

**A Prayer of Remembrance and Healing,  
September 11, 2016**

God of all creation, our hearts are broken over the destruction and loss we remember this day. And we acknowledge, O Lord, that on that day of human carnage yours was the first heart to break. In our remembering, may we stand with those who mourn and those who cannot stop mourning. Through remembering, may we find new comfort in your care. In our remembering may we be drawn to a new hope for the whole world, and may we gain for ourselves a measure of your peace.

You who can turn the shadow of night into the bright promise of a new day, empower us to shape a world marked by ways of life that lead to justice and peace for all peoples. Fashion in us a people who are more ready to grow in understanding than eager to judge those who are different from us. Form us as a people determined to heal wounds rather than inflict them.

We pray at last that you would cultivate such love in us that we may reach out in compassion

to all those who are still wounded by the events of that day; and in seeking to heal others, may we experience a love that makes us whole. This we pray in the strong name of Jesus our Christ. Amen.



2016 JOINT ARMSS/POAMN CONFERENCE  
Christian Discipleship: People Of The Spirit, People Of Hope  
OCTOBER 11-14, 2016, Four Points By Sheraton, 9901 Midlothian Tpk., Richmond, VA. Oct. 12 and 13 are full days of workshops for older adults and for those who serve them. Scholarships are available to help with registration costs.

Skip and I are members of the Older Adult Purpose Group of the POJ; join us!

"A new command I give you: *Love one another ... By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" John 13: 34

<http://www.poamn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/16-Conference-Brochure.pdf>

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# Wee Kirk Gazette

## Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

The Most Welcoming Presbyterian Church in Essex County

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### THE TABLE IS SET

"Can God spread a table in the wilderness?" —Psalm 78:19 The Peace & Global Witness Offering exists to ignite a movement of Presbyterians engaged in the Christian witness of peacemaking and reconciliation. For generations, and to the ends of the earth, Presbyterians have borne witness to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Our witness has been profound in our own communities and in places we ourselves have never been, around the corner and around the world.

Gifts to the Offering support ministries that deepen relationships between Presbyterians and inspiring peacemaking leaders as well as opportunities to learn more about some of the most difficult areas of conflict around the world. These ministries offer resources Presbyterians can use to create peace in their midst, as well as respond to cultures of violence all over the world. By sharing the money raised, the Offering allows the local congregation (25%), mid councils (25%), and ministries at the national level (50%) to deepen their commitment to the transforming work of the Spirit.

This year's theme is inspired by the cry from a people feeling abandoned to a cruel existence: The psalmist quotes the people as they ask; "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?" In response, the author reminds the people that the God who delivered them from bondage in Egypt could not only spread a table in the wilderness, but had already done so over and over again.

For many of us, it is easy to see the violence around us and hear of the violence across the globe and feel as though it is a wilderness we are abandoned to. In the stories shared here, we hope you see just a few of the

ways that God spreads a table of peace where the world offers violence and division. They serve as reminders of times when people have been brought together at "tables" of all types. From tables where hard conversations have taken place, to tables where people sat in protest against injustice, to tables where seemingly intractable hate was transformed into compassion and community. All these tables are God's. Even in our doubts, our fears, or suffering, God can spread a table of peace for all to share. It is revealed anew at the communion table.

On World Communion Sunday, people are joined from all over God's earth, looking at our world and our lives and asking, "Can God spread a table even in this wilderness? Even in my wilderness?" To which God responds and says, "Come to the table of peace." Your congregation's support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering helps invite others to the table, both near and far.

As always, congregations and mid councils determine how best to use their portion of the Offering to engage in peace work and global witness. Your church may choose to support local peacemaking initiatives or community-based ministries. Your congregation may wish to offer assistance to immigrants, support the work of a mission co-worker, or provide financial support to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. You may send participants on mission trips, on overseas work projects, or to attend global conferences. This year, we again come together as we have been sent—from east and west, and from north and south—to join God in the invitation to "Come to the Table of Peace." Thank you for your support of this vital offering.





