



December UTO News and Highlights

Heather shares about holy sites in Bethlehem, read more in the full newsletter (along with more information about anything listed below), which you can subscribe to [here](#). Please note: the UTO office will be closed from December 18th at noon until January 2, and we will not be responding to emails or phone calls during that time to allow our staff and Board time with their families and local congregations.

2023 UTO Christmas Cards and a Free Printable Note for Santa

[Our third annual Christmas card is now available to order](#). 100% of your cost for the Christmas Cards goes to the 2023 Ingathering so you can feel good about giving these cards in place of a gift. If you are looking to help little ones in your life embrace gratitude and create a realistic Christmas list, we've got a free [fill in the blanks letter to Santa](#) that asks your child to reflect on the blessings of their past year before asking for items within specific categories. Feel free to share!

UTO Challenge Grant for the Diocese of Jerusalem continues through 12-15

The United Thank Offering will match up to \$100,000 of donations given through Dec. 15 to help sustain outreach ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which operates [across several countries or territories](#) and includes churches, schools, medical facilities, and other ministries. **“United Thank Offering has supported the diocese with over \$1 million in grants since 1973, thanks to the generosity of Episcopalians everywhere,”** said UTO Board President Sherri Dietrich. **“We know people want to help those projects continue their work through and after the current heartbreaking conflict; this challenge grant will allow us all to make a powerful contribution to those impacted by this conflict.”** To find out more or to donate [click here](#).

End of Year Deadlines for Giving to UTO

In order to ensure that your thank offerings get counted in 2023, please send all UTO donations no later than December 15th to:
The United Thank Offering DFMS - Protestant Episcopal Church
PO Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

If you are sending your check on or after December 15th, we strongly recommend that you send it overnight to the bank using this address:

DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US
#958983 SL-MO-R1LB 3180
Rider Trail S
Earth City, MO 63045

Thank you for your support of UTO!

Julia Chester Emery Feast Day – Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7pm Eastern time

Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtdumtqz0iHdlepZh3sdLop-0CPjt6Wc1b>

January 9 is the feast day of Julia Chester Emery, founder of the United Thank Offering, and this year we are celebrating the life and ministry of Miss Julia with Kristen Wheeler of [Ministry of the Saints: Modern Iconography](#). She'll join us to share more about her process of creating the Julia Chester Emery icon, the symbols found in it, and about her research into Miss Julia. Kristen is also hard at work on the UTO History Brochure that we will release at General Convention in 2024, so this is a great time to come and learn, share, and celebrate the life of Saint Julia Chester Emery, without whom UTO would not exist.

2024 Lenten Materials Now Available

Our theme for our 2024 Lenten materials is “40 Days of Grateful Presence” and they are a call to giving thanks for the many things in our lives we take for granted. Our hope is that during the 40 days of Lent we can all use gratitude to help us be more present in our daily lives. Find out more about the resources available for Lent [here](#).

2024 Grant Application Process Updates

We are approaching the deadline for applying for a 2024 grant! **Applications are due no later than January 19, 2024.** However, there are many important deadlines that precede the final deadline, including the deadlines for different kind of application review. You can see all of the **grant deadlines** [on our website](#).