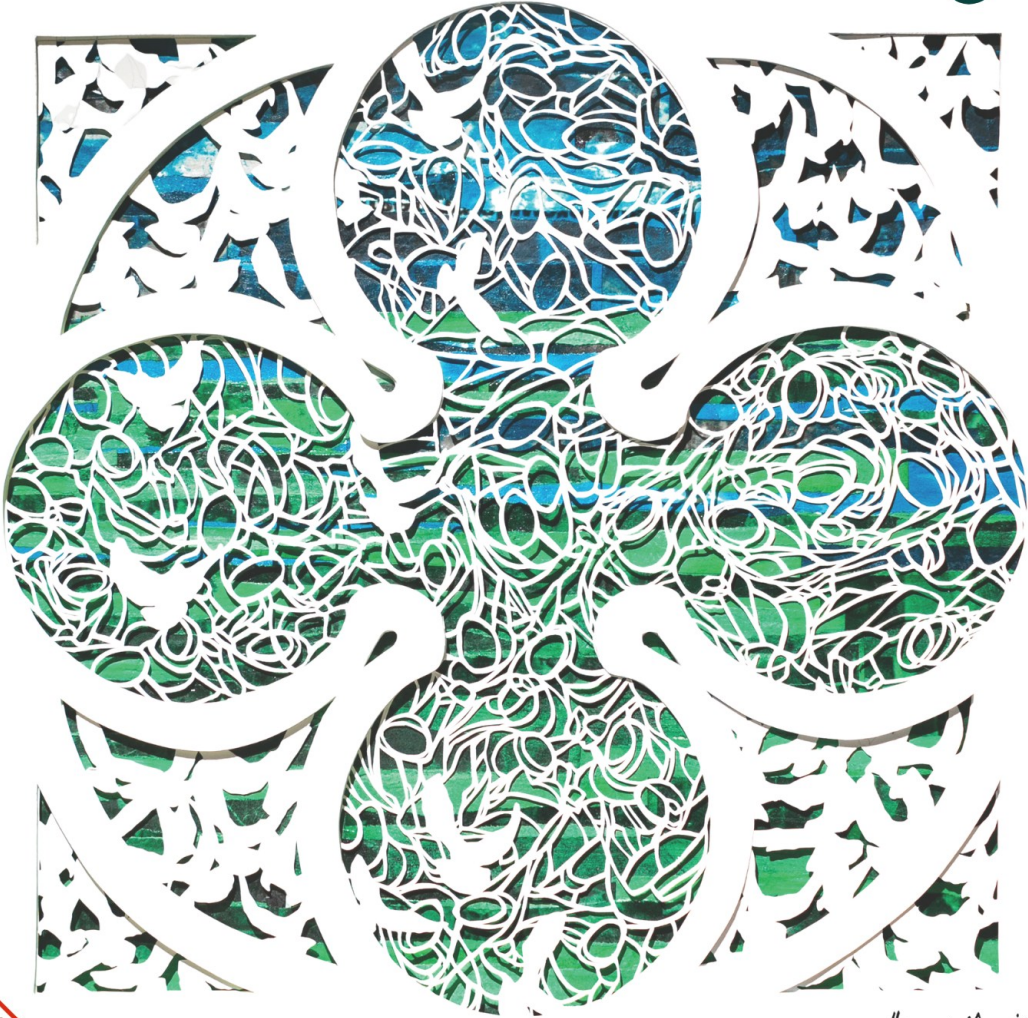


First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA

# Easter Sunday



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**THE RESURRECTION  
OF THE LORD**

**6:45am April 5, 2026**



# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering Music

*Fairest Lord Jesus* (Schlesische Volksliedet)

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (Martin Luther)    *A Trumpet Minuet* (Alfred Hollins)

## ✦ 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

*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!***

***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!**

### ✠ **Response to God's Grace** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO.1

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.***



## *Proclaiming the Word*

### **Special Music**

*By The Mark*

by Gillian Welch

Perri and Dan Walden, duet

### **Scripture Reading**

*Matthew 28:1-10*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## *Responding to the Word*

### ✦ Hymn of Response

*Christ is Alive!*

TRURO

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.***

***Let streets and homes with praises ring.***

***Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

***Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.***

***Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.***

### ✦ 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."**

### Easter Prayer



## *Being the Church in the World*

### ✦ Sending Hymn

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*

LLANFAIR

*Please see the next page for the hymn words*

**“Christ the Lord is risen today!” Alleluia!**  
**All creation, join to say: Alleluia!**  
**Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!**  
**Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**  
**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!**  
**Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!**  
**Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!**  
**Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

## ✦ Charge and Benediction

✦ **Postlude**      *Alleluia (Festal Postlude on LASST UNS ERFREUEN)*      William Faulkes

## Offering Our Gifts

*While this shortened service does not include a traditional offering portion, we invite anyone who wishes to give to FPC or to PCUSA’s One Great Hour of Sharing special offering to please place your gift in the plate as you exit the Garden. Information about online gifts can be found under Worship Practices.*

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

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

### Officers

<b>Reaching Out</b>	
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>
<b>Engaging</b>	
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>
<b>Belonging</b>	
Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Bethany Wells	<i>Welcome (2028)</i>
<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b>	
Cathy Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Denny Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Beverly Kratz	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2028)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2027)</i>
<b>More</b>	
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>

### 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

# *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*





## Worship Practices

**Offering**—You are invited to “Text to Give” your offering! Text\* FPCCOV followed by your donation amount 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 stewardship pledge. Select “Non-Pledge” for a general plate offering or “One Great Hour of Sharing” for the PCUSA Special Offering.



**Worship Art**—Look at the art on the cover and 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 titled “Meet Me in Galilee” inspired by Matthew 28:1-10. The following is an excerpt from the artist’s statement on the piece.

*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. Around the dancing figures patterns of doves disperse outward. The good is alive in the world. Do you remember? The cross is empty, yet full.*

**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. Lenten Series: “Tell Me Something Good” | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | Art: “Meet Me in Galilee” by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



## Serving Today

**Usher Chair** | Hardy Sideris

**Sound** | Mark Fiddie



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://fpccov.org/vbs)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!

# MISSION MANIA

July 20-23

For more info visit [fpccov.org/signup](http://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](https://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](https://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.