One Mission, Two Funds
Proclaiming Christ in Word and Deed

*Presbyterians Sharing* supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations are encouraged to raise an accepted allocation each year.

*Presbyterian World Service & Development* is the PCC’s development and relief agency. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations and individuals and through government grants – over and above gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*. International Ministries mission personnel, funded through *Presbyterians Sharing*, often work with PWS&D partners.

Use these Mission Moments to highlight the mission and ministry that we are doing together. Print them in your Sunday bulletin or church newsletter, project them on a screen, integrate them into a presentation or use them on your church’s bulletin board. The text, photos and simple PowerPoint slides can be found at: presbyterian.ca/mission-moments

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* and *Presbyterian World Service & Development* are making a difference!
PWS&D Sunday

Inspired by God’s promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. February 3 is PWS&D Sunday—a day to celebrate the work our church is doing to make this vision a reality, empowering people out of poverty, hunger and oppression. Through programs in sustainable development and emergency relief, we are helping women, men and children get what they need to improve their well-being, recover from emergency situations and plan for futures abundant in the blessings of Christ. This work would not be possible without the faithful support of individuals and congregations across Canada, and our partners overseas. Today and every day, we give thanks for those striving for justice, mercy and peace throughout the world.

PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world

Welcoming the stranger in Hungary

For Stephanie Chunoo, mission is “God’s people helping those who are in need.” Stephanie, a young adult intern, works with dedicated staff and volunteers at Kalunba, a refugee ministry of the Reformed Church in Hungary. Stephanie has been putting into action God’s call to welcome the stranger since October 2018. At Kalunba, refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria and Cameroon attend Hungarian language classes and receive assistance in finding employment and housing. The goal is to have these new members well integrated within one year of their arrival in Hungary. Stephanie assists with child care, teaches English classes and helps plan activities for the children. A member of Leaside Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Stephanie is appreciative of support and prayers from Canada.

Presbyterians Sharing sends young adults to support partner churches

World Day of Social Justice (Feb. 20)

Ayishetu Abu had not seen her family in eight years. She was living at the Gambaga Outcast Home in Ghana—a shelter for women facing accusations of witchcraft. In many Ghanaian communities, there is a tendency to suspect witchcraft as the cause of crop failure, the death of a child or any other unexplained event. In addition to improving living conditions at the shelter, Presbyterian World Service & Development works to foster social acceptance among these communities and educate village leaders about human rights, mental illness, disabilities and other health issues often mistakenly attributed to witchcraft. To ensure more women like Ayishetu can embrace opportunities that are the right of every person, PWS&D will continue working for justice and peace.

PWS&D promotes peace and tolerance

A ministry of care and companionship

Jesus showed care and compassion to those living on the margins of society, teaching us how to be a neighbour to everyone in need. In the same way, Boarding Homes Ministry strives to build community in the Greater Toronto area. Volunteers practice inclusion by visiting and sharing meals with people living in low-income housing, who are often isolated due to the stigmas of mental illness, addictions and poverty. The ministry also provides educational workshops for faith communities on how to be more welcoming and supportive to people who have experienced mental illness and trauma.

Presbyterians Sharing cares for vulnerable people
Furthering God’s work

Called to respond to suffering caused by disasters and conflict across the globe, the mission and outreach committee of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church in Ontario hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser last year in support of Presbyterian World Service & Development’s emergency relief projects. Generous contributions totalled $300 for PWS&D, which will help save and improve the lives of those living in crisis situations throughout the globe. “Helping communities around the world overcome poverty is what God wants us to do,” shared Susan Johnson, elder at Richmond Hill and organizer of the event. “We are humbled and grateful to be able to assist The Presbyterian Church in Canada in furthering God’s work.”

PWS&D sets health, education and safety for women

Access to information and services for reproductive health rights remains a significant challenge for women around the world, especially in poor communities. Many women are not able to decide if or when they have children, or how many. Girls forced into early marriages are made vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections and early pregnancy. It is proven time and again that empowering women helps improve economic growth and development—part of this must be access to necessary health services and the ability to make decisions about their bodies. PWS&D is responding in India to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health and provide women and girls with a network of support so they can decide their own futures.

PWS&D connects Canadians to needs across the globe

Honouring Indigenous art

St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Picton, ON is building relationships with Indigenous people through the celebration of Indigenous art and culture. The church is now home to the largest Indigenous mural on a church in Canada. The congregation received permission by award-winning Métis visual artist and author Christi Belcourt to reprise her Art Gallery of Ontario commissioned piece, Wisdom of the Universe. A team of Toronto muralists spent one week recreating the 37’ x 36’ mural on the church’s north exterior wall. The entire mural is comprised of dots to represent beadwork, which is a common theme in much of Belcourt’s work.

Presbyterians Sharing supports healing and reconciliation initiatives

A PCC Mission Moment Sunday March 3

International Women’s Day (March 8)

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A PCC Mission Moment Sunday March 10

Serving a mission hospital in Malawi

Sending people to serve internationally is one of the ways the PCC nurtures relationships with partner churches. Claire Fowler, a first-year medical student at the University of British Columbia and a member of Langley Presbyterian Church in BC, volunteered with David Gordon Memorial Hospital in Malawi for four weeks in June 2018. Working alongside Malawian doctors, nurses and clinical staff, she gained valuable experience and built relationships. The hospital staff and patients appreciated Claire’s enthusiasm and dedication. Claire is grateful for the PCC’s support and for the opportunity to gain a more global perspective on medical work.

A PCC Mission Moment Sunday March 24

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A PCC Mission Moment Sunday March 17

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PWS&D ensures health, education and safety for women

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Presbyterians Sharing nurtures partnerships

Presbyterians Sharing supports healing and reconciliation initiatives

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Creating community for new Canadians

Life in Christ Ministry provides support and assistance for Arabic and Farsi speaking refugees living in the Greater Toronto Area. Each year, the ministry offers a New Beginnings Training Program that provides practical workshops aimed at helping refugees adapt to local Canadian communities, including learning English and developing other life skills. By offering games and activities for children at the same time as adult workshops, the program responds to a need for parents to attend programs with their children. In addition, the program provides meaningful job opportunities for students and volunteers.

Presbyterians Sharing welcomes refugees

World Health Day (April 7)

Good health starts with good nutrition—especially for young children. In a poor village in Haiti, one-year-old Marcellus was losing weight rapidly and had a persistent cough. Because of crop losses, his single mother was struggling to feed the little boy and his five siblings. She knew Marcellus needed medical attention, but the price of transport to the closest health facility was more than she could afford. Hope came to Marcellus’s mother in the form of a mobile clinic supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development and other Canadian Foodgrains Bank members. There, Marcellus received a nutrient-rich food supplement called Nourimanba, antibiotics and multivitamins. Marcellus is no longer malnourished and is on course to grow up healthy and strong.

Earth Day (April 22)

On Earth Day, we reflect on the uniqueness of God’s creation and the ecosystems that nourish us. Unfortunately, contributions to greenhouse gas emissions continue to take a toll on the planet’s health and trigger extreme weather patterns such as prolonged drought and heavy rains. These weather patterns can make it difficult for small-scale farmers in the global south to meet their food needs and earn liveable incomes. The need to adapt to these challenges is now a reality, and Presbyterian World Service & Development is providing support. In Guatemala, Haiti, Malawi and Nicaragua, PWS&D is empowering farmers to learn sustainable, environmentally-friendly farming techniques that both heal the earth and improve crop yields.

PWS&D helps the earth and future generations flourish
PCC Mission Moment  
Sunday April 28

Rebuilding businesses and dreams
In Malawi, Lucia and her husband care for their six orphaned grandchildren. It’s a lot of work to meet the needs of a large family, but Lucia was earning a good income running a grocery store—a dream she’d always had. When her husband fell ill, Lucia used all her earnings to pay hospital bills and could no longer afford her grandchildren’s school fees. When her husband was discharged, Lucia had no money left to rebuild the business she loved. An answer to her prayers, Lucia received a loan to get her store running again through a Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported self-help group. “I was worried about how I would pay school fees and provide for my grandchildren’s basic needs,” Lucia said. “Self-help groups have really helped.”

PWS&D empowers families out of poverty

A PCC Mission Moment  
Sunday May 5

An opportunity for joyful giving
The Stewards By Design conference wraps up today after three days of intensive keynote presentations and workshops. The conference focused on connecting stewardship to the mission and ministry of the church and growing generous givers. Led by enthusiastic keynote speaker Dr. Kennon Callahan, participants learned how to nurture faithful giving and abundant living; expand and strengthen their mission and ministry; make generous giving an ongoing, joyful experience; and develop a concrete plan suited for their unique situation. A past participant shared, “The sessions were a true blessing for us all. We learned much and now we have much to teach.”

Presbyterians Sharing supports leadership development

A PCC Mission Moment  
Sunday May 12

Envisioning malaria-free communities
In Thimalala village in Malawi, Jimmy Gondwe was not sleeping well. He was concerned about the mosquitoes inside his home, fearing they carried the deadly malaria virus. While malaria rates have gone down in Malawi, it remains a significant health challenge, especially among pregnant women and children.

Malaria-carrying mosquitoes mostly bite at night, with more than 80 per cent of transmission occurring indoors. To help ensure more households stay healthy and malaria-free, a Presbyterian World Service & Development project is helping to safely treat homes with insecticide. Jimmy reports that since the project, he feels safer inside his home—a now mosquito-free environment. “I am grateful for the support,” said Jimmy.

PWS&D envisions malaria-free communities

A PCC Mission Moment  
Sunday May 19

Dreaming of peace
For Amina, Saber and their five children, poverty had become an all too sudden reality. When bombs fell on their town of Suran in Syria, their peaceful life shattered—their home collapsed and basic necessities like water, food and electricity became scarce. Displaced within their own country, broken by over eight years of conflict, Amina and Saber were losing hope. But for the past several months, the family has been receiving monthly food and hygiene baskets through a Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported project with Canadian Foodgrains Bank partners. Over meals of beans and rice, Amina and Saber can find a moment of comfort as they dream of peace and security for their beloved country.

PWS&D provides strength through food aid
Family-style worship

With support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, Family Church of Heritage Green in Stoney Creek, ON is a community of faith offering family-style worship that includes all. From songs and prayers written with kids in mind to interactive activities that draw the gathered community into God’s presence, every service brings families together while putting Christ at the center. All programs in the church, such as kids club, youth leadership-in-training, and parent support groups, work towards the goal of supporting local families while building lasting relationships.

*Presbyterians Sharing supports new congregations*