

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

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 we're grateful for *A Season of Peace*, 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. The need for the season is reflected in several national and global events that have occurred in the past year. They include the war in Ukraine, the escalation of gun violence and mass shooting events and continued racialized violence and racial division, all during a time when people are grappling with more frequent natural disasters and the ongoing Covid pandemic. 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, we retain 25% of this Offering, 25% is retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts being pursued, together with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the earth, and the remaining 50% 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 (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. We 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 3, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Peace & Global Witness Offering envelopes are available in your offering envelope boxes, in the pew racks and the narthex. You may also donate online through our website (www.fpcmuskegon.org) using the *Contribute to FPC* tab and indicating that your donation is for the Peace & Global Witness Offering under Missions.

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