

A Season of Peace

September 7 begins the Season of Peace in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This month-long season is designed to deepen our understanding and our commitment to peace and justice in our relationships, in our churches, and in our world. One of the resources I anticipate during this time is the [Season of Peace daily reflections](#). This year's reflections tell stories of Presbyterians and organizations that have contributed to the civic and spiritual well-being of our church and world and have made a significant impact on the common good here or abroad.

I recently visited the 9/11 memorial in New York City for the first time. I overheard a father tell his young son about the events of that day, why they came to the memorial, and about all the names of people that are engraved on the memorial.

In a world where pain, grief, violence, and hatred are too often the primary stories we hear, sharing stories of sacrifice and naming those whose lives have contributed to the greater good can foster our understanding of larger issues beyond ourselves, can invoke gratitude, encourage empathy, and be a path of healing from the harshness of the world we experience every day.

Seeing the 9/11 memorial, watching the people walk around the memorials, and listening to the father tell his son the story of the memorials renewed my own commitment to work for peace and justice for all.

In this Season of Peace, we remember...and we grieve our world's inability to learn the things that make for peace. We also continue to work and hope and pray for peace in our world.

God of hope, may we seek justice and peace where it is within our ability, and rely on you when the ability escapes us. May we live your love when hate seems to reign. May we bear witness to the cause of peace.

Excerpted from [a prayer by Derek Weber](#)

