

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



2023 Thank Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Learn more about the
Thank Offering
of Presbyterian Women at
presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol

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.

And be thankful.

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

And be thankful.

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.

And be thankful.

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.

And be thankful.

OPENING HYMN GTG 648

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - ery - one what
God has done. Let ev - ery - one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your
prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of
thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Carol

As children of God, we come to God in our joys, in our sorrows, in our fears, and in our guilt. Knowing that God loves us and embraces us, let us bring our confessions to God.

God of abundance,

you have given us so many gifts.

**You bless us with talents, resources, skills and knowledge,
and yet we hide them under a bushel.**

We hoard these gifts, instead of following you and sharing with those in need.

We have been poor stewards of all you have given.

**Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given,
that it might be returned in service to you.**

Silence for reflection

God has destined us not for wrath, but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that we may live with him.

Praise be to Christ! Alleluia!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gwen

Holy One, you come to us in the slow turning of the seasons, the promise and fulfillment of harvest. Open us now to your coming as ruler of creation, and open our hearts to the influence of your kind and peaceful reign. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 3:14-15

Gwen

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.

MEDITATION

Gwen

SPECIAL MUSIC

Soon and Very Soon

CPC Choir

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:14-30

Sherrie

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off

and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Holly Fifield, co-founder *The Landing*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
- 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

THANK OFFERING MINUTE

Jane

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jane

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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Refrain

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord. Al-le-

lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give praise to his name. *Fine*

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for - ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior. *to Refrain*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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.

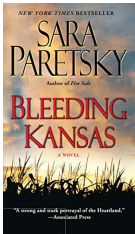
Amen.

POSTLUDE

A Congregational Meeting is called for the purpose of approving the 2024 Slate of Officers. The meeting will take place immediately following worship today. Please stay and vote!



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING



The **Book Discussion Group** will meet today, following the short congregational meeting. The November book selection is *Bleeding Kansas* by Sara Paretsky. Grab your coffee and join in the lively discussion!



CPC's Mission and Christian Education committees are planning to **collect presents and gift cards** for the children and families at East Gage. The committees are working with East Gage to determine what is needed. We will offer the congregation the opportunity to participate. More details will be forthcoming.



Greening of the Church will take place after worship on Sunday, November 26th. Plan to stay and decorate our worship space for Advent and Christmas! Many hands make light work!

Community Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, November 19 PW Thank Offering

- 9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
 10:30 am Congregational Meeting
 10:45 am Book Discussion Group
 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, November 20

- 9:30 am Mission Prayer Group

Tuesday, November 21

- 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
 7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, November 22

- 6:30 am Prayer Group at CPC

Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving

- Office closed
 5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, November 26 PW Thank Offering

- 9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
 10:45 am Greening of the church
 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal
 Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
 especially daughter Jenny
 Connie Holst
 Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
 Shannon Cisewski
 Ron Murray
 Dick and Nancy Massaro
 Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline
 Glenna Muir's sister, Annie
 Mary Alice Richardson and family

*To be added to the prayer list,
 please contact the office via email:
 office@cpcrochester.org.
 Emergency Pastoral Support:
 Rev. Carla Nelson: 507-254-1254*

Church Staff

Bridge Pastor	Rev. Carla Nelson
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Speakers	PW
Special Music	CPC Choir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

Community Presbyterian Church is aiming to make Christmas a bit brighter for Gage East children and their families this holiday season.

The congregation is collecting gift cards, preferably in \$25 denominations at Target and Walmart, for children and their families. Donations of cash and other gift cards also are welcome. Gage East staff and parents will make the decisions about how the cards are distributed, which will be based on need.



The deadline for submissions is Sunday, Dec. 3. You can bring the gift cards and other items to church. Be careful about sending the cards through the mail. Checks can be written to “Community Presbyterian Church” with a note in the memo line “Christmas for Gage East.” Cash and small items donated also should be labeled, so we know who contributed them.

Another possible gift would be small, inexpensive kids' items of the stocking-stuffer type. The Gage East library is encouraging the children to read aloud to volunteers or have a book read to them. “The best way I've found to encourage reading is to promise kids a prize for a certain number of books read,” said Jan Wiersma, library volunteer and former CPC pastor.

Possible selections are:

- Small notebooks and pens
- Little handheld games or puzzles
- Anything Pokemon or Minecraft
- Little stuffed animals.

Questions may be directed to [Sherrie Wilson@unomaha.edu](mailto:Sherrie.Wilson@unomaha.edu).

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

About the Thank Offering

The Thank Offering 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. In the 135 years since Eliza first asked women to give a "thank offering to her Lord," more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world have benefitted from grants funded by faithful and generous givers.

Respond to Eliza's inspiring call to support mission initiatives and demonstrate thanksgiving for God's blessings through giving to the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women.

For more information on the 2023 Thank Offering recipients, read the Summer issue of *Horizons* magazine or go to presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

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Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202
presbyterianwomen.org



SYNOD OF THE SUN

Presbytery of South Louisiana
Okra Abbey New Worshipping Community
Solar Power for Resilience
\$35,000



Okra Abbey is a new worshipping community in the Pigeon Town neighborhood of New Orleans, a low-income area that is often overlooked as many neighbors struggle with housing and food insecurity, addiction and mental health issues. This unconventional community has a garden for a sanctuary and gathers around meal tables rather than pews. Utilizing the garden space and the ability to grow vegetables, Okra Abbey extends the welcome of Jesus to those who might otherwise not be interested or feel welcomed into a church.

With the 2023 Thank Offering grant, Okra Abbey will become a solar powered space, resilient in the face of extreme storms and a hub for disaster response. With reliable solar energy, they will reach out to neighbors daily by offering electrical outlets and a charging station. The vegetables grown at Okra Abbey are a starting point for conversation, and with the Thank Offering grant, Okra Abbey will be consistent hosts for community growth and faith discovery.

Give to the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women at presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

During Advent, daily messages will be available “to expand and deepen your spiritual walk through Advent towards Christmas.” You’ll be able to pick up a devotional beginning Advent I (December 3). The same devotional will be available on our website. Another option is to receive daily messages via text. Please see the information below about signing up for texts/notifications. There will also be different daily messages on Facebook. Check it out in December!

Pick a way to receive messages for Daily Texts:

A) If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: rmd.at/ga2hfb Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You’ll be prompted to download the mobile app.

B) If you don’t have a smartphone, get text notifications. Text the message @ga2hfb to the number 81010. If you’re having trouble with 81010, try texting @ga2hfb to (608)467-4108. Note: you’ll be asked if you are a student (s) or a parent (p). Choose either one. The application was designed for schools, but will work for our purposes.

If you received daily texts in the past, you’re likely still on the list and you don’t need to re-sign up.

* Standard text message rates apply.

