Greenpeace. For more information go to [pcusa.org/climatechange](http://pcusa.org/climatechange).



**1 in 10 people**

(663 million)  
lack access to safe water



Each year  
**BOTTLED WATER**  
production in the U.S.  
**REQUIRES**  
an equivalent of  
**17 MILLION barrels of OIL**

# THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Provide relief and recovery (such as working in Flint for both immediate water supplies and to address longer-term governance and environmental justice issues)
- Work across personal, corporate, governmental, and industrial/business levels to combat climate change
- Support policies to improve local water infrastructure while maintaining or restoring public control over water
- Support funding for global adaptation and mitigation programs for vulnerable populations, such as the Green Climate Fund and United Nations climate efforts
- Reduce energy use and use renewables
- Conserve water and avoid bottled water
- Urge full environmental disclosure from industries
- Demand better, safer technologies and energy sources than fossil fuels (which emit greenhouse gases and lead to water contamination)

# Support grows for national boycott of Wendy's

Rick Jones, Presbyterian News Service

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has been trying for 10 years to convince the Wendy's company to join the Fair Food Program (FFP), which focuses on the rights of farmworkers. Despite its pleas, the Ohio-based fast food company has said no. Now the CIW is ramping up its campaign by calling for a national boycott of the food chain. This is only the second time in the group's history that a national boycott has been called. The first time was 15 years ago against Taco Bell.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has supported the CIW from the beginning as it worked to secure Fair Food agreements from Yum Brands, McDonald's, Burger King and Subway. At its April 2016 meeting in Louisville, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board officially endorsed the call for a national boycott.

"Rather than support Florida growers who uphold human rights under the Fair Food Program, Wendy's switched its tomato purchases to Mexico, where the denial of human rights in the produce industry was well-documented in last year's Los Angeles Times expose," said the Rev. Gradye Parsons, then stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) "This is unacceptable, especially from a company that has prided itself on using U.S.-made products. Therefore, the PC(USA) joins the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in calling on Wendy's to sign a Fair Food agreement."

The FFP is a partnership between farmworkers, Florida tomato growers and more than a dozen major food retailers. Under the agreement, participating retailers agree to only purchase from suppliers who meet a worker-driven Code of Conduct, including a zero-tolerance policy on slavery and sexual harassment. In addition, retailers pay a penny-per-pound premium which

makes its way directly to the workers. In the last five years, buyers have paid more than \$20 million into the FFP.

The PC(USA) was the first Christian denomination to sign on for the national boycott.

"The Presbyterian Mission Agency stands in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in their longstanding struggle for fair labor practices in the agriculture industry," said Tony De La Rosa, PMA's interim executive director. "In so doing, we commit ourselves to advocate '...as a prophetic witness to Christ's transforming justice by speaking and living out God's truth and compassion.'"

Susan Sampson of Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church in Tampa says the board's endorsement is for anyone who is an ally of the Campaign for Fair Food.

"The Presbyterian Hunger Program has been supportive of the Fair Food Program for many years and we are grateful that they

continue to support the human rights of farmworkers, and have taken this step as well," she said. "I wholeheartedly support the Fair Food Program and the Wendy's boycott. I invite my fellow Presbyterians and all people of faith to join with the CIW in the boycott and make fair treatment of farmworkers common practice throughout the industry."

The CIW's Gerardo Reyes Chavez says the PC(USA) endorsement of the national boycott is great news for their campaign.

"We are appreciative of the hundreds of thousands of Presbyterians who have steadfastly stood beside farmworkers in making our vision of a just and dignified agricultural industry a reality through the FFP," he said. "Today, Wendy's has heard the call of farmworkers and Presbyterians together to take responsibility for human rights in their supply chain, and be part of a program that is ensuring justice for tens of thousands of farmworkers across Florida and the East Coast."



Andrew Kang Bartlett

Coalition of Immokalee Workers and supporters demonstrate against Wendy's Restaurants on the campus of the University of Louisville.

# Eight Things to Celebrate on World Food Day!!

On October 16th, **World Food Day** calls us to stop and focus on the struggle against hunger. While the struggle can seem overwhelming, there are things to celebrate:

**\$789 Million** in Local Food for School Kids: Schools across the U.S. purchased \$789 million in local foods from farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and food processors in the 2013-14 school year ~ +105% from prior year (USDA). Presbyterians have been advocating for a strong Farm to School Act this year. See [bit.ly/pcusa-children](http://bit.ly/pcusa-children)

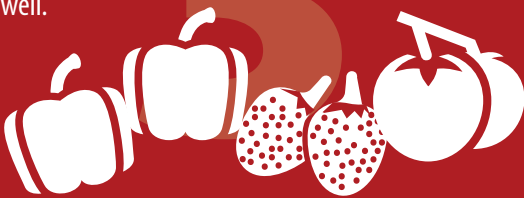


The PC(USA) joins the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in calling on Wendy's to sign a **Fair Food agreement.**

See the story on p. 10



With **90%** of the **tomato growers** in Florida participating in the Fair Food Program, the Coalition of Immokalee workers' success is moving beyond Florida and into strawberry and pepper fields as well.



**9494 acres** of farm and coastal lands were reclaimed in 2015 by Sri Lankan fisher folk and farmers who had been forcibly evicted from their lands due to war, tourism projects and the creation of mega-industrial zones.



**119 Earth Care Congregations**

use organic and/or locally grown food for their congregational meals.



RELUFA, PHP's Joining Hands partner in Cameroon has reached more than **25,000 people** in 42 communities in the North, over the last 10 years, through its granaries' program that stores food during harvest and makes it available for communities during food shortages.



For 15 years PHP has helped communities incorporate Moringa trees into 20,000 yard gardens, predominantly in Haiti, DRC, Senegal, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Liberia. When integrated into a development system that addresses malnutrition and hunger with multiple interventions, the "amazing moringa tree" provides protein and other needed nutrients as well as has medicinal uses. We estimate that close to a million children have benefited from these trees.

According to the FAO the gender gap is closing, which means better nutrition for women around the world. Promoting female farmer rights could **reduce the number of undernourished people by 17%.**





## PHP POST

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The PHP Post encourages feedback! Submit letters to the editor, articles, ideas, or suggestions to [jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org](mailto:jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org).

The views represented in this publication are those of the writer and do not officially represent PC(USA) or PHP.

### Available Online!

Visit [pcusa.org/hunger/resources](http://pcusa.org/hunger/resources) to download a digital copy of this issue & previous PHP Posts. Send an email to [php@pcusa.org](mailto:php@pcusa.org) to change your subscription to the print version.

### » Join

#### PHP Food and Justice Webinars

Visit [pcusa.org/phpwebinars](http://pcusa.org/phpwebinars) to register and see the current topics and recordings.

### » Pray

September 1 is "World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation", as instituted by Pope Francis and the World Council of Churches. Thanks to pastors at Limestone Presbyterian Church for providing a wonderful bulletin insert that churches or individuals may use for prayer on September 1st--or the Sunday preceding or following--to join in this world day of prayer. Download it today at [bit.ly/praycreation](http://bit.ly/praycreation).

### » Give

Your financial support enables the Presbyterian Hunger Program to witness to the healing love of Christ and to bring hope to communities and individuals struggling with hunger. Give online at [pcusa.org/donate/H999999](http://pcusa.org/donate/H999999).

Or you can write "H999999 Hunger" on your check and send to:  
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*Thank you for your continued support!*