

## Give Generously to the Thanksgiving Offering on November 15 and 22!

In the midst of national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and they need our support now, more than ever. Your gift to the Thanksgiving offering helps support these efforts in education and leadership formation. One example of this is the support and mentoring that Disciples students receive while attending a Disciples related college or university. Marci Mazza-Fredley, a student at Bethany College, shares what attending a Disciples related school means to her:

*As a young disciple attending a Disciples of Christ affiliated institution, I have realized just how blessed I am. While being at Bethany, I have drawn so close to my faith and seen the importance of calling on God when I am in times of need. Attending a Disciples of Christ related school has given me the ability to attend Bethany Memorial Christian Church and meet other young Disciples. It is difficult being a young adult attending college for the first time. However, attending an institution where I can openly connect to my faith has reminded me just how important it is to lean on those around me when things get stressful. Being on this beautiful campus has given me a calm environment to call upon God when I need to, while being surrounded by a family who will help me along the way.*



*During the first week at Bethany, freshman attend a three-day camp-like experience called Camp Bell. This is where students are able to meet one another and engage in multiple ice-breaker activities. One of the activities this year was yoga; something that was easily done while social distancing. While doing yoga, the amazing bells from Old Main on campus began to ring. While we sat in the halls of Old Main, focusing in our breathing, our instructor told us that when we hear the bells every day, we should do something that centers us. Now, every time I hear those bells, I pray. I look around me and think of all of the blessings God has given me in that moment; and in every prayer, I thank God for this glorious opportunity to be here.*

Despite the current challenges they face, the fifteen colleges and universities and seven theological institutions in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continue to encourage students like Marci in their intellectual pursuits and nurture them as leaders to transform church, society and world. The gifts received are an investment in our students and the work of our schools, and we thank you for your participation and continued support.