



August 26, 2020

Hello!

Thanks for joining me last night to do a fast run through all things UTO! I am especially grateful for all of the sharing at the end and the chance to join you for worship. As promised, this letter is to send you a bunch of links to UTO information, offerings and opportunities that might be helpful to you within your ministry context.

- **November Gratitude Challenge:** four week program for families, small groups or individuals to deep dive into four areas of gratitude this November. You can access the guide [here](#). It is also available in [Spanish](#).
- **Formation Materials and stewardship programs** are [here](#). One of my favorites, the UTO Turkey Box is a great way to have kids start thinking about gratitude in November by decorating their Blue Box for Thanksgiving. I also love the phone scavenger hunt, this is a great thing to do before meetings to invite people to share a photo that they took in a moment of gratitude (or of something they are thankful for).
- **The Theology of Gratitude Scholars Conference** videos are [here](#). We broke the videos out by speaker and they have included some discussion questions.
- **[Our September Webinar: Mystics, Mayhem, and Madness: Wisdom from Christian Spiritual Giants for a Time of Chaos begins on September 3rd](#)**, and you can read all about it and register on the link above.
- **Subscribe to the monthly [UTO E News](#)** or check out the one that came out [yesterday](#).
- **Submit a prayer for the UTO Book of Prayers** published every three years for General Convention. You can write in any language and be any age. Kids especially love seeing their work published. (We have a great video up on Facebook to help kids write their own prayer.)
- **Think about applying for a UTO Grant.** All of the grant materials for the February deadline are now available [here](#). We will have webinars in January to help those applying and I can review drafts for you as well.
- **Make a digital thank offering.** With the pandemic, many congregations are utilizing our virtual tools to handle UTO. You can donate [online](#) or by texting INGATHER to 41444.

Finally, attached to this email is the grant list for each of your dioceses so you can look and see if your parish has ever received funding from UTO. As we continue to work to gather the history of UTO, we continue to add to our collection [online](#), but we are also working with the Archives to create a virtual reading room of UTO historical items. If you have anything that we can add, please be sure to share it with me! There are lots of holes in our historical record and we are always grateful for help in telling the story of the work of the United Thank Offering.

If you need anything or have ideas on how we can help promote gratitude, please be in touch. Thank you for all you are doing to help our church grow in gratitude and faith.

All the best,

The Rev. Canon Heather Melton, Staff Officer, The United Thank Offering

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