

# Advent Offering 2019

Longing for Home, Justice, Peace, & Rest

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the **district** church  
A CHURCH FOR THE CITY



Dear Church,

Each year we take up a special offering that we give away to the cause of Christ here in DC and across the world. We give to our mission partners that we work with throughout the year to help them meet critical social needs and proclaim Christ.

This Advent season, we as a church will be talking about the four longings we all share: a longing for home, for justice, for peace, and for rest. These longings ultimately point to our deepest longing, which is for the presence of God in Christ.

This year, we have set a bold goal of raising over \$150,000. This ambitious goal is a result of the growing number of partners we have and the urgent needs they have in their communities.

This year's Advent Offering includes five major categories: church planting, local partners, national partners, global partners and emergency relief. By giving generously and sacrificially, we have an opportunity to be a blessing to our neighbors here in DC and across the world. Would you begin to pray now about what God would have you give, above your regular giving to our Advent Offering?

Let's continue to be a church for the city that seeks to bring the hope of the gospel to every nation, tribe, people and language (Revelation 7:9).



Pastor Aaron Graham  
Lead Pastor



To give visit

[www.  
districtchurch.org  
/advent](http://www.districtchurch.org/advent)

Deadline:  
**January 7th,  
2020**



# This Year Our Advent Offering Will Be Divided In Five Categories:

- ▲ Church Planting
- ▲ Local Partners
- ▲ National Partners
- ▲ Global partners
- ▲ Emergency Relief



## Church Planting

**Matthew 28:18-19** "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".



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### La Chapelle - Planting a church in Ottawa, Canada

- La Chapelle is committed to reaching French speaking Canada.
- Montreal, where La Chapelle was first planted, is considered the most unchurched city in North America.
- Pastors David Portier and Sebastien Corn of La Chapelle preached and led worship in English together for their first time ever at TDC in 2017.



### Mavuno - Planting two culture defining churches in Nairobi, Kenya

- Mavuno's vision is to "Plant a culture defining church in every capital city of Africa and the gateway cities of the world by the year 2035."
- They have already planted 18 churches in Africa.



## Did you know that Paul planted 14 churches?

Research shows that planting churches is the most effective way to reach unchurched people with the gospel. New churches tend to be much more outward oriented and engaged in meeting the social and spiritual needs of their surrounding community.

We are committed to planting churches in DC and beyond that share our values, beliefs and commitment to be a city-reaching and culture-impacting church.



### Thirst Church DC - Planting a church in Brightwood, DC

Pastors Adei and Verdena recently completed a two-year church planting residency with Rockharbor Church in Charlotte, NC.



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### Neighborhood Church DC- Planting a church in Glover Park, DC

Glover Park neighborhood does not have a single Christian church for its 15,000 residents.



### Second Evangelical Church, Athens, Greece - Planting a church in Zografou, Athens

They are partnering with Intervarsity to plant this church among college students. Pastor Georgios served as a youth Pastor at the Greek Evangelical Church in Boston from 1995 to 1997.



## Prayer

Lord, we pray You will help each of these churches to reach unchurched people with the gospel. Open up supernatural doors for them to reach into their communities for the sake of Your name.

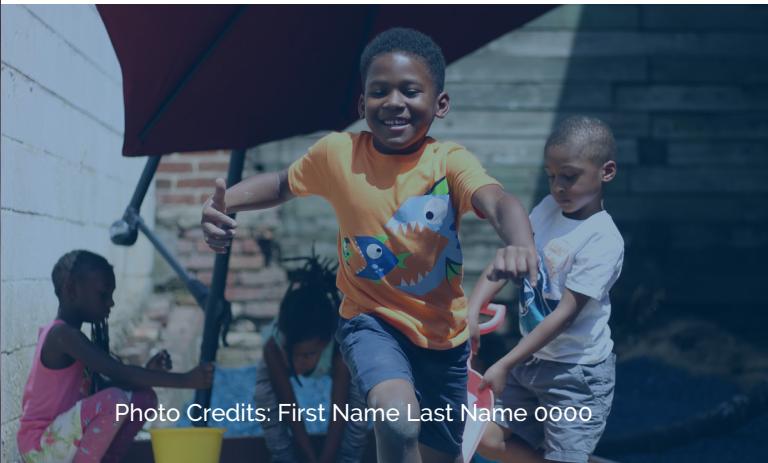
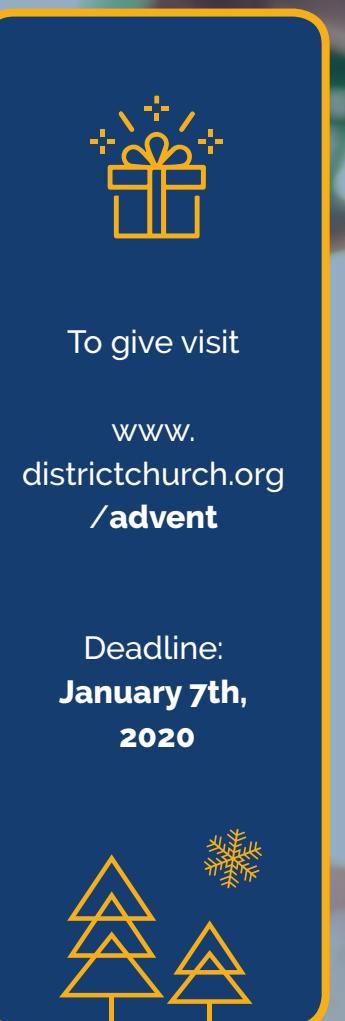
Lord, we ask for your covering over all of the families involved in local and global church plants - specifically:

- Pastor Josias, his wife, Debora Laporte and their two children Keylia and Neva - they will start the public launch of La Chapelle in Ottawa in 2020.
- Pastor Kevin & his wife, Faith Kathoka and Drew & Regina Kipkemboi as they plant another Mavuno Church location.
- Pastor Adei Batsuli & his wife Verdena and their three kids Jolie, Mijose, and James as they prepare to plant in the Brightwood neighborhood of DC.
- Pastor Daniel Clark, his wife Heather, and their kids Wesley and Josephine as they prepare to plant a church in the Glover neighborhood of DC.
- Pastor Georgios and Hara Adam and their three adult children Pavlos, Dimitris and Maria as they prepare to reach college students in Athens.
- Lord, we pray You will help each of these churches to reach unchurched people with the gospel. Open supernatural doors for them to reach into their communities for the sake of Your name.



Church Planting Goal  
**\$30,000**





## Local Partners

**Jeremiah 29:7** "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper".

We always seek to come alongside where God is already at work in our city and partner with existing organizations. Many of our local partners we have journeyed with for many years.

We also start new local ministries out of our church when we sense a need that we believe we can uniquely contribute to. As a church, we have a unique calling to start ministries that meet the felt needs of our city that can become a national model for effective church-based justice ministry.

### College Students in DC

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is an inter-denominational, evangelical Christian campus ministry founded in 1941, working with students and faculty on U.S. college and university campuses. **We will support InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff who are part of The District Church reach students at George Washington University, American University, Georgetown University, and University of Maryland.**





## Samaritan Inns

The mission of Samaritan Inns is to provide structured housing and recovery services in an environment of support and accountability that gives homeless or at risk individuals the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

**We will sponsor a start-up program in Columbia Heights for women who are in long-term recovery from substance abuse by providing financial management and employment preparation training.**

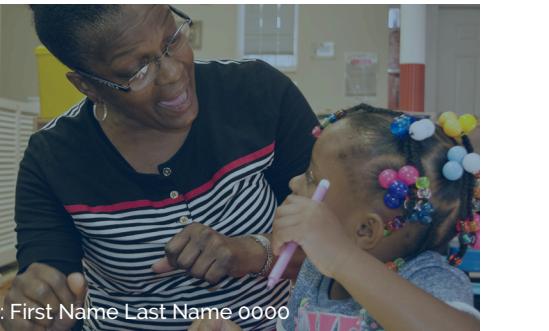


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LITTLE LIGHTS



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## Little Lights

Little Lights is a Christian ministry committed to providing sanctuaries of encouragement, hope, and practical assistance to at-risk children, youth, and families in the Southeast neighborhood of Washington, DC.

**We will sponsor 25 students living in DC public housing to attend summer camp.**



## Apartment Life

Apartment Life partners with apartment owners and local churches to place Christian teams into apartment communities to help create a sense of community and provide care for residents. **We will help reach apartment residents for Christ in Ballston, Virginia by sponsoring regular community events.**



## DC127

DC127 is an initiative started out of The District Church in 2013 that is now comprised of 18 churches focused on working together to ensure the success of every child in foster care and those at risk of entering the child welfare system. **We will help reverse the foster care and adoption wait list in DC by helping recruit more church partners in order to care for children and families in crisis.**



JUST HOMES

## Just Homes

Just Homes is a housing initiative of The District Church that mobilizes and equips churches in DC to meet the urgent housing needs of their communities. **We will sponsor the first "Faith Leaders Housing Summit" and provide educational materials for pastors and leaders in DC.**



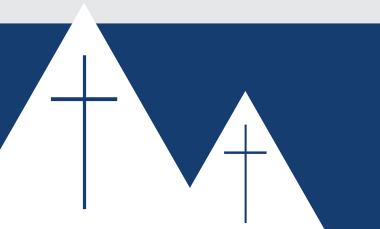
## Addiction & Recovery Ministry

Help The District Church launch an Addiction & Recovery Ministry in 2020 to help our church become a place where sick people can come to find healing.



## Prayer

Lord, we thank you for calling us to be a church for the city. We pray for each of our local partners to have the resources they need to meet the urgent, spiritual and social needs of our city.



Local Partners Goal  
**\$55,000**



# National Partners

**Acts 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Our national partners are those working within the US to help extend the gospel, particularly to under resourced communities.



## One Church - Comerio, Puerto Rico

One Church's mission is to expand the Kingdom of God in Comerio so that every person experiences God and has a radical change that impacts not only their family, but their community in Puerto Rico. **We will sponsor a new community emergency hub in one of the most vulnerable places in case of a natural disaster by providing new cisterns, showers, and AC units.**



## Arrabon

The word arrabon means "a foretaste of what is to come". Arrabon believes the church should be a foretaste of a reconciled heaven to our divided world. Arrabon exists to equip communities to effectively engage in reconciliation. **We will sponsor a summer internship in Richmond, VA for young emerging leaders to write songs for the urban church.**



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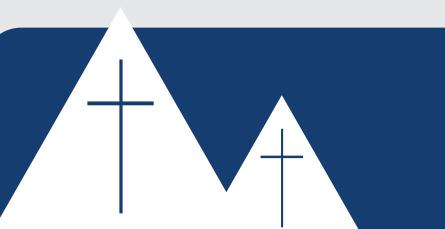
## World Relief - Family Reunification Fund

World Relief in Baltimore provides urgent legal services to those filing for asylum. **We hope to help reunite separated families and children by sponsoring legal services from start to finish for a family claiming asylum.**



## Prayer

Lord, we thank you for our partners and their dedication to serve you in unique ways. We pray that you continue to bless them, so they can continue to bless others in need.



National Partners Goal  
**\$15,000**





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## International Partners

**Matthew 19:14** "Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Our international partnerships have mostly emerged over the years through relationships through people in our church who have been deeply connected with these ministries. We are committed to partnering with organizations that have a priority for caring for the poor and doing so through the local church where possible for the glory of God.



### Life Raft - Bangkok, Thailand

Life Raft International was started in 2011 by Chris & Jade Woodruff out of The District Church and supports refugees that have fled persecution in their homelands, but still struggle to survive in Thailand. They are forbidden from working, don't speak Thai, and are incredibly isolated. Everyday they are at risk for arrest. **We will provide 340 packages of emergency meals for hundreds of families who are in prisoned at the Immigration Detention Center in Bangkok.**



### Peace & Hope - Quito, Ecuador

Peace and Hope's mission is to come alongside individuals, families and communities in Latin America who are living in poverty, so that they can live with dignity, free from violence and injustice. **We will support the mobilization of local churches that help provide pastoral and practical support to Venezuelan migrants, most of whom are women and children, at risk of being trafficked and further abused.**



### Christiana Children's Home - Bapatla, India

The Christiana Children's Homes provides food, education, medical care and housing for over 260 children who have been orphaned or destitute. **We will help raise support for the school to hire teachers with a higher level of English.** In addition, using the funds raised we can help build new classrooms and programs that will make the school self-sustainable for new kids and families.



Pastor Aaron went to visit this year and got a chicken as an honorable partner of Fuel Youth

### Fuel Youth - Monrovia, Liberia

Fuel Youth is a ministry started by Eddie Fahnbuehl of The District Church dedicated to the development of schools and educational opportunities across Liberia, with the hopes of raising up the next generation in a country that is making a come back from a long civil war and subsequent Ebola outbreak.

**We will sponsor three new classrooms at United Christian Academy outside Monrovia to accommodate growth in the school. In addition, with the funds raised, we will also help purchase an engine for a recently built boat to help transport children across the river to United Christian Academy in Cape Mount.**



### Questscope - Jordan

Questscope is dedicated to transforming the future of vulnerable youth and communities in the Middle East--by equipping them with the resources and hope they need to become compassionate and productive citizens. **We will sponsor Questscope's Youth RESOLVE program in Jordan to help provide formerly incarcerated youth with a path to a positive and hopeful future.**



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### Kasuito Primary School - Nairobi, Kenya

Through our partnership with Mavuno Church, we will help Kasuito Primary School, a school that only has 5 small buildings, but services over 600 hundred children on a daily basis. **We will expand a major renovation at the school for toddlers and children that include: cementing the floors and painting classrooms, a kitchen to facilitate the school feeding program, a nursery, and staff room for teachers.**



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### World Renew - Uganda

Lauren Zumbrun Ranck was one of The District Church's founders. Lauren and her husband Eric run a ministry that supports educational and peace building organizations in East Africa. Our Advent offering will support multiple educational programs on a peace building radio station in East Africa.





### New Generation - Burundi

New Generation is a Christian ministry started by Pastor Dieudonne Nahimana focused on training, ministering and equipping street children to become the future leaders of Burundi. **Your donations will help provide food, shelter, and education for the street children of Burundi.**



### Children Community Center - Transnistria, Moldova

The Children Community Center is dedicated to stopping social orphanhood through the support of children and families in difficult life circumstances and through provision of financial, psychological and other necessary assistance. **We will sponsor 25 orphan kids by providing hot meals, tutoring and other assistance.**



## Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the way you have connected our church to the world through the many nations that worship with us. We pray for our partners, may you give them strength and endurance to fulfill the calling that you have placed in their hearts. Remind them that you are at work even when it's difficult.



National Partners Goal  
**\$46,000**



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## Emergency Relief

**\$15,000**

This fund will help provide emergency relief and benevolence for individuals and families in crisis in our church and with our ministry partners as they respond to crises in their local communities in 2020.



To give visit  
[www.districtchurch.org/advent](http://www.districtchurch.org/advent)

Please make all gifts by **January 7, 2020.**

Stay tuned for next year's mission trips!

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*From  
The District Church*

