

Prayer Partnership

Engaging in God's Mission Through Word and Action



Life in Christ involves prayer, the seeking of God's will and blessing on all of life. Prayer is openness to the presence of God. In words, or the absence of words, prayer is the focusing of our lives towards God.

—*Living Faith* 8.1.4

Praying for and with PCC congregations, committees, agencies, people and partners is one way of engaging in God's mission in the world and focusing our lives on God.

The prayers, mission and social action stories in the *Prayer Partnership* reflect the ministry of the following bodies within The Presbyterian Church in Canada:

- Atlantic Mission Society
- Committee on Church Doctrine
- Committee on History
- Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee
- The General Assembly Office
- Knox College in Toronto, Ontario
- Life and Mission Agency
- Moderator of the General Assembly
- National Indigenous Ministries Council
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives
- The Presbyterian College in Montreal, Quebec
- Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia
- Women's Missionary Society

Looking for more information?

The Social Action Hub on the PCC website provides study guides, advocacy tools, liturgies and other resources to help individuals and congregations discern and live out the biblical call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Organized thematically, you will find positions and actions the church has taken, as well as links to letters, reports and resources it has produced. The Hub is an ongoing project that is continually being updated and expanded with new information and resources, so we encourage you to check back often, and take time to explore all the many ways Presbyterians can seek justice through social action. Visit presbyterian.ca/social-action.

Sisters in Spirit: Violence against Indigenous women as an impact of colonization

Sisters in Spirit is an initiative started in 2005 by the Native Women's Association of Canada to draw attention to the shockingly high levels of violence that Indigenous women in Canada face. It was the first government-funded (until 2010) database to gather information on missing or murdered Indigenous women over the preceding thirty years and collected information on 600 women. A 2021 RCMP report recorded that there were 1,181 police-reported homicides or unresolved missing person cases for Indigenous women between 1980 and 2012. Sisters in Spirit vigils are held annually on October 4 in memory of murdered and missing Indigenous women.

Largely because of Indigenous-led advocacy, a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls and Women was established. "Reclaiming Power and Place"—the Inquiry's final report—is difficult to read and contains the lived experiences of abuse, assault, neglect, racism and the death of loved ones stemming from a long history of colonization. It also recounts dehumanizing and callous treatment in interactions with services, police and health care providers. It contains 231 recommendations called "Calls for Justice" that work to determine the causes of this crisis, why it has been allowed to continue, and what can be done to stop it. In 2021, the General Assembly adopted a recommendation accepting the findings of the National Inquiry, including the finding that this violence constitutes race-based genocide. Congregations are encouraged to learn about and respond to the Calls for Justice.

What can you do?

- Attend a Sisters in Spirit vigil—they are held in person and virtually (nwac.ca)
- Learn about how colonization targets Indigenous women for violence. "Why work to decolonize" is a church-based study guide to engage with the National Inquiry's final report. Available online at presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/indigenous-justice.
- Respond to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice aimed at all Canadians (Calls 151-158) and those Calls aimed at occupations, institutions and industries in which they are employed.
- Learn about why the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a critical framework for reconciliation. (faithinthedeclaration.ca)

Hummingbird Ministries, one of the Indigenous ministries supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, is committed to bringing peace and healing to Indigenous families living in BC's lower mainland. Led by The Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly, the ministry helps to restore hope by offering regular healing circles, working with the community in art and celebration, and providing educational and healing workshops, Bible studies, children's art and music programs. The ministry has also recently embarked on a journey to gather the wisdom and teachings of Indigenous elders through a series of interviews, reviving and preserving their treasured stories for generations to come.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 1 (World Communion Sunday) We give thanks for the global Christian community and all those who gather around the Lord's Table on this World Communion Sunday.

Monday, October 2 We give thanks for the staff and faculty of our theological schools. We pray that God will nurture grace, wisdom and energy in them as they seek to follow God's leading in times of enormous change and challenge.

Tuesday, October 3 We pray for those who serve partner churches outside of Canada.

Wednesday, October 4 (Sisters in Spirit) We pray for Indigenous girls and women who have faced terrible levels of violence and for the families and friends seeking justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.

Thursday, October 5 We pray for the Rev. Harry Currie, serving as synod clerk for Alberta and the Northwest.

Friday, October 6 We pray for ministers and other professional church workers who are on long term disability.

Saturday, October 7 We pray for Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario, as it provides an urban "home" for elders and young people who have endured the residential school system or have aged out of the child welfare system.

In the book of Acts, the disciples traveled far and wide to share the good news of Christ. The Rural and Remote Ministry Fund offers seminary students the opportunity to gain practical ministry experience in rural communities across the country. This summer, Nehemia Neuhisa and Howard Tuwaidan, both seminary



students, served as student ministers for the Synod of Saskatchewan. Through the experience, Nehemia and Howard were able to lead worship at 10 different congregations, support Vacation Bible School programs, serve as chaplains at Camp Christopher, and volunteer at Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. Like the early disciples, their commitment to mission and outreach was a blessing to many.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 8 We give thanks to God for the earth and all its beauty and diversity, and we pray for more just care of the earth and its resources.

Monday, October 9 (Thanksgiving) We give thanks for family, friends and food and pray for ministries that operate food banks and community pantries, providing food and fellowship for those who don't have enough of either.

Tuesday, October 10 We pray for farmers and fishers and all those who work to provide the food that nourishes us.

Wednesday, October 11 We give thanks for Lori Ransom who has been appointed as Consultant for World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples' Network (EIPN) until December

Thursday, October 12 We pray for safety and a bountiful harvest as Palestinian farmers, families and friends gather to pick olives during the harvest season.

Friday, October 13 We pray for those whose lives are inhibited by fears and the loss of dreams.

Saturday, October 14 We pray for staff in the Presbyterian Archives as they strive to preserve and catalogue the valued historic records of the church and provide effective service to the whole church and beyond.

The hardening of the US sanctions and the global financial crisis are contributing to a shortage of food, fuel, clean water and medicine in Cuba. With partners' support, the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas carries on, providing high quality, diversified theological education, and serving the community through diaconal projects. In 2022, the PCC helped improve the infrastructure for hybrid teaching and assisted with the renovation to the library and the Historical Archive. The Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham, Rector, shared at the 2023 General Assembly: "We appreciate the ways in which you accompany our work, not only providing much-needed financial support, but also through prayers."



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 15 (Student and Colleges Sunday) We give thanks to God for our three theological colleges—The Presbyterian College (Montreal, Quebec), Knox College (Toronto, Ontario) and St. Andrew's Hall/Vancouver School of Theology (British Columbia)—and we pray for the students as they prepare for ministry.

Monday, October 16 As we celebrate World Food Day, we are grateful for PWS&D programs that support sustainable agriculture and fill gaps in access to food.

Tuesday, October 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) Pray for PWS&D projects helping adults and youth build sustainable livelihoods so they can meet their needs and build bright futures.

Wednesday, October 18 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham, Rector of the Evangelical Seminary of Theology and a pastor of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba.

Thursday, October 19 We pray for ministers and professional church workers on medical leave, that they will know God's healing touch in body, mind and spirit.

Friday, October 20 We pray for stewardship and mission committees who work to inspire vision and enthusiasm.

Saturday, October 21 At this harvest time, we pray for all who lack food, that they be given a glimmer of hope and a source of food to sustain them in the days ahead.

World hunger is a more pressing global challenge than ever. An increasing number of people around the world suffer from worsening and chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. Climate change, conflict, and poverty exacerbated by global inflation are key factors worsening this crisis. Hunger threatens physical and mental well-being and hinders social and economic development. Through its partners, PWS&D is responding to the hunger crisis in East Africa, where millions of people are suffering from increased food insecurity. Conflicts, such as those in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, are forcing hundreds of thousands of families from their homes. Furthermore, extreme climate weather events across the Horn of Africa have created high hunger levels. Through PWS&D, we are helping to provide emergency support to people affected by the food crisis.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 22 We give thanks and pray for congregations and ministries that provide hot meals, and offer warmth, friendship and nourishment to those in need.

Monday, October 23 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan.

Tuesday, October 24 We pray for the safety and well-being of LGBTQI+ people seeking sanctuary and for congregations, community groups and organizations that sponsor LGBTQI+ refugees.

Wednesday, October 25 We pray that God gives the gift of perseverance to theological students preparing for service to the gospel that they may finish well.

Thursday, October 26 We pray for Winnipeg Inner City Missions, a place of reconciliation and healing that provides a safe space for people in Winnipeg's North End and inner city to grow and learn.

Friday, October 27 We pray for the members of the International Affairs Committee.

Saturday, October 28 We give thanks for the ecumenical connections that we have nationally and internationally through ministries and councils, and pray for the many Presbyterians who serve the church in ecumenical endeavours.

Anti-Black Racism in Canada: ongoing impacts of colonization

Canada's colonial history continues to shape the present, with harmful impacts on the lives today of many marginalized people and groups. One area where a history of colonization and its ongoing effects continue to do harm is through colonialism's ingrained anti-Black racism, fostered through Canada's historical involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and continued through discrimination and systemic racism against Black people in Canada.

Today, systemic anti-Black racism manifests as barriers in employment, housing, education, immigration and health care. Increasing numbers of police-reported hate crimes target Black people. According to Statistics Canada, the 318 incidents in 2020 is a 92% increase over the previous year. We know as well from news reports and statistical analysis that Black people are disproportionately represented in the use of force in encounters with police, including fatalities. The impacts of racism affect even the environment one lives in: Black, Indigenous and other People of Colour are disproportionately at risk of exposure to toxic pollutants and the health conditions they can cause, a phenomenon known as environmental racism.

The lived experiences of injustice and racism adversely affect mental, physical and emotional health, and social and spiritual wellbeing. But it doesn't have to be this way. Discrimination that is built into the pillars of society can be countered by intentionally working to dismantle these harm-causing systems, while prioritizing trauma-informed approaches informed by the lived experiences of racialized people.

What can you do?

- Learn about the intersection and impacts of colonization and racism. Use the PCC's Racism and Hate in Canada study guide online at presbyterian.ca/downloads/71629/?tmstv=1679337513.
- Write your MP, encouraging the government to develop a strategy to address environmental racism in Canada. A template is available at presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy.
- Unpack the concept of white superiority and privilege. Use the ecumenical resource "Cracking Open White Identity Towards Transformation" online at councilofchurches.ca/product/cracking-open-white-identity-towards-transformation-white-identity-power-and-privilege.

Cyclone Freddy—one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the southern hemisphere—made landfall in Malawi in March 2023. Thousands in Malawi were left homeless, and with severe crop losses, over 345,000 people were affected by the heavy rains, floods and landslides. Through its partners, PWS&D responded to this devastating disaster by providing maize flour and soya to enable families to meet their immediate food requirements. Additionally, because of critical food insecurity due to droughts and floods in the area, PWS&D implemented a three-month food assistance project for 2,500 households. This project provided food assistance in the form of cash transfers, as well as seeds to produce high-value crops.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 29 We pray for students attending theological colleges this fall and give thanks for their willingness to follow God’s call into ministry.

Monday, October 30 As the days grow shorter and colder, we pray for the homeless and underhoused and give thanks for those who provide shelter, food and friendship.

Tuesday, October 31 (Reformation Sunday) Strengthen our hearts, O God; make them eager to serve you and your purposes. Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and awaken us to the greatness of your glory and the breadth of your grace.

Wednesday, November 1 We thank God for knitting us into one fellowship; for the people who have gone ahead of us in the faith and who loved us, formed our faith and served God with joy and grace.

Thursday, November 2 We pray for the work of the Committee on Education and Reception that will be meeting this week.

Friday, November 3 We pray for healing for ministers who are incapacitated by long COVID.

Saturday, November 4 We pray for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry, which provides a sense of belonging, care, and inclusion for people of all nations, through activities that uphold Indigenous cultural practices.

In Guatemala, Leslie—a mother to four—takes great pride in the small home, built atop a former landfill site, she has owned for 15 years. To make ends meet, she sorts plastic bottles from the landfill, with her five-year-old daughter Kaitlin often accompanying her. Leslie's other daughter, Naomi, attends the PWS&D-supported Francisco Coll School. At this school, she has developed essential reading and writing skills. Leslie also participates in parenting classes, noting, "[It's] very helpful because I've changed the way I parent. I shout less. I used to come home from work and start shouting at the kids, but I've learned differently. The classes are very beneficial."



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 5 November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We pray for those facing violence in their families or relationships. We pray that decision makers enact desperately-needed housing and support for people trying to leave violence in their home.

Monday, November 6 We pray for the members of the Women's Missionary Society, past and present, and give thanks for their faithful ministry over the past 110 years.

Tuesday, November 7 We pray for young Palestinian and Syrian refugees learning marketable skills through the Electronics and Computer program of the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon.

Wednesday, November 8 We pray for congregations worried about finances, that God will provide the resources they need to do the ministry they are called to do.

Thursday, November 9 We pray for human rights educators and advocates that seek to protect human dignity and work for the flourishing of all people.

Friday, November 10 We pray for the ministry of chaplains serving in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Saturday, November 11 (Remembrance Day) We pray for all who mourn or suffer as a result of conflict and war. We ask God to protect and guide peacekeepers and those who serve in the armed forces.

We are a vibrant denomination, working together to put our faith into action. When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we share in God's mission and proclaim God's love. We participate in mission and ministry in Canada, build strong congregations, support theological colleges and provide resources and educational opportunities. We serve vulnerable people, seek justice and work toward healing and reconciliation with Indigenous people. We share Christ's love around the world, sending grants and staff to encourage, equip and accompany PCC partners in their ministry. Through Presbyterians Sharing, we make mission and ministry happen. None of this would be possible without your generous gifts.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 12 We give thanks for the ministry and mission of the Well Church (Mississauga) and pray that the congregation will continue to build a firm foundation in Christ.

Monday, November 13 We give thanks for the many Presbyterians serving on General Assembly Committees as they meet and work to support the many ministries of our church.

Tuesday, November 14 We pray for international students who have left their homelands to further their education. We give thanks for them, their families and their communities. May their faith in God sustain and comfort them in times of loneliness, sadness, and grief.

Wednesday, November 15 We pray for the Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly, and for Hummingbird Ministries, an Indigenous healing and reconciliation effort.

Thursday, November 16 We pray that we live out the commitment of this church that "all forms of racism are contrary to the will and mind of Christ," and that we seek God's promise of newness and difference if we end this form of violence; that we seek right relations as we recognize the harms done by racism, which continues to foster violence in our society.

Friday, November 17 We pray that God will continue to raise up leaders with vision, willing to honour and give glory to God by using their gifts for the on-going mission of the church.

Saturday, November 18 We pray for people who suffer from addiction, that they find hope and guidance through God's love.

The friendship between the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean and the Rev. Manias Chang Yu-fa began in 2012 when they first started working together on the Bunun Bible translation project, one of the Indigenous languages in Taiwan. In March 2023, they had just finished finalizing the entire translation when Manias was hospitalized. He passed away three months later.



Although Manias did not live to see the complete Bunun Bible, his family and friends find comfort in knowing that he knew that his translation work of many years was completed before he passed away. We give thanks for faithful servants. Paul receives support from Presbyterians Sharing for his work in Bible Translation.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 19 On World Toilet Day, we acknowledge the critical importance of sanitation and access to proper toilet facilities. We pray that PWS&D's work will give more communities access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Monday, November 20 (Transgender Day of Remembrance)

We remember those who have died because of transphobic violence. We pray for an end to hatred and commit to creating safer communities where people of all genders can thrive.

Tuesday, November 21 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Temiskaming.

Wednesday, November 22 We pray for church office administrators and custodians and all those who tend to the daily lives of the structures of congregations.

Thursday, November 23 We pray for the therapeutic treatment of malnourished children in Haiti and in Somalia through PWS&D's partners, that they may experience healthy recoveries and new beginnings

Friday, November 24 We pray and give thanks for the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan's Indigenous Pinuyumayan District churches as they celebrate 60 years of Christian mission in their area.

Saturday, November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) We pray for all women who are survivors of violence and for those who have lost loved ones to gender-based violence. We pray that we, as a society, commit to working toward achieving safety for all women and an end to misogyny.

Decolonizing Development

The movement to decolonize development is on the rise in the international relief and development community. The international development model continues to be rooted in a deeply colonial framework where power is concentrated in the global north, along with decision making, resource allocation and knowledge production.

Decolonizing is a tremendous challenge, since most of the countries of the world have borders, and political, social and economic systems that have their roots in a colonial past. The first step is to acknowledge how this legacy has impacted systems and created injustices. Only then can we redress historic wrongs and build new paths forward.

Decolonizing development is linked to localizing development. Development practices that are localized mean that decisions, accountability and power are locally rooted and made from the bottom up. This approach redistributes power in favour of the marginalized.

Our church embraces a partnership model in which we engage internationally in joint work towards common goals. This ensures that voices at the grassroots community level take the lead on identifying community needs and creating plans that will work best in each local context to address those needs.

Development initiatives should strive for larger system change, with a priority on human rights and human dignity. We must ask ourselves if the way our church and our country interact with the Global South comes from a place of self-righteousness or, instead, a position of humility and responsibility. Decolonized development challenges us to view money not as charity or aid, but rather as solidarity and support.

What can you do?

- Raise these issues with your elected representatives, especially as the government fails to meet its own goals for international development spending. Let them know that you are in favour of Canada contributing its fair share to countries in need, given that much of Canada's wealth has come from a legacy of colonial systems.

Over the past two years, Canadian aid organizations advocated to remove legal barriers to much-needed aid in Afghanistan. The barriers prevented aid organizations, including PWS&D, from providing urgent humanitarian



assistance since the Taliban took control in August 2021. The recent parliamentary adoption of Bill C-41 now enables Canadian aid organizations to provide crucial aid in Afghanistan safely and effectively. Bill C-41 is vital to improving access to health care, ensuring access to food, water and sanitation, education, and protecting human dignity. As winter approaches, the needs are even greater. PWS&D will now support work in Afghanistan once again—an important step in coping with political, economic and climate adversity for many in the country.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 26 (Reign of Christ Sunday) Almighty and everlasting God, wrapped in glory; as you are compassionate, make us kind; as you are just, make us doers of justice; as you are one, unite us in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Monday, November 27 Creator, we give thanks for the wisdom of Indigenous elders and their desire to share their stories and teachings with future generations.

Tuesday, November 28 We pray for all those who lead and contribute to the ministry of worship and praise in congregations at this sacred and busy time of year.

Wednesday, November 29 Transform, O God, curiosity into call by the grace of your Holy Spirit for the sake of the church and the world you so love.

Thursday, November 30 We pray for Place of Hope Presbyterian Church as they minister to Indigenous people in the inner city of Winnipeg, Manitoba by providing spiritual and tangible care.

Friday, December 1 We pray for PWS&D's partners in Malawi who are helping reduce the spread of HIV infections among youth and promoting positive, healthy, sustainable living with access to life-saving treatments.

Saturday, December 2 We pray for Edmonton Urban Native Ministry which offers a range of services to Indigenous people through their drop-in centre, located at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

In Malawi, Jennifer joined a program for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) supported by PWS&D. When she was in Grade 5, Jennifer lost both of her parents to HIV and was cared for by her great-aunt. Jennifer is also HIV positive and is undergoing treatment. Through the OVC program, Jennifer received training in tailoring as well as beekeeping. Now 19 years old, Jennifer has just had her first honey harvest, yielding 5 kg of honey, which she sold to buy food. Jennifer now dreams of volunteering with a local tailor, hoping to secure a paid job in the field. With the skills she learned from this program, Jennifer is able to live positively with HIV and earn a livelihood to support herself.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 3 Nourish us with hope during this season of waiting, O God, as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.

Monday, December 4 We pray for students from theological colleges who will be graduating in December.

Tuesday, December 5 Pray for the spirit of resilience to move among refugees around the world and remember the PWS&D work that helps protect their rights.

Wednesday, December 6 (National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women) We pray for the healing and wellbeing of women who experience violence and for God's guidance that we may build communities that do not tolerate misogyny and gender-based violence.

Thursday, December 7 We pray for those who find this time of year a time of mourning and sadness.

Friday, December 8 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island.

Saturday, December 9 We pray for the Women's Missionary Society Council Executive members as they prepare for the WMS Council meeting and celebration of the 110th WMS Anniversary to be held in May 2024.

In northern Ghana, people living with disabilities face a range of issues, such as widespread poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities and health care, and social barriers to full inclusion. Political, environmental, and economic challenges work together to create those difficult conditions. PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana



in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to address these challenges through vocational skills training programs such as soap and pomade making. Ateni Lois, a participant in the soap-making class, expresses her gratitude, stating, "We are so grateful to the CBR program and PWS&D for equipping us with the skills to be able to produce soap and pomade for money. Very soon, we will be in good business and will be out of poverty in our respective communities."

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday December 10 (Human Rights Day) Give us peace in our relationships, homes, churches, communities and in our souls, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us again.

Monday, December 11 Let us take time during this consumer-driven Christmas season to think about and be thankful for what it means to have "enough".

Tuesday, December 12 This Advent, we give thanks for PWS&D's global partners equipping marginalized communities as they discover hope, peace, joy and love.

Wednesday, December 13 We pray for ministers and professional church workers who will be retiring from active service.

Thursday, December 14 We give thanks for LGBTQI+ community organizations that provide support, social connection, and advocacy for queer and trans people.

Friday, December 15 We pray for the Rev. Stewart Folster and the people at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church on Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation.

Saturday, December 16 Bless those who teach and those who learn in our theological colleges with humility, good humour and joy.

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, The Well Church (Mississauga) provides a welcoming space for those who identify as a third culture community; that is, one that is neither the culture of mostly immigrant parents nor the dominant culture of Canadian society. In a post-pandemic world, the ministry



has decided to re-set their focus around spiritual formation, in everything from small groups to children's ministry, retreats and conferences. They are also training leaders to be elders with spiritual formation at the centre. By focusing on spiritual formation and becoming more Christ-like, the congregation has not only grown closer as a community, but they also feel better equipped to share their personal stories of hope and transformation with friends and neighbours.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 17 Give us joy, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us.

Monday, December 18 (International Migrants Day) We pray decision makers address much-needed protections for the rights of migrant workers and open just and fair pathways to permanent residence in Canada.

Tuesday, December 19 We pray and give thanks for the Rev. Daniel Cheng, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Taiwan, as he retires after nine years of dedicated service.

Wednesday, December 20 We pray for the congregation of St. Andrew's, Lunenburg as they work through the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry.

Thursday, December 21 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Theresa Charlton, serving as synod clerk for British Columbia.

Friday, December 22 We pray for the treasurers of congregations who work hard all year to keep the financial books in order.

Saturday, December 23 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Two Rivers Church as they open their hearts and homes to those living in Guelph, ON.

Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 24 We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day) We thank you, loving God for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings reconciliation. May we come to know you more clearly and serve you more faithfully as we receive the Christ Child again.

Tuesday, December 26 For Christ, there was no room in the inn; we pray for those who seek shelter. Christ had to flee his birthplace; we pray for those who seek refuge. Christ read scripture as a child; we pray that God's wisdom will enlighten our minds and direct our paths.

Wednesday, December 27 We pray for Cedar Tree Ministries, an outreach ministry for Indigenous people on Vancouver Island that hopes to bring healing and reconciliation between the church and the First Nations, as well as to worship God.

Thursday, December 28 We pray for Bishop Szablocs Bogdán as he provides leadership to the Reformed Church in Romania, Királyhágómellék District for the next five years.

Friday, December 29 We give thanks for the Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the General Assembly, and the connections she is making with congregations and individuals as she serves the church.

Saturday, December 30 Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that God's love blesses and fills the world.

Dhai, a woman in her early forties from Pakistan, has faced hardships throughout her life. She cared for her husband, who was disabled, until his death. She later became the sole provider for her family, working as a cook for a local landowner, which allowed her to support her family. Heavy rains in Pakistan in 2022 caused her house to collapse, leaving her family without a home. Through all this Dhai remained hopeful as she explained, "If the aid comes, it will be good." Fortunately, Dhai and her family found solace and assistance through the PWS&D-supported Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development project, which provided them with essential food aid as well as better resilience to future disasters.



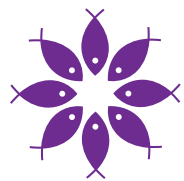
DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 31 We end the year in praise for God's loving kindness and care, and we pray for peace in the world.

One Mission, Two Funds

Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development make a difference!

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 staff, funded through Presbyterians Sharing, often work with PWS&D partners.



**Praying together
Acting together
Giving together**



The
**Presbyterian
Church**
in Canada

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
1-800-619-7301 | presbyterian.ca