



March UTO News and Highlights

St. Patrick is well-known for driving snakes out of Ireland, but did you know that he also shared Christianity in a radical way? Read more in the full newsletter (along with more information about anything listed below), which you can subscribe to [here](#).

2024 UTO Grant Focus

In order to help everyone raise funds for UTO, we wanted to share where all of your 2023 thank offerings will be going in 2024. The full materials for the 2024 process will not be available until this summer.

The UTO grant focus for 2024 will be on “the stranger” Jesus mentions, offering welcome and inclusivity.

Projects that welcome people with differences that cause isolation (culture, life experience, disability, mental health, etcetera) in new ways that are meaningful and deemed necessary by that community.

Projects that encourage truth telling, acknowledging historic trauma, and establishing a pathway towards healing.

Congratulations to the Coloring Contest Winners!

This fall, UTO released our collaboration with Illustrated Ministries with a Color Your Own Blue Box contest. Thank you to everyone who submitted their creations, they are all amazing! We’re currently reprinting more Color Your Own boxes because they are so popular and all of the coloring sheets and formation materials are still available here: www.unitedthankoffering.org/color/ Congratulations to our grand prize winner, Eleanor K. from the Diocese of Maine! See the Newsletter for the full list of winners.

Lenten Book Club: Uncommon Gratitude

Join us on Wednesdays at noon eastern time during Lent as we read and discuss Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia for All That Is by Joan Citty and Rowan Williams. **Register** [here](#). You can come to as many as you’re able. **Schedule:**

Wednesday, March 1 at Noon Eastern – Introduction, Faith, Doubt, Wealth

Wednesday, March 8 at Noon Eastern – Poverty, Differences, Divisions, Conflict

Wednesday, March 15 at Noon Eastern – Sinners, Saints, Genesis, Life

Wednesday, March 22 at Noon Eastern – Unity, Otherness, Past, Peace

Wednesday, March 29 at Noon Eastern – Suffering, Crises, Exodus, Friday

Wednesday, April 5 at Noon Eastern – Death, Future, Darkness, God

Lenten Materials Now Available

This year we are trying something new with our Lenten materials – instead of a downloadable journal, we’re sending a daily text message reminder to practice gratitude. You can sign up [here](#). We are also offering our countdown to Easter for Faith Formation classes or families as well which are available [here](#).

UTO Grants in Action

Each month, we’re sharing an update from an active grant site, so during the Spring you’ll read about 2022 grants as their grant year is halfway through. This month, we’re sharing the story of a 2022 grant to the diocese of Kansas about their butterfly garden and education program. See the newsletter to read more.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Important application deadlines:

- Friday, February 24th was the last day you may receive a full review of a draft application.
- Friday, March 3rd is the last day you may receive a review of your budget for out of criteria items.
- Wednesday, March 8th is the last day applications will be reviewed for completeness.
- Thursday, March 9 & 10 - all applications will be processed as received.