



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

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Dear sisters and brothers of the Southwest Region,

As I write this letter to you, it seems that our world is in a time of darkness, and glimpses of hope seem few and far between. We look for peace and see war; we look for love and see hate; we look for acceptance and see bigotry; we look for safety and see danger; we look for unity and see division.

But as we prepare to enter the season of Advent, we are challenged to look and find those glimpses of hope: love, acceptance, safety, unity. And we are compelled by the Gospel to live out those glimpses of hope, to be the hope that others are so desperately looking for. And there are so many times and so many ways that I see in our Region that very thing happening, that help us to keep believing and depend on an ever-deepening hope in such desperate times. In this season we lift up those reasons for hope!

The 2016 Christmas Offering theme is “Believe Again: A Deeper Hope.” I cannot image a more appropriate theme for this year, both in the life of our world and in the life of our Region. We have been in a time of transition for three years, and sometime in the new year there will be new Regional Leadership selected and in place. What a wonderful time to be filled with deep and everlasting hope, and for us to believe again that we truly do have good news to share with all. A new beginning, a new way of looking at and being church, new leadership with fresh eyes to lead us into an uncertain, but hope-filled, future!

One hundred percent of the contributions you give to this year’s Christmas Offering come back to the Christian Church in the Southwest; and this year more than ever we need your generous and prayerful assistance as we prepare ourselves for a new future! The offering is received on **December 11th and 18th**; this is your opportunity to truly make a difference in the ministry of the CCSW!

May the peace of the Christ Child be yours,

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