



**November 2024 - It is the pleasure of the Ministry Engagement and Support Team to bring you this quarter's many helpful and informative resources listed below.**

### **From Special Offerings**

#### **Support the Christmas Joy Offering**

During the season of Advent, we remember and reflect God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. This child, the Word made flesh, became one of us, so, through the Christmas Joy Offering, we honor this amazing gift by supporting leaders among us — past, present and future. The Christmas Joy Offering supports retired ministers and church workers and their families through the [Assistance Program](#) of the Board of Pensions and students in [Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping Communities of Color](#) as they pursue education and prepare to use their gifts in service to the church and world. Resources for interpretation of the Offering can be found [here](#), and a promotional video can be found [here](#).

### **From the Presbyterian Giving Catalog**

#### **Bring your congregation *together* in purpose-driven giving**

An Alternative Giving Market is a powerful way to engage your congregation in purpose-driven giving. This type of event allows a church community to support vital projects like clean water access, disaster relief and youth education. We can provide all the resources you need to create a meaningful experience that unites your community in faith and action.

Reach out to [presbyteriangifts@pcusa.org](mailto:presbyteriangifts@pcusa.org) so we can send your resources today — we're standing by.

### **Giving it our *all* this Giving Tuesday**

Giving Tuesday is a global movement that takes place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving — this year on **Dec. 3** — a day when people across the world unite to make a difference. Once again, the Presbyterian Giving Catalog invites your congregation to join us and participate in Giving Tuesday so that we can amplify our impact through collective action.

Through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, each item — from sustainable farming inputs to providing communities with clean water — brings hope to communities in need. **This**

**Giving Tuesday, lead your church in communal acts of generosity that change lives worldwide.**

Reach out to [presbyteriangifts@pcusa.org](mailto:presbyteriangifts@pcusa.org) to learn more — we're standing by.

### **Links of Love: Bringing joy to the world, one link at a time**

Each item in the Giving Catalog counts as a single link in a colorful, ever-growing paper chain. So far, there have been more than 60,000 **Links of Love** added, forming a paper chain of hope and compassion that reaches all over the world. This holiday season, everyone, from congregational members to individual supporters nationwide, can join together in an expression of care and generosity.

Our Links of Love campaign will run through the end of the year as we try to reach 70,000 links. Help us encourage participation — we will be sending email messages and promoting this campaign on our social media channels, and we ask for your support in getting the word out among your community.

Help us send *love* across the oceans and into the hearts of those in need. [Order](#) and share the Presbyterian Giving Catalog with your church community today.

### **From Ministry Engagement and Support**

#### **NEW in 2025 from Ministry Engagement and Support: Regional forums on the 'Future of Faith & Finance'!**

The PC(USA)'s office of Ministry Engagement and Support (MES) invites church leaders of all types — anyone who is thinking about the future of the church — for an informative series that MES will be rolling out regionally in 2025. Led by a team of experts on the PC(USA)'s national staff, each one-day "Future of Faith & Finance" forum will address how we invite our communities into generous and grateful support that sustains our mission and ministry locally, nationally and around the globe.

In partnership with the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, the first forum is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. A complimentary lunch and refreshments are included. Save the date and watch for details and registration information. Additional locations will be announced as they are confirmed. To learn more, email John Wilkinson, director of Ministry Engagement and Support, at [john.wilkinson@pcusa.org](mailto:john.wilkinson@pcusa.org), or Lauren Rogers, Ministry Engagement Advisor, at [lauren.rogers@pcusa.org](mailto:lauren.rogers@pcusa.org).

### **From the PILLARS Program**

#### **Recurring giving made easy for inspiring impact**

Joining PILLARS with a recurring gift is a simple and convenient way to make a large, lasting impact on the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

PILLARS is a special community of caring people who are dedicated to upholding the Church's mission and fostering long-term sustainability and support for ministry that brings hope and healing to those in need throughout the world.

[A graphic promoting PILLARS is available for you to download](#) and include in your church bulletins and e-newsletters. [A second graphic is available for you to download, print and distribute.](#)

These resources include a QR code that links to the PILLARS webpage, [pcusa.org/pillars](https://pcusa.org/pillars), where people can provide their name and email address to be notified about opportunities for convenient monthly, quarterly or annual giving. Contact Joey Brown at [joey.brown@pcusa.org](mailto:joey.brown@pcusa.org) or 502-569-5068 for more information or to have these PILLARS resources mailed to you.

## **From the Office of Innovation**

### **Empowering congregations to align money and mission: Unlock the potential of your church property for impactful ministry**

The Good Futures Accelerator is a dynamic and proven course designed to help congregations creatively use their church buildings and property to align money and mission. By participating in this program, congregations discover innovative ways to further their mission while building financial resilience and ensuring a sustainable ministry future.

#### **What is the Good Futures Accelerator?**

The Good Futures Accelerator, developed by Rooted Good in collaboration with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is a self-guided program that empowers congregations to:

- Leverage church property: Explore creative strategies for using your church buildings and land to serve your community and generate income.
- Align money and mission: Ensure that your financial practices support and amplify your congregation's mission, creating a strong foundation for long-term impact.
- Build financial resilience: Learn how to maximize your resources and create sustainable revenue streams that align with your values and goals.
- Innovate with confidence: Access practical tools and frameworks that encourage experimentation, learning and growth.

#### **Why choose the Good Futures Accelerator?**

- Self-guided curriculum: Enjoy the flexibility of a self-paced program that allows your congregation to engage with the material on your own schedule. This approach fosters deeper ownership of the learning process, enabling leaders to reflect, adapt and implement at a pace that suits your community's needs.
- Proven methodology: Built on the successful strategies developed by Rooted Good, the Accelerator offers a proven pathway to aligning money and mission through the creative use of church property.
- Supportive community: Join a network of like-minded congregations and ministries that are also on the journey of innovation and transformation.

#### **What's included?**

- Comprehensive resources: Access step-by-step guides, videos, templates and more to help you implement each phase of the program.

- Gamified learning journey: Engage in a dynamic, interactive experience that includes reflection questions and experiential exercises designed to deepen understanding and spark creativity.
- Tailored content: The program is rooted in Reformed theology and tailored to the specific context of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), making it uniquely relevant for your congregation.

### **How to get started**

Visit [pcusa.org/innovation](https://pcusa.org/innovation) to learn more about the Good Futures Accelerator and explore how this program can empower your congregation to make a greater impact. Take the first step toward financial resilience! Invest in your congregation's future today by purchasing the Good Futures Accelerator program. Equip your leaders, inspire your members, and transform your community by aligning money and mission.

### **Contact us**

For more information or to purchase the Good Futures Accelerator, visit [pcusa.org/innovation](https://pcusa.org/innovation) or contact us [here](#).

### **From the PC(USA) Store**

#### **New Study Bible now available!**

[The Westminster Study Bible](#) is perfect for sermon preparation and meaningful Bible study. Packed with accessible and enlightening notes, sidebars that let you explore and expand the text, essays that examine the historical and cultural contexts of the Bible, and visual aids like charts and maps, this study Bible helps us understand both the ancient world of the Bible and how it speaks to us in the modern world. The study Bible will only be available in English. Learn more, look inside the Bible, and order today: [pcusastore.com/WSB](https://pcusastore.com/WSB).

### **Interactive resource guides from the PC(USA) Store**

The [digital resource guides on PC\(USA\) Store](#) are perfect for researching the resources you need for yourself, your education and leadership teams, and your congregation. In addition to guides for Advent and Lent, we also have guides for Matthew 25 organizations, preachers, group study, a gift guide perfect for personal and church gifts, and a guide that provides resources for Presbyterian leadership training and congregational education. We update these guides regularly, so be sure to [bookmark this page](#) so you always have access to the latest information!

### **From the Office Christian Formation/the Resource Preview**

[Advent Candle Lighting At-Home Resource](#) — This free downloadable resource is a set of cards with art on one side and at-home candle lighting and reflection on the other, which is formatted for half of an 8½ by 11-inch sheet of paper. It is available in Spanish and English.

[“Sharing Our Stories” Podcast](#) — Season Two of this [“Around the Table”](#) podcast is now available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#), and the theme this season is hard conversations. These episodes are great for sharing with parents and caregivers.

**UWorship** is a worship resource created by UKirk Collegiate Ministries in partnership with the Office of Christian Formation. There are sections on Ordinary Time, the academic/liturgical year that follows the school calendar. There are two new sections called “The Human Experience” and “Worship We Wish You Didn’t Need.” The resources are helpful for all worship leaders.

**Curated Christian Formation Topical Resource Lists** — Are you looking for resources for Children and Grief, Disability Inclusion, Equipping Parents, How to Choose Bibles, Children’s Books, Youth Ministry Ideas, Care Partners with Older Adults or something else? Have you checked out the Christian Formation Resource lists? [Here, find topics for Formation Leaders](#) and [here, resources to share with households](#).

### **Upcoming Events:**

[APCE Annual Event](#), Jan. 29–31, 2025 in Memphis, Tennessee. The theme is “Wrestling with God and Church: Toward a More Beloved Community.” Registration for in person, online and Spanish online are all available.

Camp and Retreat Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 – Resources at [pcusa.org/campsunday](https://pcusa.org/campsunday)

Mr. Rogers Day, March 20, 2025 – Resources at [pcusa.org/mrogers](https://pcusa.org/mrogers)

### **From the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)**

**Solidarity Hour** — We gather on the second Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. ET on Zoom to learn together and encourage one another to take meaningful action to undo the historic and ongoing harms of the Doctrine of Discovery, including colonialism, destructive capitalism, extractivism, systems of domination and economic exploitation.

[zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ldu6uqz0uHNK\\_j577FzaB2hU7BOY1K7Av#/registration](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ldu6uqz0uHNK_j577FzaB2hU7BOY1K7Av#/registration)

**The 10 Commandments of Food** — Each year we celebrate World Food Day and the Food Week of Action, during which we highlight our efforts to ensure that everyone has enough good, healthy and culturally appropriate food. The 10 Commandments of Food provide principles for food justice.

[presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/10commandments](https://presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/10commandments)

### **From the Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium**

In the midst of a beautiful and broken world, we have a vision for ministry with young people that unites youth in Christ with all other generations and proclaims the love of God without end. Here are a few of the latest free Quicksheet resources we offer to support youth leaders, congregations and parents/guardians:

Quicksheet #99 — [Happy Planning — Theme Ideas for Youth Ministry](#)

DatoVeloz #99 — [Feliz planificación](#)

Quicksheet #100 — [Inside Out 2](#)

DatoVeloz #100 — [Del revés 2](#)

### **From the Office of Vital Congregations**

The Office of Vital Congregations is pleased to announce the release of its updated manual. VITAL CONGREGATIONS 2.0 will be released during the first quarter of 2025. (Spanish and English translations will be released in late 2025 as well.)

With an engagement period of less than 1 year (versus 3 years in the current version) we pray that more congregations will consider this useful tool.

We have begun recruiting for our next cohort. If interested, please contact us at [vitalcongregations@pcusa.org](mailto:vitalcongregations@pcusa.org) or [800-728-7228](tel:800-728-7228).

### **From the Presbyterian Historical Society**

**African American Leaders and Congregations:** The Presbyterian Historical Society continues

to offer free digitization of African American churches' session minutes and registers through

our African American Leaders and Congregations initiative. So far this year we've done work

for Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Mayesville SC; New River Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia

PA; Edisto Presbyterian Church, Edisto Island SC; Second Presbyterian Church, West Chester

PA; and Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church, Princeton NJ. We've also imaged records of

the historic Presbytery of Catawba. We urge historically Black PC(USA) churches to join us in

this work. Email David Staniunas, [dstaniunas@history.pcusa.org](mailto:dstaniunas@history.pcusa.org), to take advantage of this program.

**May 18, 2025: Heritage Sunday:** Heritage Sunday always falls on the Sunday closest to May 21, the opening date of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789. The Presbyterian Historical Society offers free bulletin inserts for download each year for use in your Heritage Sunday celebrations. Visit [history.pcusa.org/hs](https://history.pcusa.org/hs) for more information.

### **From World Mission**

World Mission has resources to equip you as you prepare for, engage in and reflect on God's mission. Find mission resources at [pcusa.org/missionresources](https://pcusa.org/missionresources).

Presbyterians are passionate about mission. We care for the less fortunate, and we seek a world where God's justice is achieved on Earth as it is in Heaven.

It is in this spirit that World Mission, in collaboration with other ministry areas, created mission toolkits that provide resources for PC(USA) congregations interested in furthering God's mission in their communities and abroad. Find mission toolkits at [pcusa.org/toolkits](https://pcusa.org/toolkits).



## **Israel-Palestine Resources**

### **How to take action in response to the Israel-Palestine conflict**

The PC(USA) offers a wide variety of resources that give Presbyterians opportunities to more actively advocate for a just peace in Israel-Palestine.

These resources are designed to help inform Presbyterians more fully on:

- General Assembly policies and statements from the PC(USA)'s Stated Clerk/Executive Director;
- Worship materials and study guides;
- Webinars and book studies (past recordings and upcoming events);
- Latest news and opinion from mission co-workers on the ground;
- Advocacy and engagement opportunities through PC(USA) ministries and partner organizations; and
- Ways to help fund crisis and recovery support through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance or financially support World Mission's work with our Middle East partners.

Visit [pcusa.org/israelpalestine](https://pcusa.org/israelpalestine) for this information.

### **From the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People**

#### **"The Struggle is Real!" A webinar series on the intersection of poverty and social justice issues**

Join the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People for its 2025 Learning Opportunities/Webinars:

##### **The webinar will feature:**

- Poverty engagement and intentional action by churches stepping outside their walls to form relationships and live out loving their neighbors.
- Best practices about relationship building and developing partnerships with communities.
- Presence and activism, explore and learn ways to take concrete actions to eradicate poverty.

Further details will be available in the spring on our Facebook page. Please periodically check [facebook.com/SelfDevelopmentOfPeoplesdop](https://facebook.com/SelfDevelopmentOfPeoplesdop) if you are interested in participating in the above webinar or email [sdopevents@pcusa.org](mailto:sdopevents@pcusa.org).

### **From the Presbyterian Association of Musicians**

#### **2025 Worship & Music Conference**

Join the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) in Montreat, North Carolina, this summer for the annual Worship & Music Conference. This year's dynamic programming for musicians and worship leaders alike centers around our theme, "Clothed in Love."

PAM will offer two sessions of workshops, seminars, voiced and handbell choirs, and engaging community-building activities on June 15–20 and June 22–27. This conference should not be missed. Registration and housing are now open. More information about the conference can be found at [presbysmusic.org/conference](https://presbysmusic.org/conference), or you can see all of the resources offered by PAM at [presbysmusic.org](https://presbysmusic.org).

**Spirit-Led Teamwork: The Art of Worship Planning**  
**March 14–15, 2025**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis**

Join the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' North Central Region for an inspiring workshop focused on collaborative worship planning in preparation for Pentecost, designed for clergy, musicians and church leaders. Attendees will engage in interactive sessions, connect with others, and participate in prayer and worship, all aimed at rejuvenating you before the busy Holy Week and Easter. Leave with fresh ideas and practical tools for enhancing collaboration and communication in your worship planning process!

Registration opens Nov. 7. Visit [presbymusic.org/north-central-region](https://presbymusic.org/north-central-region) for more information.

**\*Special Days and Emphasis Sundays**

(Edits to the calendar are on pause pending the launch of the new website.)

**November**

[Transgender Day of Remembrance \(Nov. 20\)](#)

[Thanksgiving Day; The Nativity Fast \(Nov. 28\)](#)

**December**

[Christmas Joy Offering \(Dec. 22\)](#)

**January**

Per Capita Sunday (Jan. 19)