



Overwhelmed with  
**JOY!**  
Matthew 2:10

## Thank You!

13th century mystic Meister Eckhart wrote: "If the only prayer you ever said was, 'Thank you,' that would suffice."

The United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross aims to be that prayer in our midst. The Christmas Fund supports retired clergy and lay staff and surviving spouses in need through regular gifts to supplement their (often very limited) retirement incomes, through once-a-year "Thank-you" checks. It also provides individual grants to clergy in crisis or acute need.

The Christmas Fund is one of the Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, and this congregation supports it with our gifts, because we believe that while the sacrifices clergy and church workers make for their ministries are good for our churches, they can be bad for those professionals' bottom lines. We do it because clergy are as likely to need help as the rest of us, maybe for different reasons, maybe not. We do it because their service is valuable to us. We do it to say, "Thank you."

You may not be able to write checks to rescue retirees from poverty. But you can help anyway. By giving to the Christmas Fund, you will make sure that your pastor has a place to go for help if she needs it, make sure that retirees have support when they need it, make sure that this season, our church can be the church for those who need it throughout the UCC.

### In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

## The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund