

PC(USA) Week of Action Day of Service: August 30th, 2020



“To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.” — Proverbs 21:3

“God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people...” — *Book of Order, W-5.0304*

It is abundantly clear through the gospel narrative and the greater witness of the Bible that God has called us, as people of faith, to seek justice for those most marginalized in our world. As a [Matthew 25 denomination](#), our church’s vision is to eradicate white supremacy and dismantle institutionalized racism. Therefore, we must act and bear witness to the gospel in these crucial times by doing the “hands & feet” work the Lord ordains.

The [Presbyterian Week of Action](#), August 24-30, 2020, is a centerpiece of this movement. The week is structured to provide a public witness of education, visibility, and action that embodies PC(USA) statements and policy of eradicating racism and acknowledging that God loves all Black lives.

The Day of Service encourages congregations and mid-councils to engage in some type of service outside the walls following worship.

As a program of the PC(USA), [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) offers the following tips for how to participate in the Day of Service during Presbyterian Week of Action.

COVID Safety Imperatives

The nature of a pandemic such as COVID-19 is that personal safety is inseparable from community safety. When you wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands regularly, you not only guard your safety; you also guard the safety of others, and

you do your part in slowing the pandemic's spread. Prior to volunteering for any organization, including those listed below, we recommend you review the [CDC COVID 19 precautions list](#). We also recommend you visit the website of the [local health department](#) where you will be volunteering, or by doing an Internet search of the city's or county's health department.

Volunteering: Organizations to Consider

Look to your Presbytery for opportunities to volunteer at one or more of the mission partners supported by your Presbytery. Most Presbyteries have mission partner information on their web page. In addition, it is possible to identify partnerships with other congregations that have similar volunteer interests.

[Volunteers of America](#) (VOA) helps the most vulnerable and under-served people achieve their full potential. VOA provides services designed locally to address specific community needs. Its common areas of focus include promoting self-sufficiency for the homeless and for others overcoming personal crises, caring for the elderly and disabled and fostering their independence, and supporting positive development for troubled and at-risk children and youth. VOA has the following Statement of Commitment to Justice:

Volunteers of America condemns the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, a community where our organization has long provided services to those most affected by the inequities in society. But what's happening now in our country is about much more than a single incident. A long road brought us to this point, whether it was the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, or the many nameless victims along the way.

As is PDA, VOA is a member of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Click [here](#) to find a local affiliate.

[Operation Hope](#) serves adults, youth, disaster survivors, and employees with financial dignity programming and coaching to equip them with the financial knowledge and tools to create a secure future. Its programs and services are offered at no cost. Operation Hope's founder, chairman, and CEO, [John Hope Bryant](#), is committed to realizing equity of opportunity for all and to equipping people in underserved communities with the financial tools and training needed to take ownership of their lives and create a secure financial future. Operation Hope is a National VOAD member. Click [here](#) to learn how you can volunteer.

[Feeding America](#) is a network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries. It is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, working to connect people with food and end hunger. Donors, staff, and volunteers all play an important role in our efforts to end hunger in the United States. Due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, [more than 54 million people may experience food insecurity](#) in 2020, including a potential 18 million children. It is a member of National VOAD. Click [here](#) to learn where and how you can volunteer.

[Habitat for Humanity](#) seeks to put God's love into action, bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Its CEO, Jonathan Reckford, states that "we commit to being actively anti-racist and to affirming, through word and action, that Black Lives Matter and that our communities and systems must further this fundamental truth." Habitat is a National VOAD member. Click [here](#) to learn where and how you can volunteer.

[Points of Light](#) seeks to inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world. It envisions a world in which everyone discovers the power to make a difference, creating healthy communities in vibrant, participatory societies. It is a National VOAD member. Click [here](#) to learn where and how you can volunteer.

[United Way](#) is a worldwide organization whose mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. Through its [2-1-1 program](#), a free and confidential service, people across North America find the local resources they need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Click [here](#) to learn how you can volunteer in your community.

Other creative ways to serve your community

In the event you are unable to volunteer but wish to participate in the Presbyterian Day of Service, here are three opportunities, among many other worthy possibilities.

- [Donate blood](#)
- Assemble [Gift of the Heart kits](#)
- Donate to your local [food pantry](#)