**America for Christ Offering 2019**

Dear

The Lord Jesus Christ intends every member of the church to do the work of the ministry. The intention of ministry is to build up each other’s faith and love. God’s design is to use human support and encouragement to sustain the faith of God’s children and to lighten the burdens they bear in the service of love for their community.

We are motivated and inspired by American Baptist Home Mission Societies’ (ABHMS) America for Christ (AFC) 2019 “Healing Communities” theme, based on Galatians 6:9-10: *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers* (NIV).

The “Healing Communities” theme is a passionate reminder to join with diverse communities in engaging existing resources, expanding our understanding, and nurturing community healing that encourages mutual transformation. Your generous AFC gifts supported the following ministries last year:

* “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” — rebuilding the island one church and one building at a time.
* Scholarships and Emerging Leaders — providing scholarships to students to help ease the debilitating effects of excessive student-loan debt.
* Immigration and Refugee Resettlement — partnering with organizations that have resettled more than 100,000 displaced persons from across the world.
* Rizpah’s Children — partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty.

Additional supported ministries include Disaster Response, Volunteer Mobilization, Prisoner Re-Entry and Community Outreach Ministries.

AFC 2019 encourages us to engage in service to the church and the community. For many, that may be the way they experience the love of Christ in us. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC offering and help us to reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS in healing communities.

Your Pastor,