

Advent Challenge 2023



Presbyterian
World Service
& Development



Do Advent Differently.

TAKE THE ADVENT CHALLENGE

During Advent, we rejoice over the amazing gift God gave us— Jesus! This gift changed the world, and so can we. This Advent season, as an expression of Christ’s hope, peace, joy and love, we invite you to take the Advent Challenge and join us in working towards a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

For each week of Advent, read the stories on the back of the PWS&D liturgies, learn about PWS&D programs and find out how you can give a gift that will help people in need—at home and around the world.

Follow PWS&D on Facebook and Instagram and tag us in your Advent Challenge posts and photos.
#AdventChallenge23



[WeRespond.ca/advent-challenge](https://www.werespond.ca/advent-challenge)

Journeying for Hope

Read “Journeying for Hope” on
the back of PWS&D’s first
Advent liturgy.



PWS&D’s Journey for Hope brings people from across Canada together to raise awareness and funds for PWS&D food security programs. These programs are addressing the pressing food crisis, exacerbated by the climate crisis, conflict and rising costs. PWS&D and its partners are helping marginalized communities combat hunger and food insecurity. Food security projects are providing hope to families and communities. The Journey for Hope plays a crucial role in supporting this essential work, having raised over \$55,000 in just two years.

Take the Advent Hope Challenge

Encourage your Sunday school to organize their own mini-fundraising event. This can include activities like a bake sale, a car wash, a small art sale, or even a charity walk within their local community. The funds raised can be donated to the PWS&D’s food security projects.

Give the Gift of Hope

Help farmers learn to improve crops and sell their goods to provide an income for their families.

\$50 trains a farmer in sustainable farming practices

“This assistance had provided me relief.”

Read “This assistance had provided me relief” on the back of PWS&D’s second Advent liturgy.



Hafiza Bibi is a single mother in Pakistan who lost her home, husband and daughter during a devastating monsoon season. Her husband was a farmer labourer, and the family relied on occasional charity from relatives. However, after the floods, no one was able to help them. One day, Hafiza and her family were selected to participate in a food assistance project supported by PWS&D through our local partner, Community World Service Asia, with help from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This support allowed Hafiza to buy essential food items, offering her relief and the ability to provide food for her children.

Take the Advent **Peace** Challenge

Encourage members of your church to perform random acts of kindness within their community. These acts could include helping a neighbour, writing thank-you notes to essential workers, picking up litter or helping at a local food bank. Challenge them to complete a certain number of these acts over a specified period.

Give the Gift of Peace

Help provide peace of mind for people in crisis.

\$135 provides food for a family for one month

“I want to finish school”

Read “I want to finish school”
on the back of PWS&D’s third
Advent liturgy.



Neno Girls Secondary School provides scholarships to marginalized girl students in Malawi, helping overcome financial barriers to education. These students, who come from diverse backgrounds, face unique challenges but share the common obstacle of families who can’t afford their schooling. Particularly for girls, cultural expectations, such as domestic responsibilities and early marriage, can hinder the pursuit of higher education. One student, Caroline Mkapita, considers herself fortunate to have received support, as many of her friends had to drop out due to a lack of financial assistance.

Take the Advent Joy Challenge

Look around your community for an afterschool program. Collect school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, and backpacks to be donated to a program needing school supplies.

Give the Gift of Joy

By providing educational supplies, you are helping children like Caroline reach their full potential.

**\$70 ensures one student
has school supplies**

Puskar's Journey to Health

Read "Puskar's Journey to Health" on the back of PWS&D's fourth Advent liturgy.

In Nepal, 10-year-old Puskar was diagnosed with leprosy after developing sores. He received treatment at the PWS&D-supported Shining Hospital, though he had a reaction to the medicine that required another hospital stay. Now, he's on the road to recovery, attending regular check-ups, and determined to continue his studies and become a successful cricket player, showing resilience and determination.



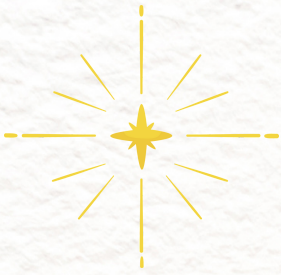
Take the Advent Love Challenge

Create handmade get-well cards and uplifting artwork. You can design cards with cheerful messages and drawings for people in hospitals or those facing health challenges, just like Puskar. These can be sent to local hospitals and charities or even be handed out to people around you.

Give the Gift of Love

Help bring medical care and supplies to remote villages and tackle disease and malnourishment for those most affected.

\$20 provides self-care training to a patient affected by leprosy



Celebrate the Gifts of Christmas!

Use the Christmas liturgy and read the reflection "Christ is Born!"

In the midst of poverty, hunger and disaster, the Christ candle shines. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we remember God's promise of abundant life and give the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love to serve communities across the globe.

Challenge your congregation to hold a special offering to support the work of PWS&D!

Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of people living in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world.

Thank you for your prayers and support!



**To make a donation:
[WeRespond.ca/donate](https://www.werespond.ca/donate)**

**For more information:
[WeRespond.ca/advent-challenge](https://www.werespond.ca/advent-challenge)**