

The logo for Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church features two decorative crosses on either side of the text. Each cross is a four-lobed design with a central star-like shape, rendered in blue, green, and gold. The text "Harvard-Epworth" is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "Harvard" and "Epworth" in black and "Epworth" in blue. Below it, "United Methodist Church" is in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font, with "United" and "Church" in black and "Methodist" in blue.

Harvard-Epworth
United Methodist Church

1555 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA

Benevolence Booklet 2020

As you read through this booklet, you will see that our church participates in many ways in our benevolence giving, in addition to the monetary gifts. The booklet also speaks to personal connections that we have with individuals outside our church who are strongly committed to finding concrete ways of ameliorating the multi-faceted burdens that weigh on our needy brothers and sisters.

Our Invitation

We would like to encourage everyone who wishes to help in any way with any of our benevolence recipients, or with the benevolence giving program itself. It is amazing how much need there is in our world, both at home and abroad.

Purpose

The purpose of this booklet is to ensure that our congregation is well-informed about the recipients of our benevolence funds for the year 2020. We hope that you will enjoy reading about the various organizations and programs, and the work they do. For your convenience, we have listed a Harvard-Epworth contact person for each recipient so that if you would like to know more, you will know who best to ask. If you need a telephone number, please contact the church office: (617) 354-0837.

The amounts given include church benevolence funds and the United Methodist Women's distributions. In some cases, a recipient has received from both sources, so what you will see is the total of both, with a note along the side explaining the breakdown. Two items, Christmas Angel Gifts and Thanksgiving Baskets, show no dollar amount, because these are instances where individuals make purchases and give them directly. Likewise, there is no dollar account listed for sandwiches provided for the Outdoor Church's sandwich ministry (see page 12).

You will also see Additional 2020 Benevolence Disbursements on the back page, along with an explanation about them.

Benevolence Booklet - 2020

Recipient	Total Amount Disbursed	Notes
Allium Wildflower School	\$200	
Calvary UMC (Lewiston, ME)	\$1,360	
Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition	\$1,200	
Cover Home Repair (VT)	\$400	
Exalt Youth	\$600	
Family Ministries in Haiti	\$200	
Family UMC (Saugus, MA)	\$2,051	
The Friday Café	\$1,300	
Furnishing Hope	\$500	
Harvard Square Meals Program	\$600	
Health Horizons International	\$200	
Justice at Work	\$500	
Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)	\$1,330	(\$1,000 + \$330 UMW)
Massachusetts Bible Society	\$100	
Meeting Ground	\$150	
Mothers Out Front	\$500	
On the Rise	\$930	(\$600 + \$330 UMW)
Our Place	\$1,000	
Outdoor Church of Cambridge	\$3,000	
Project Peanut Butter	\$100	
Puerto Rico on-going Relief	\$1,000	
Reconciling Ministries	\$150	
Red Bird Mission	\$400	
Safe Havens	\$200	
Thrive Communities	\$1,330	(\$1,000 + \$330 UMW)
Transition House	\$1,330	(\$1,000 + \$330 UMW)
Turimiquire Foundation	\$330	(UMW)
UM-Forward	\$250	
UMC Next	\$250	
Women for Women, International	\$300	
Youth on Fire	\$400	
Total:	\$22,131	(\$20,481 + \$1,650 UMW)

A Geographical Overview of Benevolences

	<u># of Recipients</u>
<u>Within the U.S.</u>	25
Local - 18	
Boston (1)	
Cambridge (12)	
New England (3)	
Out of State - 9	
Delaware & Maryland (1)	
Kentucky (1)	
New York (1)	
U.S.A. (across all states) (6)	
 <u>Outside the U.S.</u>	 6
Africa - Malawi, Mali, Sierra Leone (1)	
Dominican Republic (1)	
Haiti (1)	
Venezuela (1)	
Worldwide (2)	
Total:	31

Issues Addressed by Our Benevolence Giving

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDS - medical help and prevention Biblical literacy, understanding, and dialogue Children - malnourished, orphaned, special needs Climate Change Court-involved youth Education Employment help Environment - reforestation Homelessness in our community House repairs Hunger and nutrition Immigration difficulties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBT Advocacy Livelihood skills and training Medical needs and supplies Natural disaster recovery Prison release-to-society aid Rape crisis Social justice issues Spiritual needs Survivors of domestic violence War-related issues of survival Workplace justice for immigrants |
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Allium Wildflower Montessori School - \$200

Allium Montessori is a member of the Wildflower Schools Network. Wildflower, first created in January 2014, is a non-profit ecosystem of decentralized Montessori micro-schools that support children, teachers, and parents. The schools are small and teacher-led, with deep parent engagement. Their principles include teacher-leaders that are partners and social entrepreneurs; small scale learning environments; being part of the communities where they are; innovation in teaching; being in partnership with families; diversity and inclusiveness in the learning environment; attention to beauty; and cultivation of each child's direct relationship with the natural world.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Calvary UMC – Lewiston, ME - \$1,360

We have had an on-going relationship with this church for several years, both with financial aid and with work projects to help them with the upkeep of their church. They serve a population that consists of many immigrants, so we hope to help Calvary UMC to make all feel welcome.

Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition - \$1,200

In early 2017, University Lutheran Church declared itself a Sanctuary Church and invited other Harvard Square religious organizations to join in a coalition to protect our undocumented neighbors. Harvard-Epworth joined with ten other local religious groups to form the Sanctuary Coalition, which now houses a young Ecuadorean woman and her two small children. The Coalition provides food, shelter, and companionship for this family as well as advocacy on their behalf and the behalf of other undocumented immigrants in our community.

Contact Person: Grace Killian

Christmas Angel Gifts—Cambridge, MA

Each year a few weeks before Christmas, the Salvation Army gives our church a list of all the children who attend their daycare for homeless children in Central Square in Cambridge (see “Our Place”). We then cut out white angels, one for each child with his/her first name, age, clothing & shoe sizes, and wishes/needs, and hang them on a small Christmas tree in our vestibule where members can select one or more angels. We buy gifts and put them in festive bags, collect up all the bags, and deliver them to the day care center in time for Christmas. In recent years, we have added red angels to our tree, for gifts for parents. This year we provided gifts for over fifty children.

Contact Person: Sarah Louise Adamczyk

Cover Home Repair – White River Junction, VT - \$400

This organization provides low-income housing repair. It was founded in 1996 by Simon Dennis, son of church member Christie Dennis. (Simon grew up in our church school.) The organization combines grants, donations, and volunteer labor to help low-income people maintain their homes. In addition, it runs The ReCover Store which sells donated used household goods and building materials at very affordable rates. Sales from the store help support the Home Repair Program. Our church has provided volunteer workers for a number of projects over the years.

Contact Person: Christie Dennis

Exalt Youth – New York City - \$600

This non-profit was founded fifteen years ago by Sonja Okun, daughter of church member Bonnie Okun (Sonja grew up in our church school). Exalt's mission is to transform the lives of court-involved youth (15-19) by equipping them with the skills and experience necessary to become self-sufficient members of society. Exalt fulfills this mission by providing a cohesive program with four components: Employability and life skills; paid internships in youths' fields of interest; post-internship skill development and support services; and an alumni network that provides on-going access to education and career development support and resources.

Contact Person: Bonnie Okun

Family Health Ministries in Haiti - \$200

Church member Ann Haywood-Baxter has traveled with a co-founder of this group to see their work first-hand. This group works with the rural community of Fondwa supporting a school, a health clinic, and an orphanage; a cervical cancer screening program; a health clinic in Haiti's capital; and a safe motherhood program for prenatal care, birthing care, GYN care, and care of these children. The group is committed to building long-term relationships with Haitians to promote the health of individuals, families, and communities. In 2015, FHM celebrated its 15th year.

Contact Person: Ann Haywood-Baxter

Family UMC — Saugus, MA - \$2,051

Family UMC in Saugus, MA, serves a Brazilian community in many ways. With the loss of jobs, etc., among the community due to Covid-19 this year, the church has needed help to stay vibrant. The donation from our church this year was to help with the Community food pantry that is used by the church to help those in need.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

The Friday Café—Cambridge, MA - \$1,300

First Church in Cambridge, UCC, just across the Cambridge Common from our church, hosts the “Friday Café” which is a welcoming space where homeless and housed neighbors can gather and get to know each other. It offers food and coffee, rest and resources to people living on the margins, but most importantly, it offers community. Our church has committed to bring a group of volunteers on the last Friday of each month to help set up and staff it. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the methods for how the Friday Café was run were changed to meet the challenge by preparing take-away food for the guests.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Furnishing Hope of MA - \$500

Their connection with twenty Boston-area agencies helps Furnishing Hope of MA to find furnishings for homeless families that are moving into permanent housing that is un-furnished. It was started in 2012 by Suzy Palitz after she had been volunteering for two years to help homeless folks get settled into permanent housing. She discovered a big need for furnishings and set up the organization to provide help for that need.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Harvard Square Meals Program, Cambridge, MA - \$600

Harvard-Epworth joins with other churches in the Harvard Square area to provide a weekly hot meal for over 110 needy people on Thursday evenings at Christ Church, Zero Garden St. The meal is family-style service at tables, with volunteers sitting and eating with the guests for a more welcoming atmosphere. The churches provide annual funds for the food, and volunteers who prepare and serve the food, eat and visit with the guests, and clean up. This program was started in the mid-1990s. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the methods for how the Harvard Square Meals Program was run were changed to meet the challenge by preparing take-away food for the guests.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Health Horizons International—Dominican Republic - \$200

This organization was founded by a co-worker of church member Lauren Vollmer. Their mission is to provide quality primary health care to underserved patients of the Dominican Republic. They partner international medical service trips with community-based health initiatives. Their vision is for all people to have the opportunities of a healthful life and to overcome the inequalities in health that disproportionately affect the poor.

Contact Person: Mark Fitzgerald

Justice at Work—New England - \$500

This organization provides strategic workplace-related services to community-based worker centers in order to support and encourage low-wage immigrant worker organizing that enables workers to directly impact conditions at work and in their communities and families. They provide legal resources to a network of worker centers, while training workers and organizers on their workplace rights and the mechanisms needed to realize them. The pastor of Nueva Vida UMC, Patricia Pena, presented this organization to us at Adult Forum with the hope that we might be able to support it.

Contact Person: Warren Brown

Justice For Our Neighbors New England - \$1,330

New England Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration and legal services, education, and advocacy. JFON promotes justice within the U.S. system of immigration law, policy, and social practice. JFON was initiated by the United Methodist Church in 1999 in response to the increasingly complex immigration regulations stemming from the Immigration Reform and Immigration Act of 1996. Subsequently, the Patriot Act exacerbated the situation.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Local and Regional Mission Project Funds - \$3,911

We make these funds available for various needs that occur during a given year. Whether a church needs financial help, direct help, or both, we respond as best we can. Work projects can include things such as painting, window weatherproofing, and landscaping. This year we helped 2 churches with these funds.

Contact person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Massachusetts Bible Society - \$100

The Society provides a bridge between the faithful and the skeptical by promoting Biblical literacy, understanding, and dialogue in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Through small groups, lectures, video, and the web, it provides a safe place to explore the Bible in the context of the many voices of Christian interpretation.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Meeting Ground—Mid-Atlantic - \$150

Originating in 1981, this is a faith-based response to the growing epidemic of homelessness in Maryland and Delaware. Each year, they provide approximately 30,000 bed-nights of emergency and transition housing, serve over 50,000 meals, help over 700 people with emergency food, and assist over 300 people's transition from homelessness to homes. They provide emergency and transitional housing at Wayfarer's House, Clairvaux Farm, George Porter House, Men's Shelter, and most recently, Emergency Rotating Shelter. Their Mary Randall Center is a daytime drop-in center.

Contact Person: Christie Dennis

Mothers Out Front - \$500

Mothers Out Front is a non-profit whose mission is to ensure a livable climate for all children. It is an inclusive movement where mothers' and grandmothers' voices are front and center. Its work is impactful because it is based on a strong community built on relationships, kindness, mutual respect, and collaboration. It focuses particularly on those communities that suffer the injustices of climate change and fossil fuel use today and have been historically marginalized. It lifts the voices of those who care so they will be heeded by those in power.

Contact Person: Katie Carlone

On the Rise, Cambridge, MA - \$930

Back in 1995, Katya Fels spoke to our Adult Forum about the dire need for a day shelter for victims of domestic violence in Cambridge. We have supported this program that Katya founded from its inception. It is run in a house in Cambridge to provide showers, laundry, and other kinds of help, such as employment help, for battered/homeless women. The women's involvement there is kept confidential. For women who have nowhere to turn, this program is not only a safety net, but a necessity.

Contact Person: Christie Dennis

Our Place—Cambridge, MA - \$1,000

This is the daycare center that the Salvation Army provides for the children of homeless families in Cambridge. It gives the children safety, learning, structure, joy, and nurture in a caring setting during the day while their parents work or look for work. In addition to this support that we provide, see also "Christmas Angels."

Contact Person: Sarah Louise Adamczyk

Outdoor Church of Cambridge - \$3,000

This is a street ministry for persons who are homeless. It was created by Rev. Jed Mannis, whose ministry is not in any church, and has grown into a multi-dimensional ministry of love for persons who are homeless in Porter Square, Harvard Square, and Central Square.

In addition to this benevolence giving, we join other local churches in providing and distributing sandwiches. Harvard-Epworth is responsible for the third Saturday of every month. We also provide toiletry kits, which our Youth Group members assemble, for distribution. Some church members go along with Rev. Mannis to help out on Sundays.

Contact Persons: Lane Lambert and Paige Manning

Project Peanut Butter—Africa - \$100

Based in St. Louis, Project Peanut Butter produces and distributes ready to use, therapeutic food (RUTF). This is a peanut-based, rapid nutrition food used for severely malnourished children in some of sub-Saharan Africa's poorest countries: Malawi, Mali, and Sierra Leone. It is also being used in the Philippines. PPB's food is especially useful because fresh water is not needed to produce it. Stephanie and Andrew Peace, two former college members of Harvard-Epworth, have set up a new production site in Mali.

Contact Person: Lane Lambert

Puerto Rico Relief -\$1,000

Last year's record-breaking hurricane season devastated Puerto Rico, leaving residents without food, water, shelter, sanitation, or infrastructure. To support the ongoing relief and rebuilding efforts there, we have set aside funds that we will direct as Rev. Taylor's contacts in the Iglesia de Metodista de Puerto Rico recommend.

Contact person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Reconciling Ministries—National - \$150

The Reconciling Ministries Network Organization is working for full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life of the United Methodist Church. It is committed to the local church, especially helping communities go through a discernment process on how their congregation, Sunday school class, campus ministry, or other small group can be actively welcoming for all people.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Red Bird Mission—Kentucky - \$400

This mission was founded in 1921 in southeastern Kentucky, one of the poorest pockets of Appalachia. Now affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the mission operates a K-12 Christian school, a medical and dental clinic, a farmer's market, ministries for families and the elderly, and other programs. Our donations help purchase school supplies, medical supplies, household goods, home building tools, and other needs.

Contact Persons: Neil and Anne Harper

Safe Havens - \$200

Safe Havens is an interfaith organization that promotes hope and justice for victims and survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse. Its vision is that every community and faith leader can help victims and survivors to use their faith as a resource, connect with community services, and overcome the many barriers to safety. Safe Havens **breaks the silence** about domestic violence in faith communities; **connects** faith leaders, service providers, and law enforcement; **empowers** faith leaders; **trains** congregations to support victims; and **creates** opportunities for healing.

Contact Persons: Rev. Herb Taylor

Thanksgiving Baskets—Cambridge, MA

Every year, members of our church, individually or in pairs, threes, or small groups, purchase a fresh turkey and all the “fixings” for a complete Thanksgiving meal for a family of 4 to 6. Some of our members prepare home-made goodies such as dinner rolls, pies, and cranberry sauce in place of the store-bought items. We deliver these “baskets” to the Salvation Army in Central Square in Cambridge a few days before Thanksgiving. The Salvation Army then distributes the “baskets” (along with all the others they collect) to needy families in Cambridge and Somerville. This year we provided baskets for five families.

Contact Person: Katie Carlone

Thrive Communities—Cambridge, MA - \$1,330

This organization was founded in 2015 by George H. and Kimberly Yeasir (church member), who is the Executive Director, to engage disconnected men and women returning from prison in the experience of reentry into the community, empowering them to overcome harm and stigma, and to thrive. Thrive seeks to disrupt cycles of incarceration, isolation, and social harm among citizens returning to society from prison. Thrive’s work began in January 2016.

Contact Person: Kim Yeasir

Transition House—Cambridge, MA - \$1,330

Transition House is an innovative nonprofit organization working to end domestic violence in our community since 1975. They offer a full circle of housing and holistic support for adults and children overcoming the trauma of family and partner violence. They are also the go-to resource for safety planning, community education, and youth leadership on healthy relationship development – critical violence prevention initiatives that our community depends on. Transition House is the only resource of its kind in Cambridge.

Contact Person: Dennis Carlone

Turimiquire Foundation—Venezuela - \$330

This foundation, created and run by the Bloomstein family (of Cambridge), is primarily focused on women and children’s health and education in Turimiquire, Venezuela. Additionally, it includes small start-up funds to enable women to develop their own micro-businesses (such as knitting or pottery), and tree-planting to reverse the devastating effects of slash-and-burn farming.

The staff members receive no remuneration for their time and work. For them, it is a labor of love in social action. In order to stretch the donations they receive, they connect with existing infrastructure whenever possible, such as offering to pay for doctors, nurses, and/or medicines in an already existing, poorly-provided clinic. They have set up solar panels to provide power for outlying areas that have no other means of power. They use donated computers to help youth learn and expand their understanding of their world. Each year this foundation tries to reach more people in more helping ways.

Contact Person: Bonnie Okun

UM-Forward - \$250

This group launched the “Simple Plan” in Minneapolis, MN, leading up to the special session of the U.M.C.’s General Conference of February 2019, as a way of aligning people who believe that the movement of God does not compromise on the dignity or well-being of the LGBT community, people of color, or any other of God’s beloved creatures and creations. They manifest a robust witness to the creative, liberating, and loving One that sets us all free. Although the “Simple Plan” did not win the vote of the General Conference, they continue to work for all-inclusiveness.

Contact Person: Mark Fitzgerald

UMC Next - \$250

UMC Next participants are committed to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all forms and toward all people, and to build a United Methodist Church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities. After 600 attendees met at Rev. Adam Hamilton's mega-church gathering in Leawood, Kansas, they have not given up their goals in spite of the February 2019 General Conference vote for the "Traditional Plan" that narrowly passed and that intends to keep the U.M.C. on a path that is extremely non-inclusive.

Contact Person: Mark Fitzgerald

Women for Women—International - \$300

Women for Women was created to help women facing violence, marginalization, and poverty as a result of war and conflict. Founded in 1993, they help thousands of women each year in war-torn regions transform their lives by providing financial and emotional support, job skills training, rights awareness, leadership education, and access to microcredit and markets for distribution. The organization works in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Sudan.

Contact Person: Katie Carlone

Youth on Fire—Cambridge, MA - \$400

This was a drop-in center for homeless youth that served about 800 youth each year from the time it was started in our church basement in 2000 by Cambridge Cares About Aids (now a part of AIDS Action) through early 2016, to address the problem of homeless youth feeling afraid or uncomfortable about being in shelters or programs with adults. Youth were provided a hot meal, showers, washers and dryers for cleaning their clothes, use of computers, and help with issues such as jobs and health. Tough topics were addressed in a caring and educational manner.

In 2016, YOF moved to First Church Unitarian Universalist in Cambridge to become part of Youth-To-Youth, the first overnight shelter run for youth only, by youth, in the country. All the services that were previously provided at YOF remain available, with the addition of overnight, supervised stay. We continue to support this important resource for homeless youth.

Contact Person: Rev. Herb Taylor

Additional 2020 Benevolence Disbursements:

It should also be noted that Harvard-Epworth also contributes funds for missions through the Conference Mission Shares of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Harvard-Epworth also participates normally in Special Sunday collections for various ministries of the United Methodist Church, including Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Peace With Justice Sunday, and World Communion Sunday, however during this pandemic year with no in-person services we only collected for UMCOR Sunday. On monthly Communion Sundays, we collect moneys for our pastor's discretionary fund for the poor, and members of the church contribute to that fund at other times as well. There has also been a special fund which has been raised through a special donation to help support candidates for ministry who are students in seminary or on the path toward ministry. Additionally, we take up special offerings for particular causes throughout the year, including disaster relief provided by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The amounts of these disbursements in 2020 are detailed below.

1. Conference Mission Shares	\$19,940
World Missions:	\$9,867
New England Missions:	\$10,073
2. UMCOR Sunday	\$166
3. Pastor's Discretionary Fund for the Poor	\$3,370
4. Discretionary Fund for ministry candidates	\$500
Total:	\$23,976