

# 2023 Thank Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

*And be thankful.* —Colossians 3:14–15



Learn more about the  
*Thank Offering*  
of Presbyterian Women at  
[presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank).



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Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc.  
First Neighborhood Building



Troy Area United Ministries  
Tech for Teens



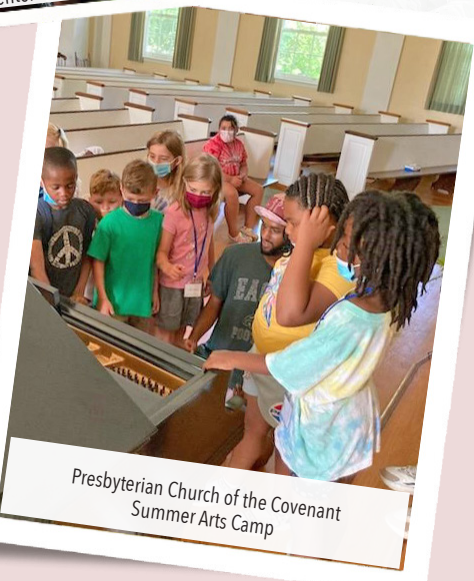
Light for the Darkness New Worshipping Community  
Grounded Gardening



Church of Central Africa  
Presbyterian Synod of Zambia Health Department  
Phalaza Rural Health Center



Okra Abbey New Worshipping Community  
Solar Power for Resilience



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant  
Summer Arts Camp



Gainesville Community Counseling Center, Inc.  
Building Resilience Through Mindfulness



Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank) to learn more, give online and download resources.



# 2023 Thank Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Dear Friends,

Please join the Presbyterian Women Creative Ministries Offering Committee as we clothe ourselves in love, recognize the bonds that bring everyone together, allow the peace of Christ to rule and show our thanks to God (Col 3:14–15).

By giving to the Thank Offering, we support ministries that lift up people through arts and technology programs, community gardening projects, mental health outreach, safe housing, improved access to health care, and so much more. When Presbyterian women gather together our hopes and our funds, we provide meaningful, life-changing grants to projects at home and abroad, demonstrating how women of faith working together are a powerful force for good in God's world.

Help us promote and celebrate the projects chosen this year for the Thank Offering and encourage broad participation in giving to this vital grant-making program of Presbyterian Women.

Inside this booklet, you will find

- an overview of the 2023 recipients,
- an offering dedication service,
- suggestions for promoting and supporting the Thank Offering,
- an 11" x 17" page for use as a promotional poster or a placemat, and
- the resource flier listing all Thank Offering materials available for download and print.

Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank) for downloadable bulletin covers, bulletin inserts and videos. You can also order collection envelopes, the poster/placemat and additional booklets.

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

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

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

Blessings,

*Creative Ministries Offering Committee*

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

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Each year faithful givers demonstrate their thankfulness to God through giving to the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women. This program began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. A century later, the newly formed Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted the Thank Offering as one of the two grant making programs of the national organization. Since then, more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world have benefitted from the generosity of thousands of Presbyterian women through an offering that originated with the vision and leadership of one thankful woman.

It has been 135 years since Eliza first called upon women to give a “thank offering to her Lord” and support mission initiatives at home and abroad. Today Presbyterian Women celebrates that we are bound by history to the legacy of Eliza and bound by the love of Christ to one another. By giving to the Thank Offering, we connect to the women who came before us, demonstrate our gratitude to God, and make real our care for one another.

In 2023 the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed twenty-eight Thank Offering applications and selected seven projects for funding. Six of the projects serve people in the United States and one is international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than forty percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

# 2023 Thank Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## GRANT RECIPIENTS

### National

#### **SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA**

Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy  
Light for the Darkness New Worshipping Community  
Grounded Gardening  
\$10,000  
[light4thedarkness.com](http://light4thedarkness.com)

Grounded Gardening hosts a worshipful support group for people with mental health variances. Young adults are invited to come as they are, meet God through Creation and use gardening to combat depression and anxiety. The program combines a variety of activities that have been shown to improve mental health including social connection, prayer, exercise, gardening and time outdoors. This multifaceted approach is intended to help improve mood while also encouraging a connection to God and to each other. The grant will support gardening supplies, advertising and stipends for lead gardeners and facilitators who also guide meditation.



#### **SYNOD OF MID-ATLANTIC**

New Castle Presbytery  
Presbyterian Church of the Covenant  
Summer Arts Camp  
\$15,000  
[covenantde.org/program/summer-arts-camp](http://covenantde.org/program/summer-arts-camp)

Created in 2020, the Summer Arts Camp meets a crucial community need for quality childcare and a supportive summer learning environment in Wilmington, Delaware. The program—a collaboration between Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and The Music School of Delaware—offers a safe, tuition-free summer camp that introduces children from households that struggle financially to valuable arts experiences. This innovative approach helps children who have experienced trauma to heal through music, art, dance, singing and drama. With the Thank Offering grant, the camp will offer a new full-day option and expand their capacity to accept fifty children. Through this arts-focused camp, children will explore and develop creativity skills, build confidence and find healing through artistic expression.





### **SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC**

Peace River Presbytery  
Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc.  
First Neighborhood Building  
\$50,000  
[immokaleefairhousing.org](http://immokaleefairhousing.org)

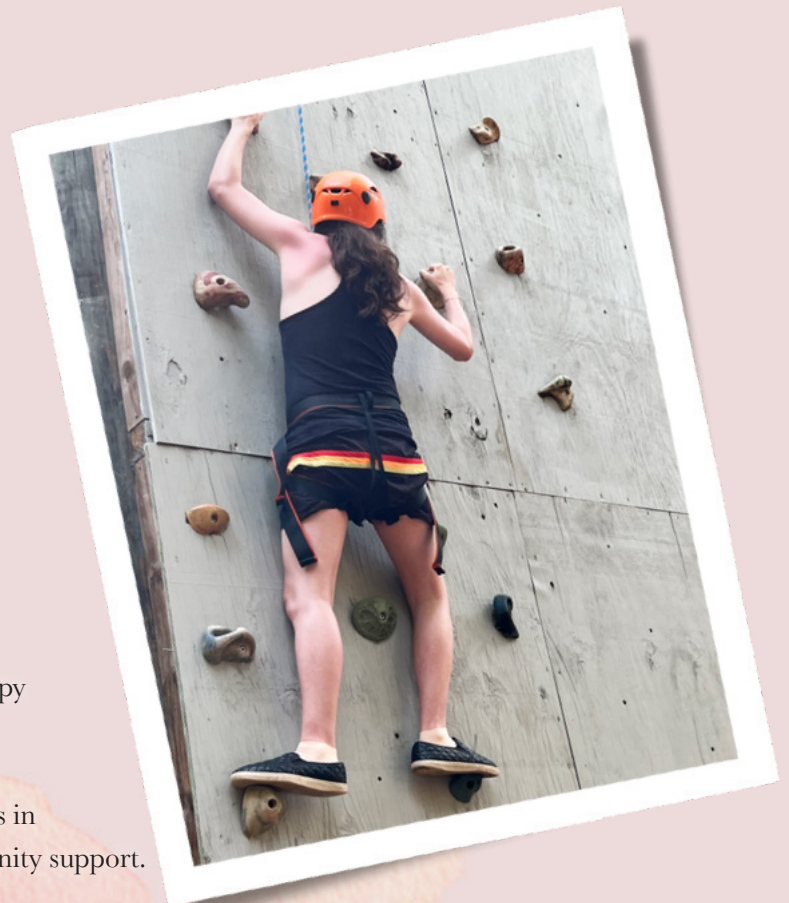
Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance began in December 2018, following the destruction of Hurricane Irma that spotlighted the terrible living conditions of low-income families. This project will provide safe and affordable housing for agricultural workers and other families who pay up to seventy percent of their income to reside in dilapidated and crowded trailers. The Thank Offering grant will support the first neighborhood building consisting of sixteen apartments. These units will provide families with long term stability in clean, adequate housing that will improve family life and provide children with a healthy foundation so that they can study and learn.



### **SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC**

Presbytery of St. Augustine  
Gainesville Community Counseling Center, Inc.  
Building Resilience Through Mindfulness  
\$50,000  
[gainesvillecounselingcenter.com](http://gainesvillecounselingcenter.com)

National surveys show that LGBTQIA+ youth are more likely to experiment with drugs and alcohol, experience harassment and bullying at school and suffer from mental health issues. By providing mental health support, community education and camping, this program will address the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ youth who have had little access to these services. The counseling center will offer mental healthcare through individual, group and family therapy that highlights mindfulness as an effective tool for managing many mental health conditions. Workshops and podcasts will be offered to help increase awareness in the general public and expand the network of community support.



## SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST

Albany Presbytery

Troy Area United Ministries

Tech for Teens

\$35,890

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

TAUM provides a safe space in an underserved and low-income area of Albany with few youth programs. Through Tech for Teens, an expansion of their Computers for Kids Summer Program, students will learn to use Microsoft Office to write resumes, prepare spreadsheets and create slide presentations while also acquiring basic web design and coding skills. Through this hands-on learning, students will increase literacy, build student collaboration skills as they work together on projects and develop important social skills that employers will seek in the future.



## SYNOD OF THE SUN

Presbytery of South Louisiana

Okra Abbey New Worshipping Community

Solar Power for Resilience

\$35,000

[okraabbey.com](http://okraabbey.com)

Okra Abbey is a female-led, community-focused ministry for residents of the Pigeon Town neighborhood in New Orleans. Their sanctuary is a garden where food grows and where people grow through sharing stories, scripture, prayers and relationships. The Thank Offering will provide a full solar power system and allow Okra Abbey to expand their services by having available outlets for power tools, an irrigation system and cell phone charging stations for low-income and often transitory individuals. The solar power system will also keep the community refrigerator running and provide reliable electricity during power outages, especially during weather disasters.



# International

## ZAMBIA

Church of Central Africa  
Presbyterian Synod of Zambia  
Church of Central Africa Presbyterian  
Synod of Zambia Health Department  
Phalaza Rural Health Center  
\$50,000  
ccapsynodofzambia.org

This project will provide rural residents of Phalaza with access to a health-care facility closer than their current centers, which also do not provide maternity services. Because of the distances people must travel, they frequently delay care, one of the primary causes for mortality and morbidity in women and children. This new health center will provide maternal services including prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care, as well as primary care of children and diagnosis and treatment of malaria and HIV/AIDS, as well as non-communicable diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure. The new health center will have the added benefit of relieving overcrowding and long wait times throughout rural eastern Zambia.



*2023 Thank Offering*  
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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*And be thankful.* —Colossians 3:14-15

View the *2023 Thank Offering* promotional video on PW's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](https://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen).



# Embracing the "We" in Empowering Love

## Dedication Service

BY BETSY BERRY AND JANICE GRIMES LEWIS

### Call to Worship

One: Strife and unrest are prevalent in every corner of the world; it is right that we take this time to reflect on our desire to reach the peace that comes from Christ.

**All: And be thankful.**

One: It is right that we offer our thanks as a reflection of God's gift of that peace.

**All: And be thankful.**

One: When we reach out to our siblings who suffer, we clothe ourselves in love with the hope that we will be the loving agents who begin to bind everything together in perfect harmony.

**All: And be thankful.**

One: Even if it is only the smallest of beginnings, we point toward the Holy Spirit's great gift of grace and peace for every child of God when we empower the ones we serve.

**All: And be thankful.**

### Hymn Suggestions

"We Are One in the Spirit" (GtG 300)

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" (GtG 648)

### Scripture

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

—Colossians 3:14–15

### Meditation

Have you had the experience of reaching out to hold a toddler's hand as you walked in the park, or tried to help a child put on a shirt or pour milk into their favorite cup? I remember well the times when my grandmotherly gestures of loving concern were met with "I wanna run!" or "I can do it all by myself!" Often, I would grant my grandson his freedom and allow him to struggle into a shirt or spill milk on the countertop. Those were memories of the growing out of babyhood dependency days and into a bigger-boy phase of building confidence and self-reliance. That is, until the time came when he faced a more daunting task and I would hear a tiny voice asking, "Granmommy, can you help me?"

Like a child, we too have found ourselves crying "Lord, help me!" when met with life's difficulties. God's call to demonstrate a love that unites is not as easy as one might think. As scripture tells us, God's original plan for wholeness and peace throughout Creation was thwarted by human strife, unrest and war. Many of us have experienced having our own well-intentioned words and actions met with suspicion and rejection. Yet we persevere in faith, trying to live



out God's call for unifying love, even when the world is so unloving. It is during times like these that we find ourselves whispering in prayer, "Lord, God of mercy, please help us, your children."

And God answers our prayers by providing community—helpers who live in harmony and with mutual purpose. The image of the Body of Christ illustrates divine harmony manifested through the gifts of teachers, preachers, custodians, cooks, singers and musicians, mission co-workers, comforters, technology crews, all being offered for the glory of God in the mission of the church. As with our own bodies in which the finger is as essential as the toe, the kidneys as essential as the lungs, the veins as essential as the arteries, we work together to collectively sustain life.

The recipients of the Thank Offering are representative of God's many earthly angels, helpers who provide community assistance to underserved persons in need of health care, education, housing and advocacy. With this year's grants, PW's wings span from Africa to synods across the continental U.S. God's love has inspired the givers; it has directed the organizers and will bless each beneficiary. Giving thanks to God and working together in community, their light shines in otherwise darkened places.

During a recent meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, an older Black commissioner was brought to tears when the entire body modeled a spirit of unity by joining together and passionately singing the words from James Weldon Johnson's poem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (GtG 339):

Lift every voice and sing  
till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise  
high as the listening skies;  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has  
taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on, till victory is won.

May we always be inspired by Christ to be agents of help and love, empowered to empower. "Let our rejoicing rise," indeed!



### Prayer of Dedication

Loving and Holy God, we give thanks for the multitude of good gifts with which you have blessed us. Give us radical courage and strength to share your gifts with our neighbors whose lives are twisted and torn, and help us to be ever mindful of their needs both great and small. We pray that through these offerings, your love and grace will be made known to people near and far. May all who benefit from these offerings rejoice and give thanks with us for your gift of life and promise of peace. Amen.

### Hymn Suggestions\*

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (GtG 240)

### Benediction

May God bless us and keep us; may God wrap us in the confidence and love that springs from our faith in Christ. May God draw all God's children close to our hearts, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Betsy Berry serves as the Synod of South Atlantic representative and Janice Grimes Lewis serves as the African American Member at Large to the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women.

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

2023 Thank Offering  
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



# PROMOTING THE THANK OFFERING

## **In your PW group**

- Download and print bulletin covers and inserts for free at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://presbyterianwomen.org/thank).
- Order poster/placemats and offering envelopes at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://presbyterianwomen.org/thank).
- Show the Thank Offering promotional video, available on the PW YouTube channel at [youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](http://youtube.com/presbyterianwomen).
- Make a presentation at your fall gathering.
- If you do not have regular gatherings, ask each PW group to receive the offering once a year around Thanksgiving.

## **In your church**

Promote the Thank Offering to the entire congregation!

- Get session approval.
- Make a Thank Offering announcement during worship and ask givers to put money in a basket specifically for the offering or give online at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](http://presbyterianwomen.org/give).
- Use the Thank Offering bulletin cover for worship and include the Thank Offering bulletin insert.
- Include an announcement in your church newsletter about the Thank Offering and how it helps change lives. Use an example from this booklet.
- Display the Thank Offering poster in a prominent place.
- Hold a special event, like a Thanksgiving meal, where you receive the offering. Use Thank Offering poster/placemats at the tables.
- Host a Thank Offering gathering on your church lawn—or perhaps drop off a fall treat (and giving envelope) to the home of PW sisters.

## **In your presbytery and synod**

- Include information about the Thank Offering in your newsletter.
- Send a special email encouraging local PWs to participate.
- Give a presentation about the Thank Offering at your fall gathering.
- Host a speaker from an organization in your area that has received a Thank Offering grant (contact PW's Mission Associate at [cheri.harper@pcusa.org](mailto:cheri.harper@pcusa.org)).
- Use the Thank Offering poster/placemats at a synod or presbytery meal.

# WAYS TO SUPPORT THE THANK OFFERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## PW group gift

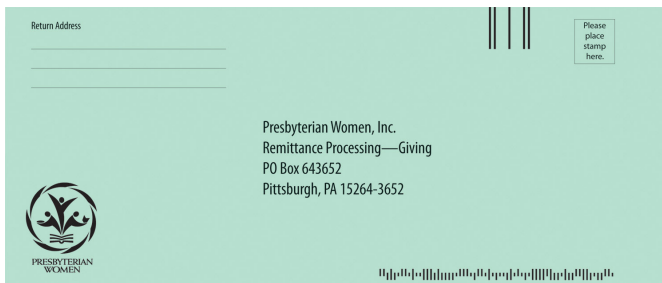


PW group members traditionally support the Thank Offering by donating cash or check when the group meets. Envelopes to receive these gifts are available free of charge in packs of 25 from the PW Shop ([presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://presbyterianwomen.org/shop); item PWR16479) or the PC(USA) Store (800/533-4371).

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

**PW in the Presbytery treasurers**, please send your Thank 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).

## 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 you 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 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 Thank Offering.

## Online Giving

[Make a Donation →](#)

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

## QR Code giving



Give to the Thank Offering through the QR Code on the cover that you can scan with a smartphone or device. Leaders and planners can share the QR Code at virtual gatherings.

## 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)

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

### *Essentials*

**Available as a download, as well!** The **2023 Thank Offering promotional booklet**, which is mailed to all PW leaders, includes grant recipient summaries; a dedication service; a greeting from the Creative Ministries Offering Committee; ideas to promote and support the Thank Offering; a poster/placemat; and promotional resource flier. Item PWR23475; free.

**2023 Thank Offering Korean- and Spanish-language promotional booklets** Download only at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://presbyterianwomen.org/thank); free.

The 11" x 17" **2023 Thank 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 PWR23473; free.

The **Summer issue of *Horizons* magazine** includes the grant recipient list as well as a dedication service. Item HZN23220, \$4.00. (Not a *Horizons* magazine subscriber? Call 866/802-3635 or visit [presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe](http://presbyterianwomen.org/subscribe) to subscribe.)

**2023 Thank Offering bulletin cover** (8½" x 11") Download only; item PWR23476. Download at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://presbyterianwomen.org/thank); free.

**2023 Thank Offering bulletin insert** Download only; item PWR23480. Download at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://presbyterianwomen.org/thank); free.

**2023 Thank Offering resource flier** Download only; item PWR23474. Download at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://presbyterianwomen.org/thank); free.

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

### *Receiving the Offering*

**Thank Offering group giving envelopes**, traditionally used in PW groups and congregations, available in packs of 25. Item PWR16479; 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.

### *Two Ways to Order*

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

**Note:** Prices do not include shipping and handling (based on weight of order; \$6.25 minimum). International orders and orders to Puerto Rico will incur additional shipping charges. 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) to ensure PW resources are mailed to the "proper" PW!



To view the free *2023 Thank Offering* promotional video, 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 flier, bulletin cover and bulletin insert, go to [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank).

Spanish and Korean versions of the booklet are available to download at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank).

Learn more about the Thank Offering at [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank).

**Cheri Harper**  
Mission Associate

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2023 Thank Offering

Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396

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Give or learn more about the Thank Offering  
by visiting [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank)

**PWR23475**