

# Grace UPON Grace

**John 1:16-17** [NRSVue]

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

## America for Christ Offering 2023



American Baptist Home Mission Societies



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

## LEADER'S GUIDE

Bulletin inserts and litany inside!

# America for Christ Offering 2023

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## A PUBLICATION OF

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

American Baptist Churches USA

1075 First Avenue

King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

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All 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

Dear American Baptist Friends:

ABHMS is pleased to present the 2023 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2023) promotional materials with gratitude for your past generosity and thanksgiving for your continued support. This year's theme "Grace Upon Grace" is inspired by John 1:16-17, which reads: "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" [NRSVue]. AFC 2023 marks year one of a multi-year exploration of grace as the impetus for charitable support of ABHMS' transformational mission.

God's grace is expansive. Filled with abundant references to grace as God's light, the scriptures reflect a brilliant spectrum of rich hues that manifest God's favor, blessing, and kindness. As we transition to a post-pandemic world, we acknowledge that this light has shown upon us. We have emerged from the past few tumultuous years of isolation, deprivation, and loss, perhaps scarred and bowed but determined to continue pressing forward, thanks be to God.

God's work is never done. Faithful American Baptists continue to share God's love, proclaim good news, and express Christian compassion and grace in manifold ways. ABHMS distributes your generous gifts throughout the year to numerous American Baptist mission partners who are responding to God's call in different ways. Each year we share with you just a few of the stories from the American mission field about caring ministries that are changing lives.

American Baptists—buoyed by God's grace—are confronting a myriad of challenges they are finding in their local communities. Your generous financial support of AFC 2023 will empower American Baptists to continue extending grace upon grace to others in ways that exceed their limited capacity.

Through support from AFC 2023, creative responses to diverse needs, helping ministries, and faithful service will continue to heal and transform communities, congregations, and individuals across the United States and Puerto Rico.

With your help, we can bring God's healing touch to so many more. May we count on your generosity once again?



With gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey Haggray".

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

## John 1:16-17 [NRSVue]

**From his fullness we have all received, grace upon  
grace. The law indeed was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

## Biblical reflections from our American Baptist ministers

John 1:14 describes the Son of God as full of *grace and truth*. Verse 17 restates, “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” Oh, what a difficult combination—truth AND grace! In the U.S. and Puerto Rico’s long history of human oppression, whole groups of people have repeatedly spoken the truth of their existence and experience and have often been asked to do this with grace—with loving kindness and even delight for the other—even to an overwhelming population who are seemingly more determined to defend their own truth rather than receive the truth of others. If we lift our eyes to the one we call Savior, we see that Jesus himself knew this pain of sharing himself to those who would not receive him, yet he did this with what so often is humanly impossible—he did this with truth and grace. With

*charis* (grace in Greek), Jesus extends divine possibility to those who trust him, those who accept the discipleship charge to do the work of God’s justice, the acts of God’s redeeming love, and the transformative expressions of God’s grace.

These works, acts, and expressions are possible through your contributions to America for Christ; indeed, your gifts are expressions of grace upon grace.



Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri  
Director, Intercultural Ministries  
American Baptist Home Mission Societies

John 1:16-17 presents an alternative economy. One supported and sustained by grace. Grace, as defined by James Poulos, is the gratuitous irruption of God into human life. An irruption in which God perpetually covers the gap between what is owed and what is owned. Today’s economy is structured to extract more from an already weighed down society. It calls us to pay the price. Those who do not have the resources to keep pace with the demands of inflation, and rising cost of goods and services, will be excluded and penalized.

But God’s economy of grace inverts the flow of resources. In this economy, the stress of cultivating output that covers the deficit is eliminated and the ability to experience an outpouring of divine relief independent

of an individual’s performance or capability is realized. God’s grace provided to us through Christ should awaken a deeper dependence upon God’s power to save and a greater awareness of God’s love for humanity. Grace calls us back toward the heart of God. It reminds us that God desires that we may have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)



Rev. Trevor Hyde  
Pastor, The Historic Berean Church  
Brooklyn, New York

I’ve always been drawn to the word grace. Even as a young child, I noticed how adults would say this word with reverence. Grace has always seemed to be a gentle word. It’s not loud like “almighty” or “power.” Grace has a quietness about it, like it should be whispered.

We have this impression of grace, that it is something to be grateful for, something to revere, something humble yet powerful in its own way. But I wonder sometimes if we truly understand grace. Grace—the unmerited favor or the goodwill of God which we have not earned. In spite of all that is broken in our world and even though we are all sinners who fall short, God con-

tinues to offer us grace. This verse from John declares: “We have all received, grace upon grace.”

Grace may not be bold or loud, but grace may be the most transformative thing God offers us. God’s greatest act of grace is becoming human, offering us more than we could ever earn—new life in Christ.



Rev. Laura Harris-Adam  
Pastor of Faith Formation  
First Baptist Church of Indianapolis  
Indianapolis, Indiana

# Sample congregational letter

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Jesus teaches us to “Love your neighbor as you love yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Our church follows the teaching of Jesus by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors’ needs, physical and spiritual alike.

## AFC 2023 Goal

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2023 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2023) which seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministries through our churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico.

## AFC 2023 Promotional Window

ABHMS is allowed three months (January-March) to actively promote the AFC 2023 campaign through visits, phone calls and email communications. However, our church can support the AFC campaign throughout the year.

## AFC 2023 Theme

The theme for the America for Christ Offering 2023 is “Grace Upon Grace” (John 1:16-17, NRSVue): “From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

## How to Give to AFC 2023

You can give during the congregational offering Sunday (March 5) at our church, or you can give an individual gift online by visiting [abhms.org/afc](http://abhms.org/afc).

## How AFC 2023 Funds are Utilized

Our gifts to AFC support regions, churches, and community organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico with grants for a variety of purposes, including:

- Chaplaincy and spiritual caregivers support
- Aid for children living in poverty
- New, innovative ministries
- Developing church leaders
- Promoting discipleship

AFC dollars also fund scholarships for which our own members may apply, and our church is eligible to apply for ABHMS grants as well! ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for operations or overhead. One hundred percent of our AFC dollars support vital ministries.



AFC gifts also benefited Alaska Ministries, Asian Ministries, Latino Ministries, and Native American Ministries.

AFC 2023 empowers us to provide “Grace Upon Grace.” I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC offering and to help us reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News!

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

# Promoting the 2023 America for Christ Offering in your church

1. Gather a team or taskforce to lead and promote the America for Christ offering (AFC 2023).
2. Determine a schedule of activities to execute during the AFC 2023 three-month promotional window (January-March).
3. Review the enclosed materials. Display the included poster in a prominent, high-traffic location to encourage giving. Then, visit [abhms.org/afc](http://abhms.org/afc) to access all AFC 2023 videos and downloadable resources. If you need more printed materials, please call 610.768.2413 to speak with the friendly staff of ABHMS' Office of Development.
4. Set a goal for your church to assist ABHMS in raising \$1,500,000 that supports home mission throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Gather an AFC 2023 prayer team and meet once weekly before worship for five minutes of prayer.
5. Meet with your pastor and/or church's leadership team to share the promotions schedule.
6. Incorporate "Mission Moments" into worship. Dedicate a few minutes during worship each Sunday for a month to present a Mission Moment. They can include showing AFC videos, reading an insert, or allowing testimony from individuals who have volunteered for a home mission team or participated in any other kind of training or workshop.
7. Consider utilizing your church's social media page(s) and website to reach congregants who still participate virtually. Be sure to include in your postings a link to [abhms.org/afcnow](http://abhms.org/afcnow) to encourage online giving.
8. Invite a home mission staff member to speak at your church. Call ABHMS' Office of Development at 610.768.2413 or 888.79.ABHMS, ext. 2420, to make arrangements.
9. Involve children and youth during a Mission Moment. Instead of placing AFC 2023 inserts in the printed bulletin, ask your young people to hand distribute them during the Mission Moment. Also, try including young people in gathering the offering.
10. Have fun. Design an AFC 2023 bulletin board that includes materials from the offering packet. Encourage the young people to display their artwork that conveys ideas from the "Grace Upon Grace" theme.
11. Record and celebrate your progress. Use a Sunday in March to hold a celebration and to THANK the congregation for their generous support and for meeting the goal!

**Grace** UPON **Grace**  
**America for Christ Offering 2023**



# Ministries in the mission field

God's grace meets us in all places, even the most unexpected. Missional entrepreneurs are using their creative gifts and innovative mindsets to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to communities beyond the four walls of the church. These entrepreneurs have tasted God's gift



of grace in the affirmation of their non-traditional ministry pursuits, and they offer that same grace to

the people they encounter through those pursuits—people who may never enter a church building but are ready to experience the transforming power of God in the highways and byways of their communities.

The Co-Creators Incubator (CCI) is a one-year integrative program that helps grow Christ-propelled ideas into viable ventures. The CCI fosters a spirit of collegiality and collaboration amongst a cohort of co-creators, while providing them with resources to enhance and grow their ministries, including a seed grant and access

to mentors, business, and entrepreneurial experts. In pursuit of partnership and sustainability, the Co-Creators Incubator engages both the missional entrepreneurs as well as creative partners who may invest in the work of co-creators via financial or other means.

One of the ventures launched from the CCI is BraveMaker. Founded by Tony Gapastione, filmmaker and pastor of The Quest Church in Novato, California, BraveMaker is a non-profit film arts organization that exists to elevate brave voices through film. As an entrepreneur Gapastione collaborates with companies to create space for transforming conversations on justice, diversity, and inclusion.

Your grace-filled gifts to the 2023 America for Christ Offering will help missional entrepreneurs reach more people in innovative ways with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Rev. Lauren Ng  
Director, Leadership Empowerment  
American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Some of our neighbors seem more dependent than others on the grace of God for their daily living. In reality, these neighbors—whether children, elderly, or persons with physical or developmental disabilities—



remind all of us that we are dependent on God's grace that makes possible every good thing in our lives. God invites us to share with others the grace we have received as a way of multiplying

God's grace in the world and recognizing and honoring our interdependence with one another.

Rainbow Acres is a Christian community in Camp Verde, Arizona, with a heart that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose. Rainbow Acres provide exceptional housing, life-enriching programs, and loving, holistic care in a safe, vibrant, inclusive ranch-style community.

The residents, called Ranchers, are valued as individuals. Each is important, personally known by caregiv-

ers and staff, and nurtured to live a happy and full life. Ranchers live, work, and socialize with their peers on the ranch and are also important members in the local community, where they work, volunteer, take classes, and participate in activities.

Rainbow Acres is anchored in the core values of faith, hope, love and compassion, and all care is delivered by the principles of the Golden Rule. Rainbow Acres is a place where friends become family, and Rainbow Acres becomes home.

With your continued support through the 2023 America for Christ Offering, more Ranchers can experience freedom through independent and interdependent living. Give generously today.



Rev. Lisa R. Harris Lee  
Director, Healing & Transforming  
Communities, American Baptist Home  
Mission Societies

# Activities for children and youth

## Grace Upon Grace

words and music by Rachael Lawrence

The musical score for 'Grace Upon Grace' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Grace u - pon grace, God show - ers us with love. Be - cause of God's grace, we have love to share, ev' - ry day, ev' - ry way, ev' - ry where!'. The chords are indicated above the notes: G, D7, Em, D7, G, D7, Emin, Am, G, D7, D7, G, D, G, D7, Em, G, D7, G.

## Graceful Conversations for Youth

What is grace? What is the first thing that comes to mind? You may have immediately thought about someone who moves with beauty and ease such as a skilled dancer. Yet when we talk about God's grace, aren't we considering something beyond mere expressions of beauty or each of movement?

*Encyclopedia Britannica* defines *grace* in Christian theology as "the spontaneous, unmerited gift of the divine favor in the salvation of sinners, and the divine influence operating in individuals for their regeneration and sanctification."<sup>1</sup> More simply, God's grace is like unearned favors, being given gifts we may not deserve, or being let off the hook for something that may have gotten you in trouble. God's grace comes as forgiveness, mercy, kindness, and love. The verse from John 1:16 lets us know that grace is not a one-time offer. We know from the life of Jesus that God offers us grace upon grace.

Let's reflect on the idea of grace as beauty or ease of movement—God's grace can become the way God moves with beauty in this world when we operate in ways that

extend that grace. Showing grace in this world can be rebellious! In a winner-takes-all and you-reap-what-you-sow culture, acts of grace can be rare. We invite you to take some time this week to converse with others or with yourself in a journal, about ways to show grace so the world can see the beauty of God's movement through you. Here are some questions to get you started:

1. Have you experienced grace in your life? From God? From a person?
2. How did your experience of grace feel? Was it easy to accept that grace? Did it make your life better?
3. Would you want others to share what you felt in the moment you received grace?
4. What are some ways you can extend God's grace to others at school or in your community?
5. Where do you sense the biggest need for grace in our lives? What difference can you make in meeting that need for grace?

<sup>1</sup>Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopedia. "grace." Encyclopedia Britannica, May 30, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/grace-religion>

**Note:** Other children and youth resources are available online to download and print at [abhms.org/afc](http://abhms.org/afc)



# Frequently asked questions about AFC 2023

## What is the national goal?

ABHMS is promoting AFC 2023 to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

## What is the theme?

The theme of AFC 2023 is “Grace upon Grace,” based on John 1:16-17 [NRSVue]: “From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

## What is the three-month promotional window and when can my church give to AFC 2023?

ABHMS is allowed three months to promote the AFC 2023 campaign (January-March). Your church can support the AFC campaign throughout the year.

## How can I support AFC 2023?

You can give at your church during the regular congregational offering on Sunday or you can give an individual gift online by visiting [abhms.org/afcnow](http://abhms.org/afcnow). Also, consider encouraging your congregation’s Mission Committee to include an America for Christ Offering contribution in its annual budget.

## How is my gift to AFC 2023 making a difference?

Your generosity supports the mission of ABHMS—connecting our partners to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities across our nation and Puerto Rico. Your contributions share God’s love by:

- Cultivating Leaders: Strong leaders advance the mission of faith communities.
- Equipping Disciples: Broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- Healing Communities: We believe the power of Christian love can—and will—change the world.

## How is the AFC 2023 Offering used?

The offering is distributed in three parts:

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

## Whom do I contact for more materials or if I have a general question?

Contact personnel in ABHMS’ Office of Development:

- Kim Wilkins, Development Coordinator, 610.768.2413
- Vincent Dent, Chief Development Officer, 610.768.2420
- Monique Sadler-Taylor, Director of the Annual Fund and Major Gifts, 610.768.2410

## Where do I find the electronic versions of AFC 2023 materials?

Visit [abhms.org/afc](http://abhms.org/afc) for downloadable items and the opportunity to show AFC 2023 videos directly from the Internet.

## Mission Moments: America for Christ Offering Videos

The online videos can be used during a “Mission Moment” in worship or in a small group setting to illustrate how America for Christ Offering contributions impact and transform lives across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Go to [abhms.org/afc](http://abhms.org/afc) for access.

# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### Kodiak Baptist Mission

Located in Kodiak, Alaska, Kodiak Baptist Mission believes that the beauty surrounding us is a gift from God, and the best way to use it is to share it with our community and beyond.

Drawing upon our history and our consistent faith in Jesus Christ, Kodiak Baptist Mission seeks to be an example for our community and the world in the way that we love our neighbors through a holistic approach to education, as well as the dedication of time and resources to strengthen families.

From 1893 to today, Kodiak Baptist Mission has pioneered approaches to holistic education and domestic, rural missions right here in Kodiak. Through devastating fires and tightening state mandates, we have stayed firm in our faith and love of God.

Today, we have the best summer camps and after school programs in Kodiak. Our programs enable children to make positive choices and decisions, keep them safe and respectable, establish a spiritual foundation in their lives, and assist families to live, work, and grow together in Christ.

### Heritage Farms and Ranch

As Heritage Farms grows, so does its population of farm animals. Children can spend time around our chickens, goats, ducks, cow, horses, mule, and beloved Willow—our barn cat. Seeing the differences between these farm animals, the products they create, and how they interact with both other animals and humans is an experience kids adore because you simply can't get it in a classroom.



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

# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### FBC Jamaica Plain—Food Justice Program

We are a Christian community of many cultures, one faith! Unified in our diversity and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we gather together in worship, witness and service to glorify God and follow the example of Jesus, the Christ's, inclusive love.

The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain is a multicultural, inter-generational, welcoming and affirming American Baptist congregation

that has been sharing the Good News of Jesus since 1842. While our neighborhood has gone through multiple transitions over the years, this church continues to be a beacon of hope and light in our community. Despite the fire that burned our building in 2005, a deficit budget, and an unfinished church home, we have continued to be about the ministry to which God has called us. Two years ago, we began a non-profit, The Centre for Faith, Art & Justice, to serve as the outreach arm of our congregation. Through it we run a Food Justice Program and a Youth Open Mic and partner with other organizations doing the work of social justice.



Our congregation continues to be a place where we train pastors, support mission, reach out to the neighborhood, and strive to live the love we've known in Jesus. Our church's ministry is a fundamental reading of Matthew 25:35. Ministry grows out of the needs of God's people.

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

# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### Detroit Friendship House

Friendship House is a faith-based non-profit organization in Hamtramck, Michigan, under the umbrella of American Baptist Home Mission Societies. It serves as a compassionate ministry, strengthening families through community connections and offering help with basic human needs, such as food and clothing, and providing assistance in gaining the tools necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

Nearly half of the population of Hamtramck lives under the national poverty line. That means one in two people risk going to bed hungry every night.

### Brianna's story

Six-year-old Anthony lives with his mother and three siblings in Hamtramck, and just the other day, he told us he was hungry.

Anthony's family has always known poverty.

His mother Brianna never knew her mother, who passed away when she was two years old. She spent her childhood being passed from grandmothers to aunts, always looking for a place to call home.

Now, Brianna has four children, her GED, nine months of classroom study at Everest Institute toward a medical assistant's certificate, and a job with Better Life Bags, a handbag company started by a woman in Hamtramck. She says, "It's been a long journey for me toward some sense of stability."

With the increase in prices of basic necessities, your help is needed more than ever! Please be generous in your donation to the 2023 America for Christ Offering so that by working together, we can help those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity while trying to make ends meet financially!



# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### JOYA Scholars

Since 2009, JOYA Scholars has inspired and prepared more than 100 junior high, high school, and college students from low-income families in Fullerton, California, to succeed through higher education. These students are primarily from Latinx and immigrant families residing in Fullerton's Garnet and Maple neighborhoods.

Through our College Readiness Program, our team addresses the issue of education access within marginalized communities. Junior high and high school students participate in mentoring, tutoring, our College Apps Academy, Service & Leadership Academy, and more. Meanwhile, their parents enroll in our Parent Academy.

In 2020-2021, nearly 100 students participated in 2,100 virtual hours of our College Readiness Program. Despite the pandemic, more students participated in our program that year than in any single previous year. Sixteen high school graduates and three college students earned more than \$26,000 in scholarships awarded by our partners.

## JOYA SCHOLARS

Also, during the pandemic, several high school students attended two virtual student leadership trainings, and our alumni network expanded from 31 to 47 students. Our Parent Academy doubled from 15 to 30 participants, our 45 volunteers served more than 1,400 hours, and our team coordinated \$80,000 in direct relief to over 500 neighborhood families who experienced job, housing, and food insecurity.

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

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# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### First Baptist Church, Painted Post, NY

The purpose of the Twin Tiers Baby Bank is to support economically disadvantaged families in keeping their babies healthy by providing a one-week supply of diapers (50) along with a container of wipes, a bottle of shampoo/baby wash, A&D type lotion, and miscellaneous other baby items, up to four times per year. The Baby Bank serves families and their children (up to age 42 months) in the Corning-Painted Post, New York area, with an estimated 1,090 unique individual children and adults being served in 2020.

The Twin Tiers Baby Bank has been operating free of charge for six years out of an office and storage area in the First Baptist Church



—50 percent year-over-year in the first three years—that that we saw the need to become a separate nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. The growth of Twin Tiers Baby Bank is a testament to the increasing numbers and escalating needs of disadvantaged families in the area we serve. With your gracious support through the 2023 America for Christ Offering, we can, together, make the coming year a brighter one.

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

# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### First Baptist Comunidad Cristiana – Agape Youth Center, Yakima, WA

As one Agape fifth grader put it: “Agape has helped me with academics most of all. It has also helped me to become a better person. It has given me backpacks and produce. Agape has helped me to understand life in many ways and to appreciate what I have. My Agape counselors have taught me respect and to be myself. Agape has always been there for me and always will. They have always taught me to have faith in myself no matter what.”

The Agape Youth Center Summer Program is a free STEAM-based program for first through fifth graders sponsored by a non profit organization called Schools Out Washington. The



program focuses on creatively teaching science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Our vision is to encourage learning and growth in character, education, and physical health by providing a safe, caring, fun environment combined with high-quality teaching. We desire that our children grow into future leaders who bring positive impact to their communities.

Our program has certified teachers who bring the STEAM subjects to life, as well as fun games and water play; plus, a lunch/snack is provided!

To help support the Agape Youth Center, donate generously to the 2023 America for Christ Offering.

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

# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### Corporación Milagros del Amor–CorMA

CorMA is a faith-based project that arose from the initiative of brothers of the First Baptist Church of Caguas, Puerto Rico, which has a 120-year history of service to the community.

CorMA's mission for the past 30 years has been to enhance the quality of life in Caguas and neighboring counties through multiple programs and activities in areas such as health, education, housing, and recreation. Despite facing diverse challenges, the organization has helped the most vulnerable populations in the region by offering services such as case management, transportation, food, clothing, and housing.

Our commitment is to serve with love, following the model of Jesus, through our multidisciplinary team of professionals.

With your support through the 2023 America for Christ Offering, you too can be part of this vital ministry in Puerto Rico.



**Please give today!**

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

# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

### Detroit Friendship House

Friendship House has been experiencing an influx of Ukrainian refugees needing food.

These refugees have been through unimaginable trauma, and we want to help welcome them to America as best we can.

Luckily, we have a regular volunteer who speaks Ukrainian and so we've been describing our tradition of sharing meals to our new guests and how they can participate in our time-honored tradition.



We've explained that through the compassion and kindness of our donors, Friendship House will be distributing traditional meals to our clients who cannot afford it. It enables them to be able to celebrate our custom of sharing gratitude with their friends and family.

Will you help us share our beloved custom with our clients including our new Ukrainian refugees?

Your donation today through 2023 America for Christ Offering will help our regular clients enjoy meals without the stress it adds to their already over-stretched budgets and helps our Ukrainian clients acclimate to their new surroundings, thereby creating a better future for all.

Make your donation today through the 2023 America for Christ offering!

**Please give today!**

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

## Litany

# Grace upon Grace

John 1:16-17 [NRSVue]

**Leader:** The grace of God for the people of God is given through Christ.

**People:** We rejoice in the grace we experience in our relationship with Christ.

**Leader:** How does God's grace through Christ give us a new beginning?

**People:** The beauty of grace allows us to have a fresh start in Christ every day and have another opportunity to serve and worship the Lord. We experience the "new mercy" of Christ that we should offer others.

**Leader:** How can we share grace with one another?

**People:** We will extend grace as we collectively participate in caring for one another as we remember how "God first loved us."

**Leader:** How will we serve as examples of truth and grace?

**People:** We will embody and live in the light of truth and grace through our actions of justice, words of strength for change, and spiritual practices rooted in Jesus Christ.

**All:** We accept the blessings of Christ's grace as we work together and actively live in our gift of "Grace upon Grace" for more faithful and loving believers who transform the world.

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Written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl L. Price, Judson Press Publisher

## Litany

# Grace upon Grace

John 1:16-17 [NRSVue]

**Leader:** The grace of God for the people of God is given through Christ.

**People:** We rejoice in the grace we experience in our relationship with Christ.

**Leader:** How does God's grace through Christ give us a new beginning?

**People:** The beauty of grace allows us to have a fresh start in Christ every day and have another opportunity to serve and worship the Lord. We experience the "new mercy" of Christ that we should offer others.

**Leader:** How can we share grace with one another?

**People:** We will extend grace as we collectively participate in caring for one another as we remember how "God first loved us."

**Leader:** How will we serve as examples of truth and grace?

**People:** We will embody and live in the light of truth and grace through our actions of justice, words of strength for change, and spiritual practices rooted in Jesus Christ.

**All:** We accept the blessings of Christ's grace as we work together and actively live in our gift of "Grace upon Grace" for more faithful and loving believers who transform the world.

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Written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl L. Price, Judson Press Publisher



# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

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America for Christ  
Offering 2023

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Offering 2023

**John 1:16-17** [NRSVue]

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon  
grace. The law indeed was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**John 1:16-17** [NRSVue]

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon  
grace. The law indeed was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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