



GRACE UPON GRACE.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

(John 1:16)

"KNOWING THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN."

In this season when we magnify the Lord for the great things God has done through unlikely people and in unexpected ways, we give thanks that we, too, by God's Spirit, can do great things. We, too, can lift up those who are laid low. We, too, can fill the hungry with good things. We, too, through our open-hearted generosity, can proclaim that nothing will be impossible with God.

We can do all of that and more by contributing to the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross. Our gifts help retired clergy, church staff, and their surviving spouses to pay bills, maintain their health insurance, and meet emergency needs. These servants of the church have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our contributions tell our former servants of the church that they are not forgotten, that they are loved, that they and their ministries are appreciated and remembered. In the words of one recipient, "The financial assistance is greatly appreciated, but just as valuable is knowing that I have not been forgotten by the church I love." For Love's sake, let's give generously.

In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Give online at www.christmasfund.org.