

**DISCIPLES WOMEN
GENERAL PROGRAM**

Written by

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Blessing Box Dedication



Discipleswomen.org

Worship Center

Place a white cloth on a small table and place the table in the center of your gathering space.

On the table place the following items:

A lit candle to represent the light of Christ

A plant to represent the gifts of creation

A loaf of bread to represent God providing for our physical needs

Photos of men, women and children from around the world to represent the gift of relationship and our interconnectedness.

A Blessing Box

Introduction

In 1953, the co-founder of Christian's Women's Fellowship Jesse Trout dreamed that women could and would make a difference in funding the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She knew that each day faithful women counted their blessings recognizing the goodness of God who was the source of those blessings. Trout called upon the women of the church to continue to count their blessings as they engaged in a tangible act of gratitude and generosity by saving coins and contributing them as a way to help others.

Nickels, dimes, and quarters were collected and checks were written as women said, "Thank you!" Thank you for the health of my children. Thank you for the food on our table. Thank you for the sunshine and the rainfall. Thank you for the beautiful sunset and the vast ocean. Thank you for the women with whom I laugh and cry. Thank you. Those small offerings grew. From 2000 – 2017, \$3,505, 214.00 has been given to support the mission of the church.

Jesse was right! Women could and would make a difference as blessings are shared and lives are transformed.

Today, we stand in solidarity with the women whose example we follow as we count our blessings and engage in a tangible act of generosity seeking to bless others as we have been blessed.

Scripture

The Lord is a sun and a shield;

God is favor and glory.

The Lord gives – doesn't withhold ! – good things

To those who walk in integrity.

Lord of heavenly forces,

Those who trust in you are truly happy.

Psalm 84: 11 – 12

Litany of Blessings

One Voice: In the beginning you spoke the world into being,
filling the earth with every kind of plant and animal,
with the birds of the air and the fish and animals of the sea.

For the beauty of the earth, sky, and sea, and all that is in it,
we give you thanks.

Many Voices: The earth is full of the lovingkindness of God.

One Voice: In the beginning you saw that it was not good for humanity to be alone.
you gave us family and friends, you saw that it was good when we lived in peace.

For the joy of relationship, we give you thanks.

Many Voices: The earth is full of the lovingkindness of God.

One Voice: And now, O God, you give us the gift of each new day.
Morning breaks bringing new opportunities to live out our calling.

For the gift of work and play, wakefulness and rest, we give you thanks.

Many Voices: The earth is full of the lovingkindness of God.

One Voice: You provide us with daily bread, providing for our needs.

For the provision of your hand, we give you thanks.

Many Voices: The earth is full of the lovingkindness of God.

One Voice: You are the source of all good things.
You draw near in times of struggle and trial.
You fill us with joy and laughter.
You wipe away every tear as you console your people.
For the blessing of your presence, O Lord, we give you thanks.

Many Voices: The earth is full of the lovingkindness of God.

Unison: And so, O God, we give you thanks for we have received grace upon grace. You have poured out your love upon us and our hope in you does not disappoint.

Offering – at this time the Blessing Box Offering will be received.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Dedication of Offering

*Let us pray,
Gracious God, we give you thanks for the daily blessings that we receive from your hand. We ask that you would accept these offerings as a token of our devotion and a sign of our desire to reflect your generosity in our own lives. May we seek to bless as we have been blessed. May we look upon others with eyes of compassion and hearts filled with love. May these gifts be multiplied as they become of part of the greater offering of the Disciples Women furthering the work of your kingdom in this place and to the ends of the earth. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

Closing Benediction

Unison: God, be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause your fact to shine upon us; that your way may be know upon the earth, your saving health among all nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.