

AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2025

LEADER'S GUIDE

Bulletin inserts and litany inside!

GRACE  
UPON  
*Grace*

GRACE IN  
TURBULENT  
TIMES



“BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER,  
FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD  
FORGAVE YOU.”

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)



American Baptist Home Mission Societies



[www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

# AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

# GRACE UPON *Grace* GRACE IN TURBULENT TIMES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray

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America for Christ (AFC)  
gifts help fund our grants to  
American Baptist mission partners.

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American Baptist Home Mission Societies

# FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Grace and peace to you!

On behalf of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), thank you for your ongoing and generous support of the America for Christ (AFC) Offering. Your faithful giving is a powerful expression of your commitment to share Christ's love, hope, and grace with those in need throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The AFC Offering is a vital resource that empowers ABHMS to support life-changing ministry programs provided by diverse American Baptists in local communities. Your contributions deliver essential support to diverse community ministries, offer resources and grants to ministry leaders in multicultural settings, and promote Christian education and continuous learning experiences for church leaders across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Your generosity enables us to promote the Christian faith, cultivate Christ-centered leaders, and provide crucial care to marginalized communities. Each gift represents an act of compassion and solidarity, bringing us closer to God's vision of a world shaped by love, compassion, peace, and justice.

This year, your support carries even greater significance as our country faces challenges that test our unity. In times of deep division and uncertainty, we proclaim the importance of forgiveness in our lives and ministries. Through Christ's forgiveness, we find freedom, healing, and reconciliation. As we extend forgiveness to one another, we open our hearts to healing and create the foundation for rebuilding our communities in ways that reflect God's grace and mercy.

Please give generously to the AFC Offering, which empowers American Baptists to share Christ's love by providing for physical needs and fostering spiritual growth.

Again, thank you for your unwavering generosity, prayers, and commitment, which sustains our work and witness. May God bless you richly as you continue to serve in Christ's name..



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Haggray".

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director  
American Baptist Home Mission Societies

**BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER,  
FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU.**

-EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)



## BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS from our American Baptist ministers

In our household like many of yours, “Let’s say grace” is the call to prayer before we share in a meal together. We can trace the roots of the word “grace” to giving thanks, but I do not know when prayers of thanksgiving over food became known as the practice of saying grace. The Lord’s Supper is a sacred meal that disciples of Jesus Christ share in remembrance of His sacrificial death. We are called to say grace over Communion. And we are called to “be grace” and reflect on the “cost of grace” before taking in the bread and cup.

As part of Communion, the instruction we often hear is something like this: “Before you eat this bread and drink this cup, examine yourself that you may partake of this meal in a worthy manner.” What is a worthy manner? To humbly consider if you are in right relationship with God and with others as based on Jesus’ call to reconciliation (Matthew 5:23-24) and Paul’s call

Forgiveness is a conscious and continual act that always feels easier to talk about than to actually live and embody. This is especially true because forgiveness does not erase memory. To be able to name the harm of one’s actions or words, while simultaneously choosing not to meet it with what we think it deserves, is no easy feat. For this reason, choosing not to forgive can many times be justified because of what precedes unforgiveness.

I believe Paul understood this, which is why he ends this verse on forgiveness in Ephesians 4:32 by stating, “... just as God in Christ has forgiven us.” Paul might be trying to remind us of the inexhaustible power of Christ’s forgiveness for us because in recalling such

As Christians, we often understand the virtue of forgiveness. That is not the problem. The problem usually lies in the process of how to forgive when all is said and done.

Out of the 191 times forgiveness is mentioned in scripture, we are often left more obliged rather than compelled to forgive. And saying “I forgive you” loses weight when it is just a cover-up for unhealed wounds and burdened resentment.

When Paul says in Ephesians 4:32 to “forgive others, in the same manner, Christ forgave you,” this passage is not just a command. It requires us to shift our perspective on the forgiveness God offers us through Christ. What we see then, is an unmerited, undeserved,

to self-examination. (I Corinthians 11:28-29). When we gather around the altar—the table of the Lord’s Supper—compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, kindness, sacrifice, repentance, reconciliation, and mercy intersect in a miraculous, mysterious manner.

God’s great love and abundant compassion can be trusted. Saying grace shows we do not take that faithfulness for granted. God’s own love and compassion is planted in us as part of our DNA. Showing grace allows those seeds to flourish. Let us say grace for God’s grace and show grace because we receive grace. That is grace upon grace!



Rev. Lisa Harris Lee  
Director, Healing & Transforming  
Communities  
ABHMS

memory, it allows us to situate our need to receive such forgiveness against God’s call to also extend forgiveness as well. Furthermore, it beckons us to ask the question: Will our justification of whether we choose to forgive be based upon what God has done or what “they” have done?

Thankfully, whatever we decide will be undergirded by the grace of God that will meet us where we are, while also tenderly pushing us towards the freedom forgiveness offers.



Matthew Rivera  
ABHMS Scholarship Recipient,  
Yale Divinity School

and unconditional forgiveness that, once we have accepted, can convey “in the same manner.”

Perhaps, then, it is not a question of how we can forgive others, but who forgave us first. Not a focus on the challenges of forgiveness but on the simplicity of His forgiveness for us. Where would we find ourselves then, but a place where wounds are healed and burdens are lifted by a love so overwhelming we know nothing but His forgiveness.



Luke Lagwi  
Youth Pastor  
Calvary Burmese Church,  
Washington, D.C.

# Sample congregational letter

Dear Congregation:

The season of the America for Christ Offering is here again! This year's campaign theme, "Grace upon Grace: Grace in Times of Turbulence," is inspired by Ephesians 4:32 [NIV]: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." This passage stresses the importance of letting go of anger and moving forward with love. As Matthew 6:14-15 reminds us, our heavenly Father will forgive us if we forgive others. God's love for us, even in times of despair, never wavers.

## AFC 2025 Fundraising Goal

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2025 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2025), which aims to raise \$1,000,000 or more to support American Baptist missions and ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico. Our church's goal is \_\_\_\_\_ to go toward that goal.

## AFC 2025 Promotional Window

ABHMS is allowed three months (January-March) to actively promote AFC 2025 through various forms of outreach, including email communications, phone calls, and church visits. However, our church can promote AFC 2025 locally throughout the year.

## How to Give to AFC 2025

You can give at the church during our weekly services or make an online donation at [abhms.org/AFC](http://abhms.org/AFC) at any time.

## How AFC 2025 Funds are Used

Gifts to the AFC Offering support American Baptist regions, churches, and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico by funding grants that ABHMS awards for a variety of purposes, including:

- Creating new, innovative ministries
- Developing church leaders
- Aiding children who are impoverished
- Supporting the work of chaplains and spiritual caregivers
- Promoting discipleship
- Preserving critical American Baptist spaces
- Making higher education more affordable through scholarships

In addition:

- Our church is eligible to apply for grants and our church members for scholarships.
- ABHMS retains no AFC Offering funds for operations or overhead.

AFC 2025 will empower us to provide "Grace upon Grace." I am asking you to join me in giving generously to help us reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News!

Your Pastor \_\_\_\_\_,

# AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2025

Please give today! | [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

# PROMOTING THE 2025 AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING IN YOUR CHURCH

1. Convene a working group to lead and monitor promotional efforts.
2. Review the enclosed materials and display the poster in a prominent, high-traffic location to encourage giving. Then, visit [abhms.org/AFC](http://abhms.org/AFC) to access downloadable resources and AFC 2025 videos. If you need more printed items, please request them from ABHMS' Office of Development at 610.768.2413, or contact Kimberly Wilkins at ([kim.wilkins@abhms.org](mailto:kim.wilkins@abhms.org)).
3. Develop a schedule of promotional activities for the three-month (January through March) AFC 2025 campaign window and share it with your pastor and/or church's leadership team.
4. Set a fundraising goal for your church to help ABHMS achieve its overall AFC 2025 goal of raising \$1,000,000 to support missions throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.
5. Gather an AFC 2025 prayer team and meet once weekly before worship for five minutes of prayer.
6. Dedicate a few minutes during Sunday worship each week for a month to present a Mission Moment. This may include showing AFC videos, reading a bulletin insert, or allowing testimony from individuals who participated in home missions or training and workshops made possible by AFC funding.
7. Use your church's online presence—social media or website—to reach congregants who still participate virtually. Include a link to [abhms.org/afcnw](http://abhms.org/afcnw) in your outreach to encourage online giving.
8. Invite an ABHMS staff member to speak at your church. Call ABHMS' Office of Development at 610.768.2413 or 888-79ABHMS, ext. 2420, to make arrangements, or contact Kimberly Wilkins at ([kim.wilkins@abhms.org](mailto:kim.wilkins@abhms.org)).
9. Involve young people in promoting AFC 2025. For instance, ask them to hand distribute bulletin inserts or read them aloud during Mission Moments, and include them in gathering the AFC Offering.
10. Be creative and have fun. This may include designing an AFC 2025 bulletin board to display materials from the offering packet, photos of mission trips funded by past AFC Offerings, or artwork that your congregants create to convey thoughts and feelings that arise from the “Grace Upon Grace” theme.
11. Record and celebrate your progress. Designate a Sunday in March for a celebration thanking the congregation for their generous support and for meeting their fundraising goal!
12. Remember that you can give to AFC 2025 all year long!

**AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING**  
**GRACE** UPON *Grace* **GRACE IN**  
**TURBULENT**  
**TIMES**

# MINISTRIES IN THE MISSION FIELD

## STANDING WITH MILITARY CHAPLAINS IN MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL CAREGIVING

ABHMS is committed to supporting military chaplains who bring comfort, guidance, and hope to service members and their families in challenging circumstances. This dedication is embodied in the Lorraine K. Potter Military Chaplaincy Merit Award, named after Retired U.S. Air Force Chaplain Major General Lorraine Potter, a trailblazer and the first woman to serve as chief of Air Force Chaplains.



Potter's career is one filled with groundbreaking achievements. After her ordination by American Baptist Churches USA, she became the first woman to join the Air Force Chaplain Corps in 1973, breaking through longstanding gender barriers. Her journey continued with a series of

historic firsts: in 1988, she became the first female senior chaplain and Air Force command chaplain in both the U.S. and Europe. Later, she became the first woman to reach the ranks of colonel and then general officer within the military chaplaincy. By her retirement in 2004, she



had inspired countless service members and chaplains alike with her unwavering faith and leadership.

Today, ABHMS honors military chaplains in their vital ministry through recognition and vital resources. AFC funds provides essential support for ABHMS programs that uplift and celebrate the courageous work of military chaplains across all branches. Your generous gift to the 2025 America for Christ Offering strengthens ABHMS's ability to stand alongside chaplains as they serve with courage, dignity, and faithfulness.

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## THE CONFERENCIA DE LIDERAZGO INTERGENERACIONAL INITIATIVE BUILDS FAITH ACROSS GENERATIONS IN LATINO COMMUNITIES



ABHMS is tackling one of the most pressing needs in Latino faith communities: bridging the divide between generations. The new Conferencia de Liderazgo

Intergeneracional (CLI) initiative aims to bring Latino pastors and lay leaders together to strengthen intergenerational relationships. With a three-year plan, CLI provides training, resources, and hands-on tools for leaders to nurture unity and mutual understanding across age groups. Through annual summits and virtual gatherings, CLI empowers leaders to create spaces where

each generation can share its unique insights and grow in faith together.

For ABHMS, this work is essential to a thriving, inclusive church. "Our goal is to cultivate settings where each generation's voice is heard and valued in the body of Christ," says the Rev. Abner Cotto-Bonilla, national coordinator for Latino Ministries at ABHMS. "The richness of our faith comes alive when all ages work together in the mission field."

Your support for the AFC Offering will enable CLI and other vital programs to equip and empower ministry leaders to build lasting connections and strengthen faith across generations, helping to unify them in faith and purpose and bringing their communities closer to God.

# GRACEFUL CONVERSATIONS FOR YOUTH

EPHESIANS 4:32 [NIV]: "BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU."

## Grace Upon Grace

words and music by Rachael Lawrence

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Grace upon grace, God shows us with love. Be - cause of God's grace, we have love to share, ev' - ry day, ev' - ry way, ev' - ry where!"

Chords: G, D7, Em, D7, G, D7, Emin, Am, G, D7, D7, G, D, G, D7, Em, G, D7, Em, G, D7, G.

## Graceful Conversations for Youth

Does kindness come naturally to you? If so, has it always or have you needed to work at it? Is it easier with some people than it is with others? Some psychologists say we are born with a natural ability to be kind. We might say that God created us to be kind. As we grow and mature, however, we have an inborn tendency to mirror how others around us act. When we are exposed to hardness, we can become hardened. When we are exposed to kindness, we reflect more kindness. Intentional kindness toward others has the power to change the world because it multiplies kindness. Jesus knew this too!

But what does it take to be kind? First, we can try to understand how others feel, or as Paul writes to the people at Ephesus, be "compassionate to one another." Compassion literally means to feel someone else's pain. If we can relate to their pain, wouldn't we naturally want to help them feel better again? Paul also urges forgiveness, another

idea that can be tough to do in a world that encourages us to hold grudges. But sometimes, the best way to end suffering is to choose kindness and forgive others' wrongs, just like God did for us through the life of Jesus.

Questions for reflection and action:

- When did you last see someone suffering and feel you understood exactly how they felt? What did you do because of that feeling? Would you do something different now?
- When was the last time someone did you wrong? Were you able to forgive them? What did that mean to you?
- What are three kind actions that you can take this week to help encourage others to spread kindness?

This content is available online at [abhms.org/AFC](http://abhms.org/AFC). Simply download and print.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT AFC 2025

## What is the fundraising goal of AFC 2025?

Through the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2025 (AFC 2025), American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) aims to raise \$1,000,000 to support American Baptist missions and ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico.

## What is this year's campaign theme?

AFC 2025 is themed "Grace upon Grace," and it draws inspiration from Ephesians 4:32 [NIV]:

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

## How can I support AFC 2025?

Gifts to AFC 2025 are accepted all year long, not just during the first few months of 2025. You can give during the Sunday congregational offering at your church, or you can give an individual gift online by visiting [abhms.org/afcnw](http://abhms.org/afcnw). Also, consider encouraging your congregation's Mission Committee to include an AFC 2025 contribution in its annual budget.

## How is my gift making a difference?

Your generous AFC gifts allow ABHMS to partner with American Baptist churches and community groups, American Baptist seminaries and institutions, and American Baptist regions, providing financial support in the following areas:

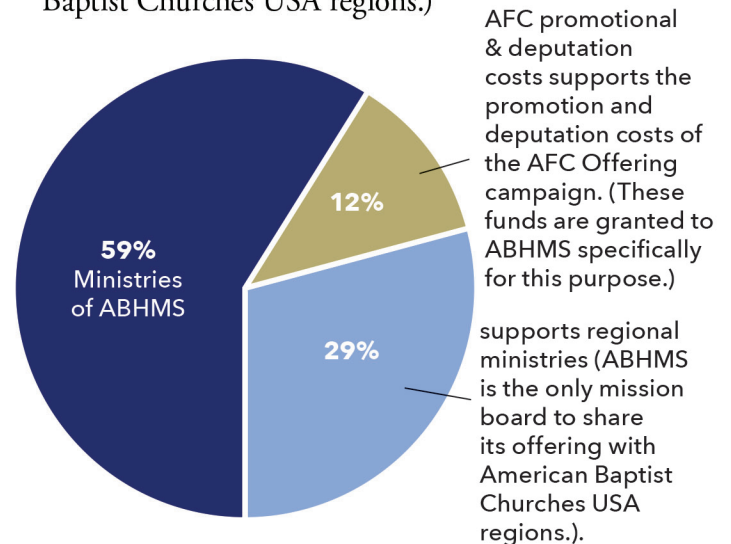
- **Cultivating Leaders** — to advance the mission of faith communities.
- **Equipping Disciples** — to broaden the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- **Healing Communities** — to change the world through the power of Christian love.

**100% of your AFC donation is utilized to support and fund your ministries. ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for its own purposes. When you support AFC, you support your community and communities across the US and Puerto Rico.**

## The AFC Offering is distributed in three ways:

The offering is distributed in three parts:

- 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS.
- 12% supports the offering's promotional and deputation costs.
- 29% supports regional ministries. (ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with American Baptist Churches USA regions.)



## Who do I contact to request more information or printed materials?

Contact personnel in ABHMS' Office of Development:

- **Kim Wilkins**, Development Coordinator, 610.768.2413 ([kimberly.wilkins@abhms.org](mailto:kimberly.wilkins@abhms.org))
- **Vincent Dent**, Chief Development Officer, 610.768.2420 ([vincent.dent@abhms.org](mailto:vincent.dent@abhms.org))
- **Monique Sadler-Taylor**, Director of the Annual Fund and Major Gifts, 610.768.2410 ([monique.sadler-taylor@abhms.org](mailto:monique.sadler-taylor@abhms.org))

## Where do I go to download electronic versions of AFC 2025 materials?

Promotional materials for AFC 2025 are available at [abhms.org/AFC](http://abhms.org/AFC). These materials include electronic versions of printed pieces plus Mission Moments: American for Christ Offering videos.

The videos illustrate how contributions to the AFC Offering impact and transform lives across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, and they are ideal for showing during worship or in small group settings.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON Grace

## First Baptist Comunidad Cristiana housing project

Yakima, Washington, known for its apple orchards and wineries, is also a community in need. Many youths here face poverty, limited opportunities, and the threat of gang involvement. But thanks to your past support, ABHMS has already made a difference through initiatives like the new housing project led by the Rev. Andy Ferguson of First Baptist Comunidad Cristiana (FBCC), a multicultural English/Spanish language church located in the poorest neighborhood of Yakima.

FBCC is creating safe housing for at-risk high school graduates, providing a sanctuary where they can gain new skills, mentorship, and a pathway to success. For young people emerging from trauma and neglect, this support offers a bridge from survival to thriving. Ferguson's plan includes not only safe housing, but also life-changing internships and trade training, giving hope and purpose to those who might otherwise face a bleak future.

When you give generously to the 2025 America for Christ Offering, you enable ABHMS to continue investing in the FBCC housing project, helping at-risk youth find stability and direction. Together, let us bring further hope to Yakima's youth, building brighter futures for those in desperate need of safety, support, and opportunity.



PLEASE GIVE TODAY! [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON Grace

## Community garden sows seeds of hope

The America for Christ Offering empowers transformative initiatives that uplift and nourish communities across the nation. For example, a partnership between Phillips Memorial Baptist Church in Cranston, Rhode Island, and the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP), a regional nonprofit serving low-income individuals, has cultivated a church-based community garden engendered by the isolation of the pandemic.

Under the guidance of Rev. Alan Newton, a master gardener, a team of 35 dedicated

volunteers harvests over a ton of fresh vegetables annually, providing essential produce to those experiencing food insecurity in Cranston and neighboring areas. The need is great: in 2023 alone, 3,714 individuals, including 1,000 children, relied on the Cranston Food Pantry as their primary source of fresh food. This garden project supplies CCAP's clients with nutritious, homegrown produce, creating a lifeline for many who cannot afford these items. Beyond nourishing bodies, this garden nourishes the community itself. Volunteers come together to plant, harvest, and grow friendships, and some are encouraged to start their own micro-gardens. It also protects pollinators and biodiversity, fostering a healthy environment. Through a recent \$3,000 grant from ABHMS, the garden continues to thrive, with funds supporting supplies essential to its growth, while your continued giving to the America for Christ Offering helps to sustain this and other life-changing ministries, where churches bring hope and healing in Christ's name to communities nationwide.



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AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON *Grace*

## Building Bridges for a new generation

Your gift to America for Christ Offering empowers young leaders and bridges generations across Puerto Rico, ensuring the future of Baptist ministry on the island, where local churches face a severe clergy shortage due to burnout and increasing retirement rates.

In response

this crisis, ABHMS has launched Building Bridges with partners Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico (IBPR) and Unión de Jóvenes Bautistas de Puerto Rico (UJBPR). With a curriculum rich in intercultural training, leadership development, and faith-based immersion experiences, this program equips Puerto Rican youth to become community leaders and potential clergy.



to

Participants like Coralys Santos and Alondra Liz Perez Menendez have found renewed purpose through the program. For Santos, Building Bridges offers a foundation for her pastoral calling, while Perez Menendez aims to inspire future generations to embrace the mission of Jesus, even amid differences.

Your support of the 2025 America for Christ Offering helps sustain initiatives like Building Bridges that foster a future where young leaders guide the churches and communities with faith and resilience.

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AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON *Grace*

## Wilderness Journeys

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, a former parish pastor, steadfastly believes that God's love and guidance can be found beyond church walls in unexpected places—like the rugged trails and serene forests of the wilderness—which prompted him to establish Wilderness Journeys, a ministry that emerged from his participation in ABHMS' groundbreaking Co-Creators Incubator program.



With support and guidance from ABHMS, Malone's Wilderness Journeys now leads groups and individuals on hiking trips that provide a unique spiritual experience. Away from the distractions of technology and the comforts of daily life, participants encounter God in profound ways. In nature, they are free to reflect,

pray, and listen to what God is saying, facing their struggles with honesty and openness.

The Co-Creators Incubator gave Malone the mentorship and support he needed to transform his vision into reality. With seed funding from ABHMS, he transitioned from a parish-based role to a full-time wilderness ministry, showing how faith can flourish outside traditional settings.

Your precious gift to the 2025 America for Christ Offering helps fuel these innovative ministries, unique expressions of faith, and community-building, which bring God's grace to those seeking healing and connection. Together, we can continue to expand the reach of Christ's love into every corner of life.

PLEASE GIVE TODAY! | [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON Grace

## Friendship House

Friendship House in Billings, Montana, is a beacon of hope for underserved families. Founded in 1957 by members of the First Baptist Church, Friendship House arose from a simple, compassionate gesture—feeding local children in need. Today, with support from ABHMS, it has grown into a lifeline for over 40 churches and community groups serving Billings' South Side neighborhood.



Today, this ministry provides a comprehensive range of programs, all shaped to the unique needs of a diverse community with large Native American and Hispanic populations. Its preschool and after-school programs attract over 200 children annually,

while teens receive job-skills training through an innovative student-run restaurant. Classes for adults cover vital areas like parenting. Further, all ages have access to mental health support, a critical community need.

This essential ministry receives little to no public funding and relies on donations and grants to continue its work. Consequently, its ongoing partnership with ABHMS, which is fueled by your precious gifts to AFC Offering, remains crucial.

PLEASE GIVE TODAY! [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON Grace

## The Native American Leadership Training Series

Indigenous communities in America face unique challenges in fostering strong, faith-centered communities. ABHMS is responding with a revitalized Native American Leadership Training Series (NALTS) to equip Indigenous ministry leaders with the tools they need to serve their communities effectively.

NALTS is designed to address a critical need: retaining young people in Native American churches. The program provides Indigenous leaders with culturally resonant strategies that integrate latest best practices to create an engaging and supportive faith environment for youth. Leaders like Monique Prigmore, who ministers to young people on the Yavapai Apache reservation in Arizona, are already using this training to foster a sense of belonging and faith-based identity among teens in her congregation.



NALTS participants are also building crucial mentorship programs to address a shortage of Native pastors. By empowering local leaders to shape ministry from within their communities, NALTS honors Native culture while nurturing Christian faith to create a pathway for Indigenous youth to find hope and purpose through Christ. Your support of the 2025 America for Christ Offering can ensure that innovative programs like NALTS continue to help Native American ministry leaders build a future of faith, hope, and opportunity for their communities.

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AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON Grace

## Bringing Hope and Healing to Our Communities

Your donation to the America for Christ Offering fuels essential ministries that uplift and serve vulnerable communities across the nation. With your support, ABHMS partners with churches like Church of the City in New London, Connecticut, which is transforming lives every Saturday by serving free meals to more than 250 people in need.

ABHMS grants to Church of the City, New London, Connecticut, have funded upgrades to its kitchen to industrial



standards to keep pace with demand and helped stock a vital food pantry. However, as New London continues to grapple with high unemployment and other economic challenges, the needs of area residents extend beyond food. Consequently, Church of the City also provides access to clothing, health checkups, and a compassionate community.

Church of the City fully embraces its mission to “be in the city for the city,” which echoes ABHMS’s commitment to empowering local ministries in transforming lives. And as an ABHMS partner, Church of the City has become a beacon of hope and resilience.

PLEASE GIVE TODAY! [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025

# GRACE UPON Grace

## Empowering Innovative Ministries

Donations to the American for Christ Offering facilitate groundbreaking projects that connect faith with contemporary issues to reach communities in fresh, impactful ways. One such initiative is the short film “Are We There Yet,” backed in part by an ABHMS grant. A creation of Standing in the Gap Inc., a nonprofit that aims to foster unity and justice across faith communities through media production, the film confronts the wretched Doctrine of Discovery and its implications for Christian nationalism.

The filmmakers tackled these complex themes to inspire the vision of a church that reflects equity, compassion, and unity through a medium capable of reaching a broad audience via screenings at film festivals, theological institutions, and on YouTube.



ABHMS’s commitment to projects like “Are We There Yet” helps creative leaders inspire faith communities to engage with social issues and promote unity. By helping to support innovative ministries that address critical issues, your

gift to AFC makes you part of the journey to foster lasting change and shape a better future.

PLEASE GIVE TODAY! [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

## Litany

# GRACE UPON Grace

Ephesians 4:32 [NIV]

Leader: Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

**People:** Holy Spirit, increase kindness within each of us.

Leader: Compassion is the character of Christ.

**People:** Lord Jesus, teach us how to be compassionate on earth, as You were.

Leader: Unforgiveness is a form of bondage.

**People:** Liberating Lord, remind us that the work of chain-removal is our duty. You have already given us the keys.

Leader: Grant us Holy Trinity, the desire to walk in your ways.

**People:** May kindness, compassion and forgiveness become daily commitments in a world plagued by hate, apathy, and grudges.

**All:** We desire to be full of kindness. We desire to be full of compassion. We desire to be full of forgiveness. Fill us, O God, so it may be so. Fill us, O God, so we may overflow. *Amen.*

---

Written by Rev. Ryan Lindsay Arrendell

## Litany

# GRACE UPON Grace

Ephesians 4:32 [NIV]

Leader: Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

**People:** Holy Spirit, increase kindness within each of us.

Leader: Compassion is the character of Christ.

**People:** Lord Jesus, teach us how to be compassionate on earth, as You were.

Leader: Unforgiveness is a form of bondage.

**People:** Liberating Lord, remind us that the work of chain-removal is our duty. You have already given us the keys.

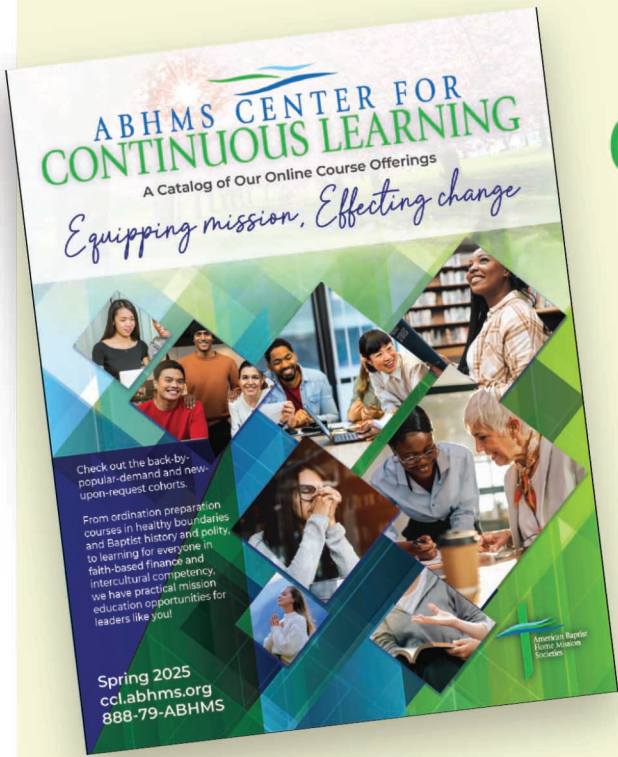
Leader: Grant us Holy Trinity, the desire to walk in your ways.

**People:** May kindness, compassion and forgiveness become daily commitments in a world plagued by hate, apathy, and grudges.

**All:** We desire to be full of kindness. We desire to be full of compassion. We desire to be full of forgiveness. Fill us, O God, so it may be so. Fill us, O God, so we may overflow. *Amen.*

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