

CHURCHES BY THE RIVER
THE MILLS
May 5, 2020

Re: UTO Spring Ingathering

Dear Parish UTO Coordinators,

It is time for our UTO Spring Ingathering and due to the COVID-19 pandemic and self-isolation we now find ourselves in an unusual situation as to proceed.

UTO is also being affected by this pandemic. The UTO Board and staff are planning for the long recovery period to come. Many people have expressed concern about collecting the Spring Ingathering when churches are not meeting in person. There are many ways to give to UTO that do not involve gathering at church. Everyone is encouraged to send their Spring Ingathering using one of the following methods. You can:

- Give via your phone, simply text **INGATHER** to **41444**
- Give online at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/give/>
- Mail a check, payable to **UTO** to:

The United Thank Offering
DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church
PO Box 958983
St. Louis MO 63195-8983

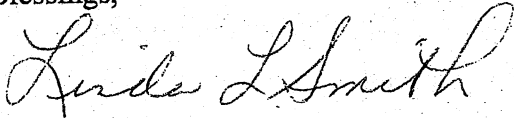
** Please be sure to include **Ingathering Diocese of Ohio and your Parish name** in the memo line. Every donation will be acknowledged with a card and recorded.

100% of what is collected this year will be given away to support Episcopal/Anglican ministries directly responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

The UTO Board plans to change the focus for the 2020 UTO Ingathering grants to center around recovery efforts from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Details on this new focus will be available after it is approved by the Executive Council in June. The UTO Board wanted you to know about this change as soon as possible so you wouldn't put effort into grants based on the previously announced focus for 2021. The UTO Board plans to return to the important creation care focus in 2022, so just put those grant ideas on hold for now.

As always, the UTO Board gives thanks every day for all those who participate in the United Thank Offering by practicing gratitude – noticing the blessings in their lives, giving thanks for those blessings, and making an offering to share their blessings. And gratitude is even more important than usual during these difficult times because it helps with emotional health and resilience. Practicing gratitude is like staying home to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 – it is good for you and good for everyone around you. Stay safe, stay well, and stay grateful.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda L. Smith". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Linda L. Smith

United Thank Offering Coordinator Diocese of Ohio

9209 Darrow Rd. Apt 200

Twinsburg, Ohio 44807

330-348-4756

smithllh@yahoo.com