



# Offering invitation and prayer



for the 2024 Mission Offering

## *Invitation to the offering*

Our houses of worship—in the US and around the world—are wonders to behold. Whether constructed recently or long ago, our congregations were built—brick by brick, panel by panel, glass pane by glass pane—with purpose and beauty. And while all of our churches are unique, the people who worship, serve, and are served within them are even more diverse. Despite our differences, we are all united in our mission to love and serve one another, making room for what God is building in us and around us.

In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he proclaimed that all followers of Jesus—whether Jew or Gentile, man or woman, having weak faith or strong—are equal members of the family of God. He invited them to set aside their earthly differences and preferences, and instead to live unto the Lord, to extend helping hands to one another, to work for the good of all. We build up one another through love and service, and as we do so, we become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. Together we pursue peace and work to build up our neighbors near and far.

The Mission Offering highlights the ministry of our sisters and brothers around the world. It is an opportunity to financially and prayerfully uplift the core mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren that provides support to pastors and leaders in the US but also our Global Mission staff in South Sudan (Athanasus Ungang); sister denominations that are members of the Global Communion in Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, India, Nigeria, Rwanda, Spain, Uganda, and Venezuela; and other partner organizations in Burundi, China, Ecuador, Mexico, and Vietnam.

Thank you for supporting sisters and brothers around the world who are serving their communities. Although each of our neighborhoods is unique, our efforts to pursue peace and offer mutual encouragement together make a difference. Let us now give, and marvel at the wonders that God is building in all the world.

## *Offering prayer*

We thank you, O God, for all people who have helped us and for all whom we have helped. We know your grace and peace and love grow as they are shared.

Bless the gifts we offer today. Use them to uplift our sisters and brothers as they serve in your name for the good of others.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

*Matt DeBall, coordinator of Mission Advancement Communications*

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