

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

- A 60 year old minister accumulates major debt due to costs associated with an adult son's disabilities and a husband's serious illness. Support from the Christmas Fund didn't solve everything but provided a huge relief.
- A surviving spouse of a UCC pastor, whose husband was poorly paid throughout his career, was left with a small annuity upon retirement. Support from the Christmas Fund is easing the anxiety of constant financial worries.
- A UCC pastor, retiring due to health concerns, having chosen a career of service to small churches, has an insufficient retirement income. The Christmas Fund, by supplying a monthly annuity supplementation, allows for the ability to meet increasing living costs.

NOW IMAGINE THIS !

- You, the Church, have the opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by providing assistance to those who have faithfully served our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.
- You, the Church, can make a difference in the lives of so many by supporting this concrete gesture of generosity and gratitude.
- You, the Church, can put one of God's commas where life circumstances seemed to put a period. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it". John 1:5

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund:

- Has been a tangible expression of god's love for over 100 years.
- Provides direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees.
- Administered by the UCC Pension Board's Ministerial Assistance team.
- Approximately \$90,000 a year comes to Wisconsin for distribution.
- 2018 offering totaled \$2,539,471 and enabled:
 - Pension supplementation for 379 lower-income retirees (\$1,453,050).
 - Health benefits supplementation for 174 lower-income retirees (\$429,903).
 - Emergency grants to cover costs that arose unexpectedly, such as large medical expenses or home damage from natural disasters, for 49 individuals (\$60,526).
 - Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 401 retirees (\$214,100).

Give Generously. Be the Church to the Faithful in Need.
Suggested date to receive the Christmas Fund Offering is
December 22, 2019