

# The Homesteader

A Publication of Homestead Presbytery



November 19, 2013 Issue

Dear Kris

## [Homesteader Print Version](#)

Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.

## **PDA HAS SET UP ACCOUNT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHILIPPINES TYPHOON RELIEF: ALL PC(USA) MISSION WORKERS REPORTED SAFE**

Jerry L. VanMarter, *Presbyterian News Service*

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has established an account to receive contributions to relief efforts following the devastating typhoon that struck the Philippines Nov. 8. Donors may also text PDA to 20222 on their smartphones to give \$10 (standard SMS rates may apply).

Contributions may be made through regular church channels, designated for account #DR000012-Philippines Typhoon.

PDA and its ecumenical partners-including the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, the Asia Disaster Response and Recovery Network, Church World Service (CWS) and the ACT Alliance-are readying appropriate relief responses to victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

To read more of this article, go [here](#).



Dear Mid Council Leaders,

## **Advent Devotional**

The Homestead Presbytery Advent Devotional is now available to [download](#).

[Channing-Bete](#) also has some great Advent calendars for kids and families.

## **All Youth Invited to Summer Missions**

**Camp** four work days (5-6 hours ea) and a Sabbath/Free Day at the end of the week. Work sites/projects are lined up with help from the Y's Volunteer Coordinator.

**Where:** Estes Park, CO.  
YMCA Camp of The Rockies

**When:** June 2-8, 2014

[More Info](#)

## **Related Links**

[Mission Yearbook of Prayer](#)  
[View daily online for free](#)

[FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org](http://FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org)

[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)

[Synod of Lakes & Prairies](#)

[More About Homestead](#)

Through the Christmas Joy Offering (CJO), Presbyterian congregations have long expressed their compassion for others, especially for those who serve the PC(USA). This Offering is received for the equal benefit of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA).

Today, the Church's decreased size, coupled with the economic challenges of the times, results in lower receipts from the Offering. Unfortunately, there has not been a corresponding drop in church workers' need for financial assistance; rather, the need continues to grow. Broad, sustained support of the CJO is critical to the Assistance Program's being able to continue its core ministry: providing income and housing supplements to qualifying retired church workers and their families, and assistance to eligible church workers and their families with unexpected financial needs.

Later this month, the Board of Pensions will again send a letter to churches that participated in previous CJOs, encouraging them to receive the 2013 Christmas Joy Offering. I ask that you, too, remind churches within your bounds of the importance of this Offering and hope you will consider setting an example yourself by supporting it.

You can hear from those whose lives were touched by the Assistance Program in the Board's video [A Gift from the Church to the Church](#) (about six minutes long). Or, read [these brief examples](#) of needs met through the Assistance Program and funded by the CJO. I encourage you to share both communications with others, whether by linking to them on your website or sharing them at meetings.

This year, congregations may order CJO materials from the PC(USA) website. For more information about the Offering, please contact Margaret Boone, Project Manager, Special Offerings, at 888-728-7228, ext. 5183, or by email at [margaret.boone@pcusa.org](mailto:margaret.boone@pcusa.org).

As always, you can [give to the Assistance Program directly online](#) at any time of year, but your gift is especially helpful now, when the need for funding is at its height.

May you and yours enjoy the blessings of Advent and Christmas!

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Peter C. Sime  
Vice President, Assistance, CREDO & Funds Development

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Calvin Crest Camp &  
Conference Center

*Let us give thanks...*  
A service of gratitude for all faiths

Sunday, November 24, 2013 2:00 p.m.  
All faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hosted by: Congregation B'nai Jeshurun The South Street Temple 20th &  
South Streets, Lincoln



Will include an Interfaith Choir,  
if interested contact Brian Pfoltnr,  
[musicdir@fpclincoln.org](mailto:musicdir@fpclincoln.org).  
The choir will meet and rehearse  
beforehand at 1:00.

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry -  
Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome!  
Please submit articles to Jessica at [hpooffice@homesteadpres.org](mailto:hpooffice@homesteadpres.org)  
or mail to 8300 East Pointe Rd. Lincoln, NE 68506

**Contact Information**

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson  
Homestead Presbytery office, Jessica Kottmeyer

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