



# First Church Berkeley UCC

December 20, 2022

Dear Friends and Members of First Church Berkeley:

Do you feel the joy of the Christmas season? You're not alone if your joy is mixed with some anxiety and sadness. The stress from planning the perfect holiday with the perfect gifts takes its toll. However, there's one gift that is sure to bring joy, and that is your donation to the Christmas Offering. Our recipients this year are two local organizations that do God's work in our community: the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant and the Young Lives Matter Foundation.

One client of the **East Bay Sanctuary Covenant** is a mother of four, in a rural area of Sacramento County. EBSC helped her gain political asylum and introduced her to a supportive group of other asylees. EBSC also helped her apply for a green card, gain legal status for her children, avoid eviction, sue her abuser for child support, and meet with a therapist. Each year EBSC supports the rights of hundreds of individual immigrants through legal services, English instruction, paperwork filing, and other services. Your donation will help bring stability to the life of a displaced person.

The **Young Lives Matter Foundation** provides a variety of services for 150 at-risk youth in Berkeley and Oakland. The primary activities are football and cheerleading, but there is so much more going on. On the field they learn that intense conflict can be resolved peacefully. And at times the team provides elements that may be missing from a child's home life, such as a father figure or sufficient food. The coaches even do some tutoring to help with homework. God meets us where we are, whether the activity is sheep-tending or football.

Please give generously in support of these worthwhile causes. You can donate online at [OnRealm.org](https://OnRealm.org) (log in, click "Giving", then the blue +Give button, then choose the fund "Christmas Offering") or at [paypal.me/firstchurchberkeley](https://paypal.me/firstchurchberkeley), or by check to First Church Berkeley with "Christmas Offering" in the memo line. The check can be mailed to First Church Berkeley, 2330 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704, or you can put it in the offering plate at the Christmas Eve service, 4 pm or 9 pm.

Thank you for your generous support.

*Your Justice and Service Ministry: Steve Spielman, chair; Phil Adams, Cindy Au, Maureen Prochaska, Nori Kobayashi, Craig Pratt, Doris Lynch, and Susan Aberg*