



COME, YOU WHO  
ARE BLESSED...

Matthew 25:34b

# Igniting a Movement

with energy, intelligence, imagination and love

MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

TOGETHER  
LET US BE CARRIED  
BY THE STRONG WIND  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
PROCLAIMING  
THE GRACIOUS LOVE  
OF JESUS CHRIST,  
WHO REDEEMS US  
FOR COMMUNITY  
WITH GOD,  
WITH ONE ANOTHER,  
AND WITH  
ALL CREATURES.

JOIN US IN  
MEETING JESUS CHRIST  
IN GOD'S MISSION.



*On the cover:*  
**Igniting a Movement with Energy,  
Intelligence, Imagination and Love**  
Samuel Polanco, a 2022 graduate of the  
PC(USA)-related Menaul School, participates  
in the "Healing Our Borders" Prayer Vigil in  
Douglas, Arizona. Photo: Marla Brose



Mission Week

MARLA BROSE

## Becoming a Matthew 25 Church

JOIN US IN MEETING JESUS CHRIST IN GOD'S MISSION.

"... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:35–40

Dear Friend in Christ,

During these days of strife and divisiveness, we hold close the words of Jesus from Matthew 25: to act boldly and compassionately — with love — to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

It is love that was the foundation of the action of the 2016 General Assembly “On Becoming a Matthew 25 Church.” Today, we remain committed to working with you to fulfill the words of Matthew 25.

We are God’s own people who know the love of Christ in our lives. As the Body of Christ, we are called, out of that great love, to welcome the stranger, visit the prisoner, provide food and water for those who are hungry and thirsty, and to join with others to repair God’s Creation that it may be livable for all.

As Christ’s Household of Faith, we are interconnected. Every person’s gift and every congregation’s gift build up the whole body. We commit ourselves, at the national level, to continue to provide the resources that educate, inspire and encourage the ministries that are at the core of vital congregations.

We invite you to take a few minutes to review the information found here with the committee of your session that prepares your congregation’s budget and to discuss this with your session. Like each of you, we promised at ordination to serve our church with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

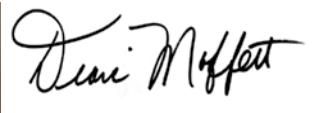
We invite you to continue the journey with us as you prayerfully consider your congregation’s financial commitments for 2023. We ask you to support per capita, shared mission and the four special offerings.

Thank you for your ministry, your prayers and your financial gifts.



  
Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



  
Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett  
President and Executive Director  
Presbyterian Mission Agency

# To Be the Church That Our Tradition Claims

## PER CAPITA

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Per capita is “the tie that binds”—annual giving that unites the entire Church in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly and the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The per capita tradition originated in the denomination’s earliest days, when the Assembly met annually in Philadelphia. As the Church and, with it, the site for its annual meeting expanded into new territories, commissioners began to require help meeting their expenses. To address their need, the Assembly developed the “Commissioner Travel Expense Fund,” which eventually became known as per capita, the category of giving that benefits every congregation and mid council ministry and supports a portion of work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. In 2021 and 2022, the per member assessment, set by the General Assembly for their share of support, is \$8.98.

ENTER INTO THE JOY  
OF YOUR LORD

Matthew 25:23

Per capita provides the Office of the General Assembly with the financial means to strengthen the connections of our work and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God’s love through mission and ministry.

### Planning, Administering and Staffing

- General Assembly
- National gatherings of Church leaders
- Church Leadership Connection
- National committees and commissions for the governance of the whole Church
- “Hands and Feet”—coordinating mission teams and other resources to make a lasting difference in the lives of host communities for the biennial General Assembly
- Publishing and distributing the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions
- Maintaining judicial services

### Partnering

- with mid councils for leadership training and programs
- with ecumenical bodies worldwide, including the National Council of Churches of Christ, the World Council

of Churches and the World Communion of Reformed Churches

### Educating, Advising and Witnessing

- To identify and develop leadership for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- on behalf of the Church on social issues, to promote Christian unity, and to extend the Church’s work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do ourselves
- on issues of inclusion and representation across the Church
- on issues related to immigration
- to build relationships and strengthen bonds across communities

### Supporting the administration of mission of the Church through the Presbyterian Mission Agency

### Supporting and maintaining the Presbyterian Historical Society

# Per Capita

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To learn more, go to [oga.pcusa.org/percapita](http://oga.pcusa.org/percapita)

*Per capita is one foundational way in which we can all, congregations and mid councils, connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider Church — and it allows us to fulfill our Matthew 25 commitments at the same time. Our synod per capita supplies synod grants to congregations engaging in Matthew 25-related programs. This has amplified support to several urban core congregations within the presbytery. That's the power of a connected church!*

**Elder Lisa Allgood**  
Executive Presbyter  
Presbytery of Cincinnati



**504**

commissioners to the 224th General Assembly (2020) representing 1,371,921 Presbyterians

**82**

the age of the oldest commissioner; 17: the age of the youngest Young Adult Advisory Delegate

*In Matthew 6:21 we read Jesus' reminder that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Our giving as a people connects and sustains the work of the Church, and per capita giving provides so many indications of where our heart is. Per capita supports our discerning the mind of Christ, together. Whether as mid councils or as the General Assembly, we gather leaders from within each community to share in one mind and one love, that we might know the fullness of joy (Philippians 2). Gifts of per capita join with offerings of energy, intelligence, imagination and love from church leaders and others in support of the work of justice, mercy and love. Per capita giving is yet another sign of covenant that binds our hearts together.*

**Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis**  
Visioning and Connecting Leader  
Presbytery of Wabash Valley

#### **8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence**

were taken at the conclusion of the first online plenary at GA224 (2020), marking the amount of time a Minneapolis police officer had his knee on the neck of George Floyd.

*Pastors come and go, serving for a time and a season with a congregation. Pastors develop close relationships within congregations during their time of ministry, which make the goodbyes really, really hard. My goal as the presbytery executive is to bring a sense of calm, confidence and assurance that the congregation will move forward, that everything will be fine. Fortunately, I am not alone in these efforts. My colleagues in the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) are critical to the success of all pastoral transitions. Through OGA, the entire process of the pastoral transition is outlined. Through the Church Leadership Connection, pastors and congregations are matched. If at any point there is a problem or glitch, OGA staff is available (it feels like 24/7!) to step in and smooth out the activity. These operations are financed through per capita. Per capita is the silent partner in the OGA/mid council relationship. Through per capita, mid councils are able to help congregations navigate the difficult waters of transitions. Per capita helps make the hard work of pastoral transition much easier.*

**Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard**  
Presbytery Executive, Presbytery of Chicago



# Igniting Innovative and Essential Ministry

## SHARED MISSION SUPPORT

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COME,  
YOU WHO ARE  
BLESSED...

Matthew 25:34b

Come! God is calling us to be a Matthew 25 people. Our nation and the nations of the world will be judged by our response to those who are pressed to the edge of their humanity by unjust and unrighteous systems.

Come! As we reflect on two years of devastation caused by Covid and the rise of white supremacy and racism that the pandemic has exposed, it is high time for us as people of faith to make clear the spiritual, moral and ethical principles of Christ. It is past time for us to bear down on our call to be a Matthew 25 church — to dismantle structural racism, eradicate systemic poverty and build congregational vitality.

The Matthew 25 vision of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) began with an overture to the 222nd General Assembly (2016), which challenged the PC(USA) to embrace Jesus' call in Matthew 25:31–46 to take our living faith into our communities and the world. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) reaffirmed this commitment, further calling us to live out true discipleship by acting boldly, compassionately and fearlessly serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. Since that time, we have accepted the charge, begun the work and now seek to further devote ourselves to God's people with the compassion, love and justice of Jesus Christ.

We are the Church together, living out the call of Christ in Matthew 25 in local, regional, national and international ways. Your gifts to Shared Mission, given without restrictions, allow for the Church's timely response when and where it is needed most. Because these funds are fully flexible, every dollar contributed to Shared Mission support undergirds the Matthew 25 vision, allows support for all ministries, and fosters

innovation at every level of the Church to serve needs that arise suddenly — in times of pandemic, injustice and disaster.

Since our earliest days as a denomination, we have joined together in support of the mission of the whole Church. As Presbyterians, we live and engage in ministry as members of a connectional system, professing by our actions — and with our gifts — that we can accomplish far more together than any one of us can do alone.

Come! Embrace the call of Matthew 25! And let us offer our gifts to Shared Mission, empowering the Church to further the love and justice of Christ and spread the good news of the Kin-dom of God to the farthest corners of the earth.



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To learn more, go to  
[presbyterianmission.org/sharedmission](http://presbyterianmission.org/sharedmission)

**1008**

Matthew 25  
congregations  
and groups

**78**

Matthew 25  
presbyteries

**10**

Matthew 25  
synods

**54**

Matthew 25  
groups

**79**

mission  
co-workers in  
more than 80  
countries

Numbers are accurate as of July 1, 2022.

DANNY BOLIN



*John Calvin Presbytery seeks to be a Matthew 25 presbytery. We send 20% of presbytery shared mission to Presbyterian Mission. Ministries highlighted by our council discussion included PDA, SDOP, Big Tent, World Mission, the Vital Congregations Initiative and the confirmation curriculum Big God Big Questions. The presbytery council views shared mission as a way to make a difference in the world. It is our global action.*

**Elder Malinda Spencer**

Executive Presbyter, John Calvin Presbytery



*There is an African proverb that conveys what I believe to be a universal truth about the importance of teamwork — what we call connectionalism in the PC(USA). This proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together!" Those who have gone before us have taught us that God calls women and men to collective work and responsibility — a shared mission. Together we have come this far. We have come this far by faith. We have come this far leaning on the Lord and trusting in God's Holy Word. We have come this far because many were willing to pool their resources for the sake of all and the cause of Christ. May we continue to heed God's call to work together, to walk together, to understand ourselves as partners in shared mission.*



**Rev. Jerrod B. Lowry**

General Presbyter & Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

# To Create a Church Where the Love, Justice and Mercy of Christ is Evident

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Through Spirit-inspired stories and gifts that place us in partnership with those who have least, the General Assembly-mandated Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) bring the whole Church together to embody the spirit of Matthew 25.

The four Offerings unite us in the mission of sharing God's love, peace and generosity with those in greatest need around our local communities, our nation and our world.



COURTESY OF CATHY LEWIS

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Through the ministries of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People, One Great Hour of Sharing seeks to support and sustain the lives of people in times of their greatest need.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



COURTESY OF THE LEARNING HUB

### THE PENTECOST OFFERING

Through ministries serving children at-risk, youth and young adults, the Pentecost Offering helps to provide a foundation upon which can be built a lifelong faith in Christ.



PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



PIKPA CAMP/PHOTO BY KATHY MELVIN



COURTESY OF BEN AND HELEN WHITFIELD

**THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING**  
Through ministries advancing the peace of Christ at home and around the world, the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the Church to address systems of injustice wherever they occur.

 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**  
Through ministries to current and retired Church workers and their families in times of need, and in support of schools and colleges equipping communities of color, the Christmas Joy Offering supports leaders and sustains those who have led and will lead us through the years.

 **CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## Let's Go Four for Four

As a sign of congregational vitality and Christian identity, congregations participating in all the Special Offerings — Four for Four — declare their commitment to causes close to the hearts of Presbyterians and that touch every phase of life.



Learn more at  
[specialofferings.pcusa.org](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org)

**1,485**

Four for Four Congregations

**5,464**

Congregations giving to at least one of the four Special Offerings

# Small Gifts. Big Impact.

We believe big things can grow from something small. The Presbyterian Giving Catalog connects people around the world, providing a channel for hope, help and relief to those who need it most. When each person in our community connects more fully with their neighbors, God creates with us something beautiful and warm, sharing the story of who we are as a Church: people committed to being with one another and with our neighbors in need as a witness to our faith in Jesus.

Threads of Connection weaves each offering of energy, intelligence, imagination and love together into something *big* — a tapestry of people and communities knit together in common cause to make a more beautiful world where essential needs are met for everyone.



## A creative giving activity to engage your entire congregation.

Threads of Connection, a Giving Catalog activity, is another way for congregations to invite members of their community, church or small group to make something beautiful *together* and to connect with others in need.

P R E S B Y T E R I A N  
**GIVING CATALOG**

To learn more, visit [presbyteriangifts.org/threads](http://presbyteriangifts.org/threads)





I WAS HUNGRY  
AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD.

I WAS THIRSTY  
AND YOU GAVE ME  
SOMETHING TO DRINK.

I WAS A STRANGER  
AND YOU WELCOMED ME.

I WAS NAKED AND  
YOU GAVE ME CLOTHING.

I WAS SICK AND  
YOU TOOK CARE OF ME.

I WAS IN PRISON  
AND YOU VISITED ME.

Matthew 25:35–36

## Engaging for Generous Giving

### JOIN US IN MEETING JESUS CHRIST IN GOD'S MISSION.

Matthew 25 shows us where we find Jesus in the world — in our relationships with those who have least. Your financial support of Presbyterian Mission is one way we live out our call to become a Matthew 25 Church, together, by partnering with impacted communities throughout the Church and in the world, to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism and foster congregational vitality.

#### WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER.



MIKE FITZER / FILM 180

To be inspired by how Matthew 25 is bringing congregations alive, visit [pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25), and be sure to share these stories with others.

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IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT, or any of our giving programs, please contact the Mission Engagement Advisor serving your region. Not sure what region you are in? Find a map and learn more about our team at [pcusa.org/mes-team](http://pcusa.org/mes-team).



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Presbyterian Mission Agency  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

The Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, the corporation through which the Presbyterian Mission Agency operates for secular purposes, are qualified as charitable organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

# Sustaining Hope

A photograph of a woman with long grey hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, a high-visibility safety vest with orange and yellow stripes, and a white face mask around her neck. She is looking upwards with her arms raised in a gesture of hope or prayer. She is wearing a black smartwatch on her left wrist and a ring on her right hand. The background shows a large stone building with trees in the distance.

Your congregation, your ministry your church — each one brings life and hope to your community. We understand, and we can help. You can turn to us when you have questions about the viability of your ministry, or want help with stewardship — or when you have any other financial questions.

Reach out to us — and we'll be there with you to help ensure your work sustains hope for generations to come.

