

2023

*Birthday  
Offering*

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time,  
if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity,  
let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*

–Galatians 6:9–10\*

Give or learn more about the *Birthday Offering* by visiting [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](https://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).



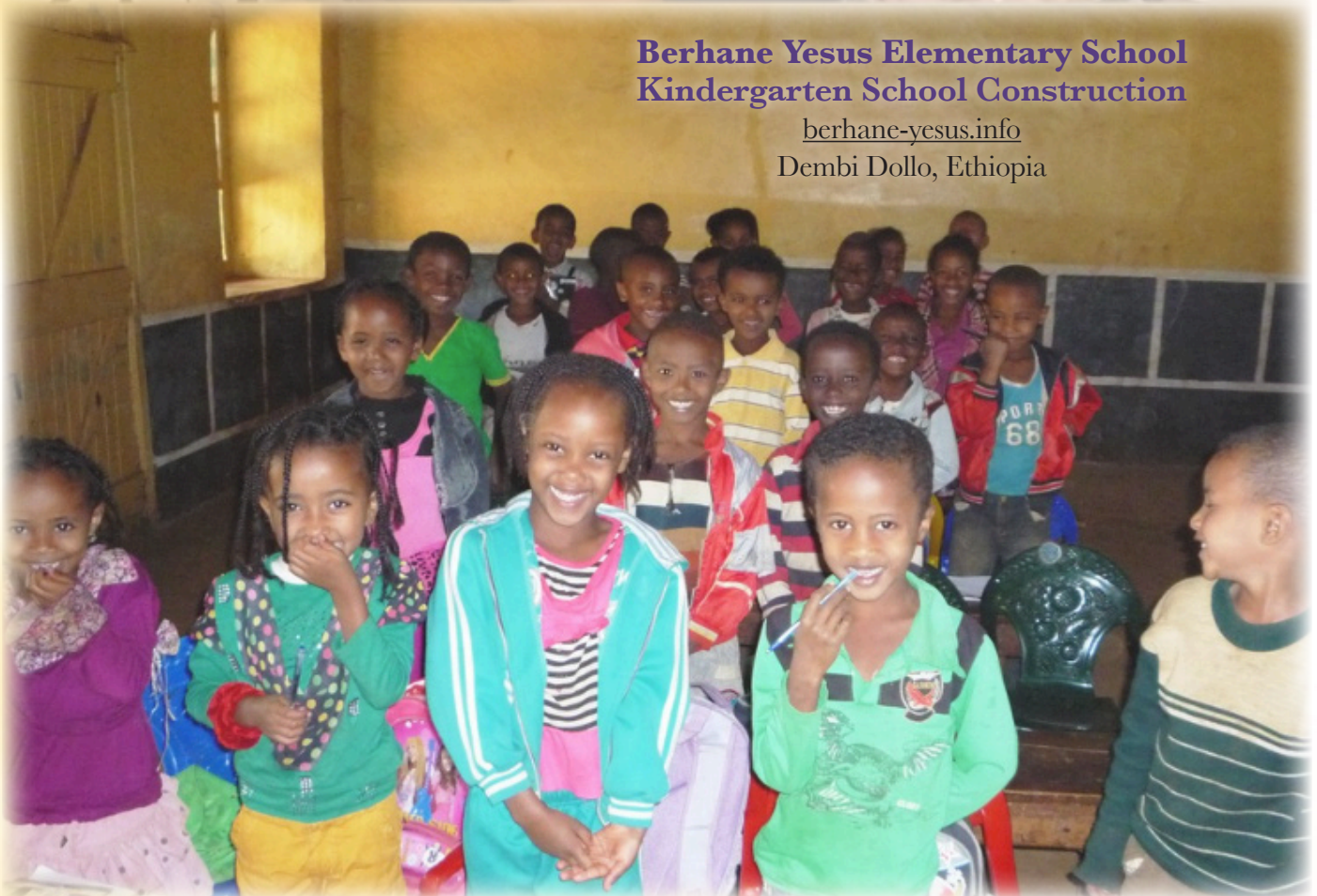
**Making Miracles Group Home  
Phase II Group Home**

[makingmiraclesgrouphome.org](http://makingmiraclesgrouphome.org)  
Tallahassee, Florida



**Berhane Yesus Elementary School  
Kindergarten School Construction**

[berhane-yesus.info](http://berhane-yesus.info)  
Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia





# 2023 Birthday Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Dear Friends,

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women was born in 1922 when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged each member of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift" to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the organization. To encourage giving, women were asked to offer "a penny for every year you have lived, and if that is a secret, bring a dollar!" For 101 years, Presbyterian women have given to this offering and helped provide transformative grants to projects throughout the world. As members of the Creative Ministries Offering Committee, we are eager for you to learn about the projects chosen this year and we ask that you share this information with PW participants in your area to help promote and celebrate our tradition of giving!

## 2023 Birthday Offering Recipients

### **Making Miracles Group Home**

#### **Phase II Group Home**

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

Tallahassee, Florida

\$150,000

### **Berhane Yesus Elementary School**

#### **Kindergarten School Construction**

[berhane-yesus.info](http://berhane-yesus.info)

Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia

\$99,400

This booklet contains a description of the 2023 recipients, a dedication service, suggestions for celebrating the Birthday Offering, an 11" x 17" page for use as a promotional poster or a placemat and the resource flier listing all materials available for download and print.

*Horizons*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women, publishes the Birthday Offering grant recipient list and dedication service in the January/February issue. Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe](http://presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe) or call 866/802-3635 to subscribe! Print subscribers receive the annual Bible study as part of their subscription (more details are available online).

Please send your Birthday Offering gifts to the PW treasurer in your presbytery. Individuals can give online any time at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](http://presbyterianwomen.org/give).

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Birthday Offering and Presbyterian Women.

Blessings,

*Creative Ministries Offering Committee*

Creative Ministries Offering Committee  
Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.







2023

# Birthday Offering

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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and especially for those of the family of faith.*  
—Galatians 6:9–10

## Birthday Offering Recipients

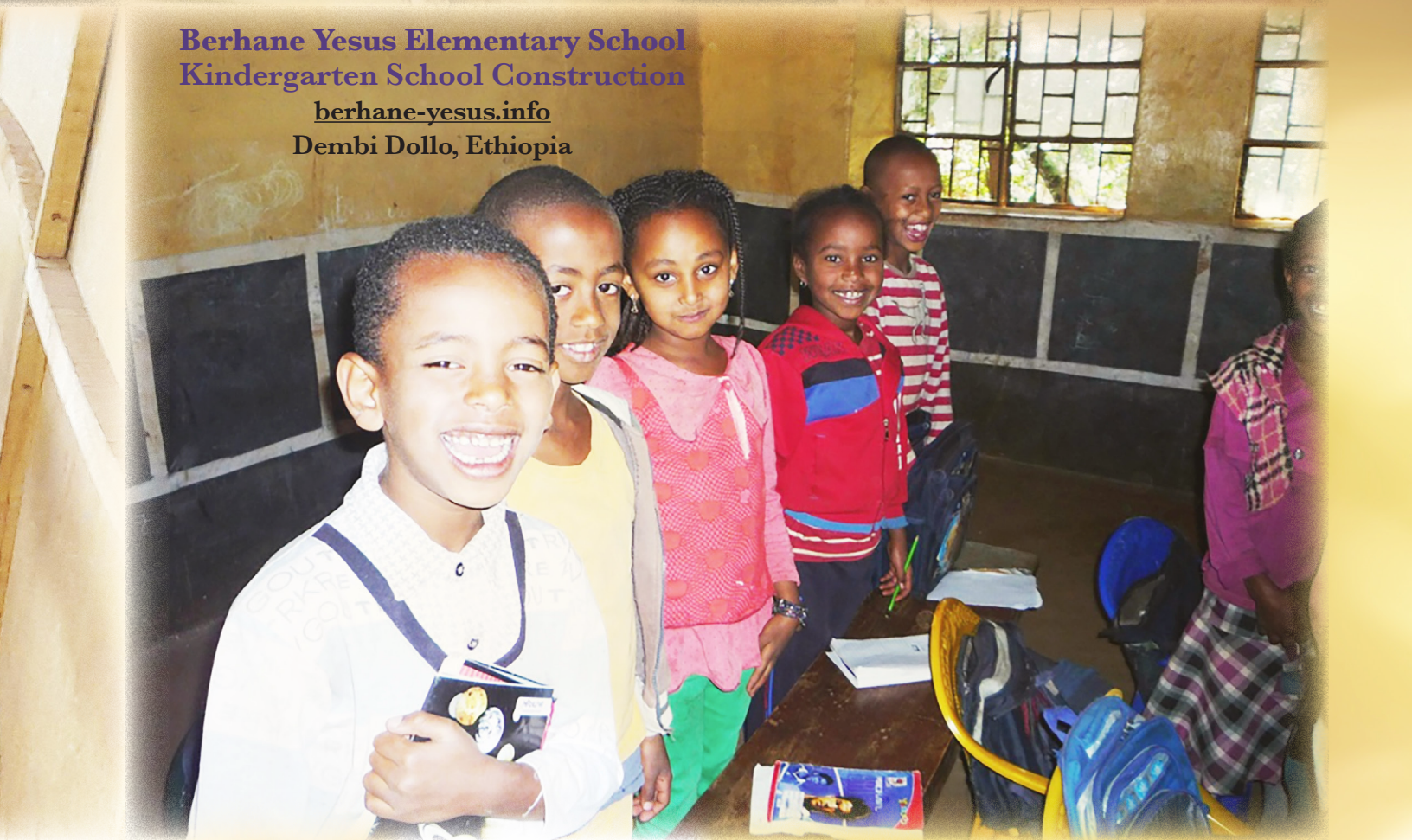
The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates our history of generous giving. Launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman’s Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering has become an annual tradition. Over the last century, these grants have funded over 200 major mission projects that continue to impact people in the United States and around the world. Today’s participants in Presbyterian Women continue in this long and generous tradition by supporting projects that matter. Support the Birthday Offering so that organizations like the ones selected for 2023 will continue to thrive and “work for the good of all” (Gal. 6:10). Give through your PW group or at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](https://presbyterianwomen.org/give).







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[makingmiraclesgrouphome.org](http://makingmiraclesgrouphome.org)  
Tallahassee, Florida  
\$150,000

Making Miracles Group Home (MMGH) helps young mothers break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration and early motherhood—a repeating pattern that is difficult to break and overcome. Since its inception in 2010, MMGH has served over 100 women and their children by providing a one-year, live-in program designed to support young mothers and help them develop skills to live independently and care for their children.

Current eligibility criteria require residents to be pregnant and/or have a single child up to age three, but mothers who have a single child older than age three or multiple children often seek help. With the Birthday Offering grant, MMGH will purchase a second group home to serve an additional five families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. With loving support and tools to establish stable, permanent housing, these families can look forward to a hopeful and successful future.







**Berhane Yesus Elementary School  
Kindergarten School Construction**

[berhane-yesus.info](http://berhane-yesus.info)  
Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia  
\$99,400

Berhane Yesus Elementary School, located in the western highlands of Ethiopia, seeks to change lives by sharing the “Light of Jesus” and by providing the best possible educational experience for the children of Dembi Dollo. Berhane Yesus provides children with the possibility of a better future by preparing them for a rigorous high school education and a life of Christian service. The school is the first entry point to education for children of subsistence farmers, migrant workers and displaced groups of people.

This K-8th grade school has been serving the community and been a part of the Presbyterian Church in this rural community since 1921. A kindergarten was added to the school in 2012, but with no available space for class, the children met in the chapel. Over the years the number of kindergarten students has increased and now space of their own is not only needed but is required by the government to remain open. Western Wollega Bethel Synod provided land for the classroom and the Birthday Offering grant will provide all necessary funding for its construction.





# Sowing Hope for All

## Dedication Service

BY MARY KATE SYKES

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*

—Galatians 6:9–10

### Call to Worship

**One:** We gather together in spirit to worship the Lord our God.

**All:** **Let us not grow weary.**

**One:** In our coming and in our going, we sow seeds of hope, light and love.

**All:** **So that we might reap at harvest time, for the good of all.**

**One:** We give thanks for our family of faith,

**All:** **and the Lord our God who binds us together.**

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

### Hymn Suggestions\*

“Come! Live in the Light!” (GtG 749)

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” (GtG 753)

### Meditation

StoryPeople, a family-run art and gift company, creates whimsical little prints with short sayings that capture our shared humanity and our collective call to live and live well. Based out of Iowa, StoryPeople “spends [their] days making art and thinking about things like whether it is worth the extra effort to toast the bread before you make a sandwich, or the true meaning of flowers or what the world would be like if everyone tried a bit harder to be nice to each other.”<sup>1</sup>

Some of their prints are quite silly, bringing a laugh to the surface, and others offer comfort or gratitude.

I’m drawn to the prints that speak of hope, “Packets of Light” being one of them. It reads, “These are little packets of light and you need to plant them early in the year and remember to mark where they were because lots of times they look like weeds in the beginning and it’s not until later that you see how beautiful they really are.”<sup>2</sup> This particular print reminds me of Paul’s encouragement to the churches in Galatia—not only because of the imagery of planting, reaping and sowing, but because of its hopeful orientation toward the future.

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith* (Galatians 6:9–10).

In these verses, we see a correlation between what one sows and what one harvests. The gardeners and farmers among us know this well, as do those of us who benefit from the seasonal flavors of harvest—sweet summer strawberries and ripe heirloom tomatoes. The use of an agricultural



metaphor would have resonated with folks in antiquity, just as it resonates with us today. Verses 9 and 10 come on the heels of a message (Galatians 6:1–10) that has been titled in the NRSV as “Bear One Another’s Burdens,” in the NIV as “Doing Good to All,” and in the CEB as “Caring and Sharing.” Thus, it is in the larger pericope that we hear what it is, exactly, that we ought to persevere in—what we ought to not grow weary in. In other words, we hear what our responsibilities are. This brings out the second and fourth grade teacher in me. At the beginning of every school year, my students, co-teacher and I used to sit down together to create a “Class Covenant.” This often included statements like, “Be kind. Do my best and ask for help when I need to. Be safe and look out for the safety of others. Respect other people, places and things. Have fun.” It was a list of responsibilities that, as teachers, we hoped would contribute to establishing a community of trust and belonging, safety and growth.

While perhaps not quite so elementary, Paul also writes of responsibilities that he hopes will contribute to establishing a community of trust and belonging, safety and growth among the churches in Galatia. The responsibility is this: bear burdens, embody a spirit of gentleness, be wary of spiritual pride. All this, Paul writes, *for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*

The call is not to persevere with the intention of reaping harvest for self, despite all natural inclinations to do so. The call is to persevere for the good of all, to look beyond self, to see another, and to recognize our home together in the *family of faith.*

Through the PW Birthday Offering, we receive and act upon this charge year after year by supporting communities near and far—communities who are also receiving and acting upon this charge through creative offerings of service to their own communities. This offering, in many ways, is a little packet of light. We plant early in the year, with love and hope and prayer, trusting that with God’s help we will later say, “how beautiful.” May it be so.

## Prayer of Dedication

Gardener God, you sow new seeds each day, tenderly planting little packets of light that, by your grace, will one day be harvested. Today we pray for your nourishing hand over this year’s Birthday Offering, which will support children of the community in Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia, and mothers and children in Tallahassee, Florida. We know, Gardener God, the importance of stable community—the essential ingredient in

the soil around us that allows for flourishing. May the gifts we bring to you and share through this year’s Birthday Offering contribute to the nourishing and flourishing of your beloved children. Amen.

## Hymn Suggestions\*

“Will You Come and Follow Me” (GtG 726)  
“Let Us Build a House” (GtG 301)

## Charge and Benediction

Keep your eyes wide open,  
your hands willing,  
your hearts generous,  
your ears attentive,  
your senses awake,  
your feet light,  
your hope alive,  
and your faith on fire.

### Let us not grow weary.

Go and shine wherever you may be.  
Go and embrace with tenderness  
all of life  
with its sorrow and joys.

### Let us not grow weary.

Go and know what divinity expects  
and what your [siblings] seek.  
May the creative force bless you.  
May the divine solidarity sustain you.  
And may you be encouraged and enveloped by  
the tender breath that brings freedom.<sup>3</sup>

\* Hymns marked “GtG” are from *Glory to God* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013).

Mary Kate Sykes is a young women’s representative at large on the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women and serves as a pastoral resident for education at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Notes

1. “About Us,” StoryPeople, accessed October 15, 2022, [storypeople.com/pages/about-us](https://storypeople.com/pages/about-us).
2. “Packets of Light Prints (classic),” StoryPeople, accessed November 4, 2022, [storypeople.com/collections/classic-prints/products/packets-of-light-prints?variant=31224828919919](https://storypeople.com/collections/classic-prints/products/packets-of-light-prints?variant=31224828919919).
3. Adapted from Cláudio Carvalhaes, *Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 58.

2023 Birthday Offering  
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN





## IDEAS TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OFFERING

- 1 Host a “throwback” birthday party with cake, decorations, music and costumes from each decade starting with the 1920s.
- 2 Give a presentation about the beginnings of the Birthday Offering and its recipients over the years or hold a trivia contest with questions about Presbyterian Women, the Birthday Offering and important women in your community. Catherine Stewart Vaughn’s book, *Messages of Hope and Reconciliation: 75 Years of the Birthday Offering* (1922–1997), brims with interesting details and is now on sale through the PW Shop for \$3! Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop), item #PWR00507.
- 3 Set out twelve birthday baskets with a different theme for each month and invite people to “vote” for their favorite with their dollars. See which month collects the most for the offering!
- 4 Use the Birthday Offering bulletin cover and insert in your church’s worship service. Collect the offering in boxes covered in birthday gift wrap.
- 5 Host a meal and ask each table hostess to decorate her table. Have a contest for the winning table!
- 6 Challenge everyone in your church to make a gift to the offering, telling the story of Ms. Winsborough’s encouragement for women to give a penny for each year of her life as a “birthday gift” for mission in 1922.
- 7 Throw a churchwide birthday party. Decorate tables for 12 months of the year and list everyone’s birthday that falls in in each month.
- 8 Illustrate the Birthday Offering’s worldwide reach by placing tacks or stickers on a map to show grant recipients over the years. Use as a paper display or as a slide in an online presentation. Find the list at [presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/birthday-offering-years](http://presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/birthday-offering-years).



- 9 Host a rummage sale, with proceeds benefitting the Birthday Offering.
- 10 Have a virtual birthday celebration! Play the Birthday Offering video, available on PW's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](https://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen).
- 11 Drop off a cupcake and Birthday Offering materials to the homes of Presbyterian women who cannot attend in-person events.



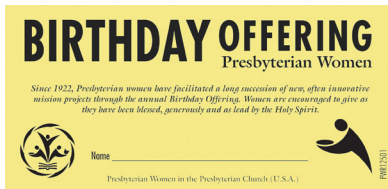
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# SUPPORT THE BIRTHDAY OFFERING

## Group gift

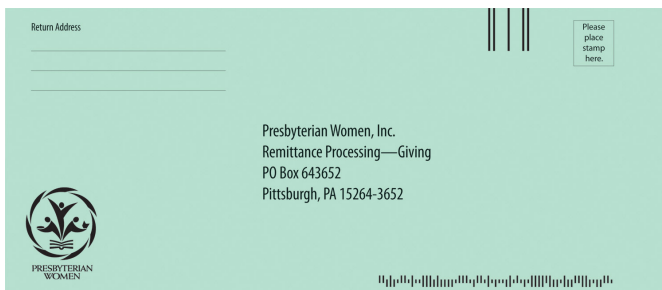


PW group members can support the Birthday Offering with cash or checks. Envelopes to receive gifts from a group are available free of charge in packs of 25 from the PW Shop ([presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop); item PWR12501) or the PC(USA) Store (800/533-4371).

**PW in the Congregation treasurers**, please receive your Birthday Offering gifts and send to your PW in the Presbytery treasurer.

**PW in the Presbytery treasurers**, please send your Birthday Offering gifts with your presbytery's other quarterly contributions to Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652. If you need a remittance form, contact Rhonda Martin at [rhonda.martin@pcusa.org](mailto:rhonda.martin@pcusa.org) or 844/PW-PCUSA (844/797-2872), ext. 5596.

## Individual gift



If you are giving outside a PW group, use the individual giving envelope. You may give by check or credit card with this envelope and will receive a tax receipt for your gift. Fill out the envelope completely, including your presbytery and synod so they will receive credit for your gift. Envelopes to receive these gifts are available free of

charge in packs of 10 from the PW Shop ([presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop); item PWR20456) or the PC(USA) Store (800/533-4371).

Tip: Distribute these envelopes to your congregation for even wider support of the Birthday Offering.

## Online Giving

[Make a Donation →](#)

Make a secure online gift at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](http://presbyterianwomen.org/give).

## We don't want to miss anyone!

Help us keep contact information current. When leaders, such as treasurers and moderators in your congregation, presbytery and/or synod change, please let us know. Email changes to [patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org](mailto:patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org).





2023

# *Birthday Offering*

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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—Galatians 6:9-10\*





# 2023 Birthday Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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—Galatians 6:9-10

Since 1922, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. This year's Birthday Offering recipients are:

**Making Miracles Group Home  
Phase II Group Home**  
[makingmiraclesgrouphome.org](http://makingmiraclesgrouphome.org)  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Berhane Yesus Elementary School  
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[berhane-yesus.info](http://berhane-yesus.info)  
Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia

## Resources to Promote the 2023 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women

### *Essentials*

The **2023 Birthday Offering promotional booklet**, which is mailed to PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a greeting from the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women; ideas to promote and support the Birthday Offering; a poster/placemat; and promotional resource flier. *Available as a download in English, Korean and Spanish as well!* Item PWR23451; free.

The 11" x 17" 2023 Birthday Offering poster/placemat is versatile: use side one as a poster suitable for bulletin boards and trifolds; use side two as a placemat for dinners and tabletops. Available as singles so order as many (or as few) as needed! Item PWR23453; free.

### *Receiving the Offering*

**Birthday Offering group giving envelopes**, traditionally used in PW circles and congregations, are available in packs of 25; item PWR12501; free.

**Individual giving envelopes** are PW's multipurpose envelopes. These #10 green envelopes include an attached slip that allows an individual (or group) to choose where to direct gifts as well as an area for credit card information. Available in packs of 10; item PWR20456; free.

**2023 Birthday Offering bulletin insert** — Download only; item PWR23450; [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

**2023 Birthday Offering bulletin cover** (8½" x 11") — Download only; item PWR23452; [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

**2023 Birthday Offering promotional video** (English, Spanish and Korean) — Available on PW's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](http://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen).

### *More to Explore!*

The **January/February 2023 issue of Horizons magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Available to order January 2023; item HZN23200 \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit [presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://presbyterianwomen.org/horizons) to subscribe!)

**Messages of Reconciliation and Hope: 75 Years of Birthday Offerings, 1922-1997**, by Catherine Stewart Vaughn. Item PWR00507, \$12.00, on sale for \$3.00.

### *Two Ways to Order*

- Call 800/533-4371, Monday–Friday, 10 AM–5 PM EST.
- Or shop online at [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop) (type "Birthday Offering" in the search box).

**Note:** There are no shipping charges for free/promotional offering materials. Have a PW leadership change? If so, contact [patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org](mailto:patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org) (or call 844/797-2872, ext. 8015) so she can ensure that PW resources are mailed to the "proper" PW!





## Promotional Video Online!

To view the free 2023 Birthday Offering promotional video in English, Korean and Spanish, go to PW's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](https://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen).

To order additional copies of the booklet or poster/placemat, call 800/533-4371 or visit [presbyterianwomen.org/shop](https://presbyterianwomen.org/shop). To download copies of the promotional booklet, flier, bulletin cover and bulletin insert, go to [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](https://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

**Cheri Harper**  
Mission Associate

Presbyterian Women in the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396  
502/569-5402  
844/PW-PCUSA (844/797-2872)  
FAX 502/569-8026  
cheri.harper@pcusa.org  
www.presbyterianwomen.org





## 2023 *Birthday Offering*

Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Nonprofit  
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U.S. Postage  
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Louisville, KY  
Permit No. 1215

# 2023 *Birthday Offering* OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Learn more and give to the  
Birthday Offering of  
Presbyterian Women at  
[presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](https://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).



[presbyterianwomen.org](https://presbyterianwomen.org)

PWR23451