



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

Matthew 2:10

Our finest gifts supporting the Ministries of our Region ~ Received December 13th & 20th in most Congregations

## Christmas offering provides support for congregations to rejoice

Life does not always play out like we imagined. This is true for us individually and true for our churches. You plan for things to be a certain way but then "life happens." Through the Christmas offering resources are provided that assist the Christian Church in Indiana to be ready to respond when a congregation needs assistance. And find a way to rejoice in all things.

The help comes, most often, "in the flesh." The Christmas offering, received this month and taken in most congregations on Sundays December 13 and 20, undergird the salaries of Regional staff members whose focus is on the care and support of congregations and clergy. Rick Spleth and Carolyn Reed work with churches and ministers in times of change and challenge. Their efforts are augmented by a dozen Regional Elders who extend the pastoral care reach of our Region. Maribeth Westerfield, Charissa Ramey, Nathan Kibler, and April Scott provide program support for churches around women's leadership, youth and camp, and stewardship and finance. Supporting all that activity are Sarah Riester, Candace Boyd Wylie, and Sandy Kincaid who coordinate the activity of the Regional office. Your congregation has a team of persons behind you. And your congregation has a network of churches across Indiana supporting you.

For congregations to flourish in this time often takes new imagination. Regional staff seek to share ideas and best practices and to form connections with ministers and churches who may not know one another well. But more than that your Regional staff seeks to give congregations the courage to dream, to believe, and to hope when circumstances have changed, and even in a time like this to rejoice.

You are encouraged to contribute to the Christmas offering. It is an investment in your church and the support your church receives in all its times. Thank you for your partnership.