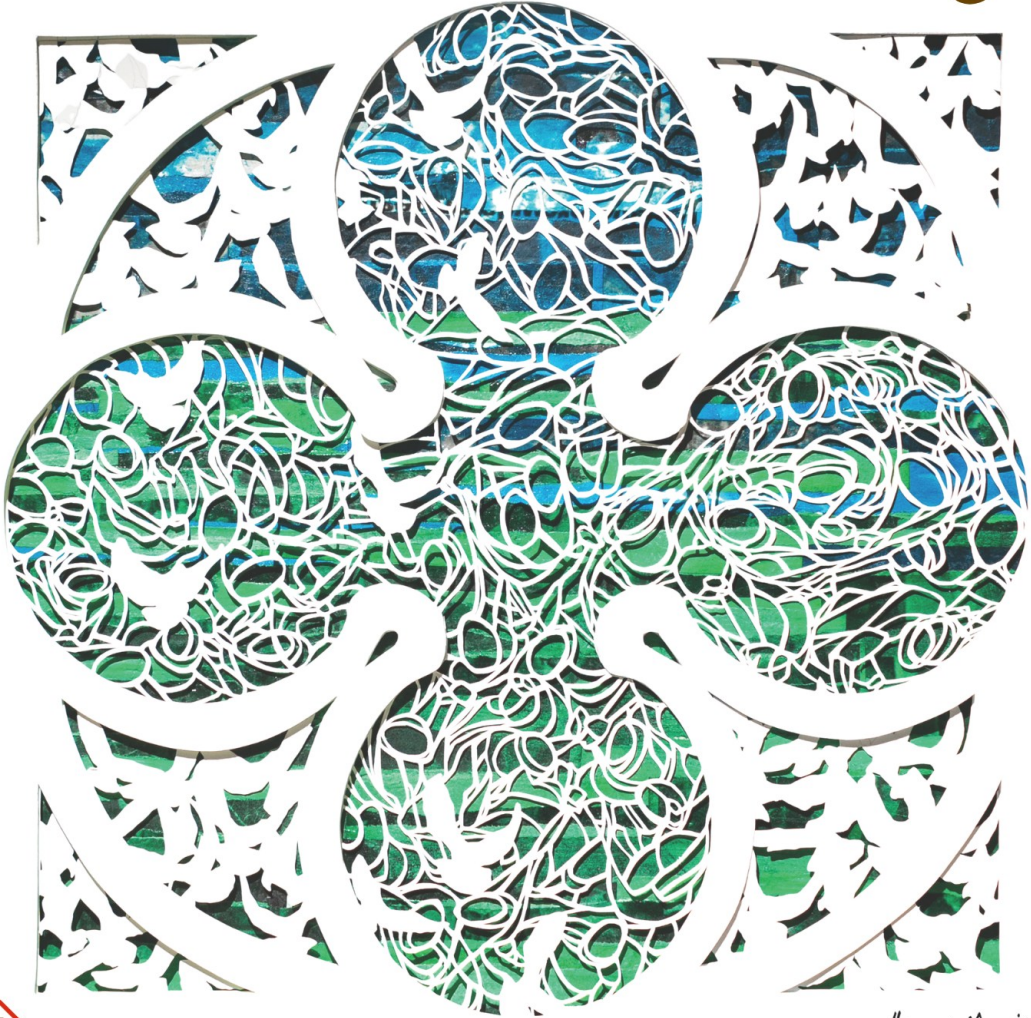


First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA

Easter Sunday



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THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD

11:00am April 5, 2026

✠ *You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today EASTER HYMN; William H. Bates
Easter Song (LASST UNS ERFREUEN) Rebecca Groom Tevelde
All Glory, Laud, and Honor Melchoir Teschner
Alice Walker, organ

Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns Walter Pelz
Alice Walker, organ

Invitation to Worship

Introit

Thine Is the Glory G.F. Handel, arr. by S.E. Geschke
Handbell Choir

Chiming of the Hour

Processional

Highland Cathedral Ulrich Roever & Michael Korb
Tom Crawford, bagpipes

✠ **Call to Worship**

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

✠ Hymn of Praise 232

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

***Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

**Gracious God,
we want to be Easter people.
We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.
We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.
We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid."
But we are afraid.
And we don't know where to look.
And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.
So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.
We are best intentions and best laid plans.**

**We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."
We are on our way, but we are not there yet.
Show us how to embody your good news in this world.
Show us how to be your Easter people.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray,
amen.**

✠ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Family of faith,
even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias,"
we belong to God.
Jesus died and rose for you.
And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay.
So join me in this good news declaration:

**Through Jesus Christ we are seen,
saved,
loved,
and claimed.**

**This is the good news of the gospel!
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again!

✠ **Hymn 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

We invite our children to come forward and to play shakers during this song!

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✠ **Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Joy in the Morning
Chancel Choir

by Natalie Sleeth

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Pew Bible page 33

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

The Good News is Alive!

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 246**

Christ is Alive!

TRURO

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus.

The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy.

They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ.

And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them"

Jesus met the women in their seeking.

Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.

**Jesus met them when they felt lost.
Jesus met them and provided hope.
For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking,
I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

You are invited to "Text to Give" your offering! Text FPCCOV to: 73256 and follow the link to give online, or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page! Select **"2026 Pledge"** if you made a pledge during stewardship season. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general offering.*



Offertory

The Strife Is O'er
Alice Walker, organ

Lisa Shoemaker-Lohmeyer

✠Response 239

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

GELOBT SEI GOTT

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today!

Death's mighty stone is rolled away.

Let all the earth rejoice and say:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

✠Prayer of Dedication and Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 245**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

LLANFAIR

Choral Response

Hallelujah Chorus

G.F. Handel

ALL who know their part in the "Hallelujah Chorus," Chancel Choir members or not, are invited to join us in the choir loft as we sing Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah!

✦ **Charge and Benediction**

Recessional

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven

Tom Crawford, bagpipes

✦ **Postlude**

Toccata from Symphony No. V

Charles-Marie Widor

Alice Walker, organ



Serving Today

We welcome and celebrate Tom Crawford who is sharing his gifts by providing bagpipe music this day!

Usher Chair | Stephanie Scarborough

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Lily Wells, McKenna Boston



Worship Notes

Worship Art—Look at the art on the cover of this worship guide. Study the figures in the crowd. What postures and expressions do you see? What emotions do you feel?

Today's worship guide cover art hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay by Hannah Garrity of Sanctified Art titled "Meet Me in Galilee" inspired by Matthew 28:1-10. The following is the artist's statement on the piece.

The good news is alive in the world. Do not be afraid. Go back to Galilee. Go back to Galilee where it all started. Go back to Galilee and celebrate like we did at the beginning when we were not afraid, when these words of liberation had not yet drawn the trappings of imperial execution.

Here in this artwork, the crowd is celebrating. Figures are dancing and dancing and dancing. Doves fly among the dancers, breaking borders, Holy Spirit. This throng is in the vacant space of the empty cross. The cross here is mirroring the traditional, four-petaled, stained-glass window design element, which has long represented the cross in European architecture.

The crowd dancing within the cross celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, fearlessly awaiting his arrival in Galilee. The Roman weapon of oppression, the cross, inflicts but a pause in the steadfast and abiding ministry of revolutionary love offered by Jesus in his public ministry. It is fitting then that we should go back to the place it began, when fear was not such a lethal factor. God has overcome death. Hallelujah!

Around the dancing figures in Galilee, patterns of doves disperse outward. The good news, the euaggelion, is alive in the world. Do you remember? The cross is empty, yet full. Overcome. Go and you will find Jesus, free in the world in the faces of strangers and neighbors.

Our Mission—First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

Accessibility—A limited supply of large print worship guides are available in the narthex. If you'd like to learn about connecting your Bluetooth hearing aids to our Sanctuary sound system we invite you to talk to our Tech Team.

First time visiting? We're so glad you're here!—Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor Card in the pew pocket in front of you. After worship, let us know it's your first time—we have a gift for you with info about our church and a free treat from The Little Rabbit Bake Shop across the street!

Offering Cards—The offering is an act of worship! We encourage you to place something in the offering plate as it comes to you. Throughout the pews you will find a selection of “offering cards” which we invite you to use to share how you intend to be a good steward this week. *Visit* with us as a newcomer by sharing about yourself or your family. *Pray* with us by offering a prayer which will be shared with the pastor. *Serve* with us by telling us how you will use your time and talent this week. Or *Give* with us by placing either a card to represent your online gift or physical cash or check offering. These offering cards are an invitation to generosity!

Want to learn more about our church family, baptism, communion, or a Bible study? Just mark it on the card—we'd love to connect with you!

Use—One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. *Messages and data rates may apply when using Text to Give. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel. Series: “Tell Me Something Good” | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | “Meet Me in Galilee” by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Alisa Castilla	<i>Interim Dir. of Children & Youth</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Catrina Crowe
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Jahnyah Greene
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jordyn Williams
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	Sylvia Woods

Emergency Response Team

In the event of an emergency including tornado, fire, intruder, and medical emergencies, the Emergency Response Team will lead the church's response and may be identified by wearing yellow visibility vests. If these people are not present for an emergency secondary responders will wear ERT vests. Please follow any directions given by the following people in the event of an emergency:

Primary Point Person—Neeley Rentz Lane
 Facility/Security Response—Kenny Compton, Stan Hall, John McCarthy
 Medical Response—Nichole Howell, Pam Stillerman

Officers

Reaching Out

Sara Chini	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Yvonne Hill-Davenport	<i>Witness (2028)</i>
Stephanie Scarborough	<i>Witness (2027)</i>
Bob Tabb	<i>Thriving Congregations (2028)</i>

Engaging

Krista Firkus	<i>Faith Formation (2027)</i>
Hardy Fortson Sideris	<i>Worship (2027)</i>
Chuck Williams	<i>Faith Formation (2028)</i>
Angie Woodham	<i>Worship (2028)</i>

Belonging

Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Bethany Wells	<i>Welcome (2028)</i>

Connecting (Deacons)

Cathy Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Denny Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Beverly Kratz	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2028)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2027)</i>

More

Jodi Atkins	<i>Preschool (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
Jo Anna Fish	<i>Personnel (2027)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>

Easter Lilies

The Easter lilies that are decorating the Sanctuary this Easter Sunday were provided through donations in memory and in honor of the following people. Donations over the cost of flowers will go to the Newton County Community Food Pantry and contribute to our work with Partner in Education Fairview Elementary School.



In honor of:

- ◇ The Choir
- ◇ Dr. Tom Crews
- ◇ Ms. Pam Stillerman
- ◇ Memama
- ◇ Susanne's sisters, Beverly, Patty, & Debbie
- ◇ Joyce Farmer
- ◇ Judi Barton; Anne Ensminger;
our children & grandchildren
- ◇ Our children & grandchildren
- ◇ Jeanette Turner
- ◇ Linda & Jimmy Patrick; Hannah Freeman;
Julie & Jeff MacKenzie
- ◇ Miriam Wheeler, Peni Kehoe,
& Catherine Laseter

In memory of:

- ◇ Our parents & grandparents
- ◇ Sharon Almanza, Collin Morris, Carnel Morris
- ◇ JoAnn Crews
- ◇ My brother, Michael Glomba
- ◇ Robert Harper; Kenneth & Wilma Pearson
- ◇ My parents & sisters Lori & Linda

Given by:

- Bart & Ruth Frankena*
- Stan & Dana Hall*
- The Holders*
- Robert & Neeley Lane*
- Ed & Susanne Perkerson*
- Starr & Taryn Puckett*

- Perri & Dan Walden*
- Curtis & Carolyn Watson*
- The Wells Family*

- Miriam Wheeler*

- Anonymous*

Given by:

- Betty Bailey, Clay & Kim Bailey,
& Charlie Bailey*
- Tina Boston*
- Tom Crews*
- Olga Glomba*
- Pat Harper*
- Pam Iannucci*

In memory of: (cont.)

- ◇ Ursula Kaminski
- ◇ Papa, Grammie, Frank
- ◇ Our parents: Henry & Jill Knox-Dick;
Lavin & Libby Kaasa
- ◇ Guy McGiboney
- ◇ Brenda Buckelew

- ◇ Merritt Dutton Morehouse, Jr.
- ◇ Ed's sister, Jane LeMaster
- ◇ Glynora Watterson
& David C. Pettis, Sr.
- ◇ Margie Lochridge "Maw Maw,"
Frank Farmer
- ◇ Jim Stillerman
- ◇ Arnold & Bonnie Tingler, Dale Tingler
- ◇ Russell & Myrtle Vining;
William & Laura Miller; Doug Bolton
- ◇ Jacqueline & Jerry Walden;
Gene Ensminger
- ◇ Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Walker,
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Griffin
- ◇ Our parents
- ◇ Grady Daugherty;
Barbara & Jack Weesner
- ◇ Marvin Wells, Tony Fox
- ◇ Jack Wheeler
- ◇ Anne Eby "Nana G"

Given by:

- Leonard Kaminski & children*
- Robert & Neeley Lane*

- Jeff & Julie MacKenzie*
- Carol McGiboney & the Weesners*
- Kim, Homer, Riley,
Chloe, Reid & Jennifer*
- Sandy & Betsy Morehouse*
- Ed & Susanne Perkerson*

- David & Judy Pettis*

- Starr & Taryn Puckett*
- Pam Stillerman*
- Roger & Tootles Tingler*

- Danny & Beth Vining*

- Perri & Dan Walden*

- Alice & Ken Walker*
- Curtis & Carolyn Watson*

- The Weesners*
- The Wells Family*
- Miriam Wheeler*
- The Woodham Family*





**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA**

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014
fpccov.org 770.786.7321

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

Requests will be moved to "ongoing" after three weeks unless the office is notified.

- ✦ Glen Eason, uncle of Hannah Eason - recovering from car accident
- ✦ Tom Crews - moved into Prema at Ashton Hills Assisted Living
- ✦ Danny Vining - prostate cancer treatment
- ✦ Ken Walker
- ✦ Lee Ellen Digby, mother of Terri Digby - rehab
- ✦ Brandon Vining, son of Danny & Beth Vining - prostate cancer treatment
- ✦ Olaava MacKenzie, daughter of Julie & Jeff MacKenzie - praying for safe travels in Dubai

Ongoing prayer requests

Requests will be removed after six weeks unless the office is notified.

- ✦ Douglas Hatfield, husband of Mary Hatfield
- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer

- ✦ Kelly Folden, friend of Jennifer Buckelew - father diagnosed with cancer
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Virginia, mother of Tammi Welch
- ✦ Norma C. Couch, friend of Starr & Taryn Puckett - recovering from heart transplant
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Jonathan Paschal, father of Jon Paschal
- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- ✦ Joann Usry, grandmother of Luke Usry - surgery & pacemaker
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Julia MacKenzie - recovering from eye surgery
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ Greg Brickell, friend of Sam & Loucy Hay

Prayer requests and updates may be given the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to catherine@fpccov.org

Celebrations

- ✦ Louise White turned 100 years old on March 30, 2026! Her mailing address is below for anyone who feels called to send her birthday wishes!

10050 Eagle Drive Apt 205
Covington, GA 30014

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Tom Crews - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Sarah Davis - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Madison, GA
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Carol McGiboney - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Jon Paschal - Annandale Village
- ✦ Louise White - Prema at Ashton Hills

Military Service

- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
- ✦ Benjamin Iannucci, III - Air Force

Do you have a someone you'd like to see be an Elder or Deacon?

Fill out the officer nomination form!

The officer nomination form is a way to share who you see within the church that has the gifts to serve as a church officer!

Find the nomination form in the narthex or in the e-news! Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, turned in to the church office, or emailed to Nominating Committee

Chair Pam Stillerman at pam@alcovyfitness.com

CHANGEMAKERS LAB

★ VBS at FPC

JUNE 15-18

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

3 y/o - 5th grade

Register by May 14
to guarantee a t-shirt in your size!

To register, visit fpccov.org/vbs

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!

MISSION MANIA

July 20-23

For more info visit fpccov.org/signup

join FPC for local missions this Summer!

Join the fun this April with FPC's Seasoned Older Saints

Signup with Neeley!

Lunch Bunch

Oxford College Cafeteria

Thursday, April 16 at 11:30am

Monastery in Conyers

Monday, April 20

Meet at the church to carpool at 10:00am

S.O.S. Adventure

ROLL-ER DERBY TOILET PAPER DRIVE

APRIL 19

Bring toilet paper, paper towels, and feminine hygiene products to worship!

In partnership with Repairers of the Breach

SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT

MAY 13 5:15PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
MORE DINNER DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Contact Darcel Tabb (darceltabb@yahoo.com) with your talent by May 10.

We welcome everyone into our church family!
We'd LOVE to have you become an official MEMBER!
Sunday, April 12th after worship
Talk to Neeley if you are interested!

Sunday School
Held at 9:45am
Children's Class (PreK-4th)
Youth Class (5th+)
Adult Classes:
Foundations
The Wired WORD

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday

Flowering of the Cross

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

6:45am Sunrise Service in the Garden

9:45am Resurrection Refreshments

11:00am Worship—Resurrection of the Lord

Monday, April 6

Office CLOSED

Tuesday, April 7

10:00am PW Elizabeth Ann Circle

10:30am PW Martha Circle

Wednesday, April 8

10:00am Coffee Club

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, April 11

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, April 12

Second Sunday of Easter

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Communion

11:30am Godly Play after the Children's Moment

12:00pm Welcoming New Members

12:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting

5:00pm Youth Study Sunday

Join us before & after worship
Sunday, April 26
Silent ART Auction
Help us raise money for our Youth Conference Fund!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship on
April 26th
Legacy of Love Church Family Lunch
Hosted by our Endowment Team
Free lunch No RSVPs needed!
Join your FPC Family as we celebrate the past, present, and future of our Church

*Dear God, we pray for the strength
to heed your charge to bring
justice to our hurting world.
Help us advocate for what is right,
that through our words and actions,
all people will know of your love.*

Amen.



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**

God unites all gifts to create big impact.

Presbyterians have a history of working to build a more just, resilient and sustainable future. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are supporting the gifts and talents of people and communities all over the world and offering opportunities for partnership, learning and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



The gift of sustainable development

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In Sri Lanka, more than 254 acres of land for displaced families were reclaimed, actively engaging 2,451 women in land rights campaigns and ensuring those women had a voice in policy advocacy while also addressing issues of food sovereignty and economic security.

The gift of partnership

Partnering in community development projects improves lives and builds stronger communities. More than 58 grants, nationally and internationally, served 7,450 people, empowering economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged communities. These partners own, control and benefit directly from the projects, promoting long-term change in their lives.



The gift of service

Every day, spiritual and community leaders show amazing resilience in the efforts to rebuild and seek peace following a disaster. In one year, 1,858 people volunteered at host sites alongside survivors, giving more than 52,884 hours of labor for disaster recovery — equivalent to \$1.7 million in financial support.



Please give generously.
If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

February 18–April 5, 2026

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of compassion for the most vulnerable around the world.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- + Scan this QR code



-or-

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/oghs



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of three annual Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These Special Offerings play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.