



Christmas 2015

Greetings in the spirit of the expected Christ;

In this blessed season we have much to celebrate and much for which we give thanks. I'm grateful to serve in a congregation that is so deeply committed to serving the community in which we have been planted. Every act of service, every act of love and every act of faith is making a difference in the world. These acts fulfill our call in Christ and are consistent with our identity as Redlands First UMC. As people of faith called United Methodist we have a mission: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". In essence, we are people of a particular faith **and** we are people with a specific vocation. We are to be about transforming the world. We live out this vocation in concert with brother and sister United Methodists throughout Southern California and across the globe.

With this in mind, this year's Christmas offering is designated to our Connectional Mission Covenant (also known as Apportionments). We are making this choice because we want to fulfill our commitment to the UMC. We are committed to this work because we have seen how this mission money is changing lives and communities. This covenantal giving is establishing new churches and resurrecting formerly closed churches in needy communities in Southern California. Each one of these communities is a place of faith and worship, outreach and support and a beacon for the surrounding community. For more information about how our Connectional Mission Giving is impacting the world visit **www.umcsgiving.org/your-impact**.

These covenantal mission dollars extend our reach throughout the region. They also strengthen our bonds with the larger UMC in our common ministry of faith and transformation. Please prayerfully consider what offering you might make before the end of the year to help us fulfill this important mission.

Pastor J.T.