

2020 Christmas Offering
REJOICE
A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

When they saw the star,
they rejoiced exceedingly
with great joy.

Matthew 2:10



We are so thankful for the ministry that we share. Our Christmas Offering helps our shared ministry to influence and impact others. The year in review is a reminder of the impact your gifts make on our shared ministry. Unlike Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), 100% of the Christmas offering stays in the region. This year, more than ever, your gifts matter. Despite the challenges, we have much to celebrate! The staff created a video to make you smile; please watch it <https://vimeo.com/492787059>. Every voice represented in our regional ministry raises a thank you in advance for your Christmas gift. Give to the Region of Georgia General Fund by clicking

<https://docgeneralassembly.givingfuel.com/georgia-capital-campaign>.

As we reflect on this past year, we remember last year when we celebrated our regional youth ministry at Sandy Springs. We were excited about 2020 and the ministry plans that were going forth in every regional ministry area. We believed that the region was going to pivot toward a new and healthier trajectory. We are sure we are not the only ministry team that had great expectations for 2020.

When the pandemic first hit, we all thought it was temporary. Unfortunately, even now, it continues to wreak havoc globally, along with associated crises in education, economics, and our public health care systems. Along with the pandemic, we have faced social unrest, deep divides in our country around most of what defines us – including racial issues, gender, theology, politics, and generational divides, etc., and natural and human-made disasters. All of these and our personal and church circumstances have made it difficult to reclaim ministry plans, programs, and resources.

Yet, as much as this has been a challenging year, we declare it has been a year of lessons. We have learned that ministry must be agile and flexible. We discovered that with a new resolve to forge ahead with calm courage, we could still do ministry well with an adaptable orientation. Ministry does not have to be complicated, high tech, or extreme. Ministry does have to be purposeful, and it does have to LIFT people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Your Christmas donation makes that happen across the region.

Your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Camp Christian, your designated regional donation, the annual fund – \$20 for 2020, and Disciples Women and Disciples Men made it possible

for us to have an "Instead" ministry. The reality is this strange season helped to shape ministry in new and fresh ways that will continue to enhance ministry beyond the pandemic. Like many of our congregations, our regional ministry became virtual before our very eyes. Quickly learning new skills and forming new teams, we hosted our first virtual regional assembly and ten other virtual gatherings and learning events. However, there was more. You made it possible for the camp to host 112 people on mission days at camp and touched 200 campers through camp in a box in their homes. You sponsored a food drive and school supply drive at Camp Christian. Our Regional Board and countless clergy in our region gave their voices to justice issues in the State of Georgia. While we experienced an interruption in programming, region-wide prayer came into being.

Prayerfully, we seek to live in the active reality of "who we are" and "how we serve" as members of the Body of Christ. Howard Thurman once said, "We do a lot in the church that shields us from God. Knowing that God has called people on occasion to some very daring and inconvenient things, congregations find themselves taming the story and eliminating as many risks as possible." Despite the challenges of 2020, let us all look forward to 2021 with a powerful resolve and courage to do ministry well with a capacity to embrace creativity. Remember, ministry does not have to be complicated, high tech, or extreme. It does have to be purposeful, and it does have to LIFT people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Merry Christmas and may the coming year shine
brighter than the years past!**

Rev. Denise & The Christian Church in Georgia Regional Staff, Board, and Commissions