

The Parish Caller

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Bring a Dish to Share •

Brunch

Christmas Potluck

December 22 after Worship Service



Acker Night ~ Tapestry & Caborca Choir



Merry Christmas! These are pictures from Acker Night last week. We hosted Tapestry and the choir from our sister city in Caborca, Mexico. We had a good attendance, and it was great to be a part of extending Acker beyond our borders. Our thanks to Will and Joan Fisher, Julie McCurdy, Jane Osborn, and Linda Foote of Tapestry for making this

possible.

This Sunday is our Christmas play with Melissa Gates and the children. And Tuesday night at 7:00 pm is our Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. Looks like snow is coming!

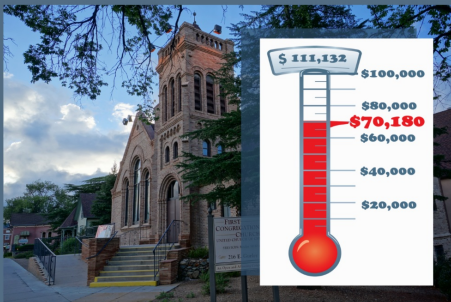
Have a blessed Christmas week, Jay

Thank you to all that has offered to host our Sunday Coffee Hour Fellowship time! Please find your name and make a note of when you have been scheduled. If you are not able to be there on your given day, please switch with someone on the list. Help us maintain this wonderful UCC welcoming tradition!



FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE	2020
Linda Kaul & Michele McFadden	5-Jan
Hal & Ronda Hatfield	12-Jan
Jim Christopher & Christy Dinsman	19-Jan
CHURCH MEMBERS	Jan 26- Annual Mtg Potluck
Henry & Linda Dahlberg	2-Feb
Staci Robbins & Andre Shrimpton	9-Feb
Patty Lantrip & Murl Preble	16-Feb
Gary & Patty Gard	23-Feb
Paula & Mike Parker	1-Mar
Lloyd Evans & Alice Kring	8-Mar
Dave Deville & Patty Lantrip	15-Mar
Julie Jaquette & Sandra Johns	22-Mar
Dennis & Barbara McCollough	29-Mar

2020 Estimated Gifts Goal



Stewardship Update

We are still collecting "Estimate of Giving" Cards. Help us plan our budget for 2020. No Pledge is too small.

Click on the link and download your pledge card. Place in the box in Perkins Hall or mail to 216 E. Gurley Street, 86301

[2020 Stewardship](#)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pledge Units (individuuls & couples)	38	46	64	22
# of Members that Pledged	55	54	47	26
# of Friends & Regular Attendees that Pledged	8	12	17	6
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 65,462	\$ 97,020	\$ 97,274	\$ 70,180

YEAR END GIVING

Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA - Gifts from your Individual Retirement Account can be given to an eligible charitable organization. Up to \$100,000 of the gift is excluded from your gross income for tax purposes. These gifts also apply to your required minimum distribution.

How it works:

1. You make a distribution directly from an IRA by December 31.
2. The distribution counts toward your required minimum distribution.

Heartfelt Thanks!

The creation and publication of the "Christmas Memories" booklet would not have been possible without the assistance of Marti Garrison, who reviewed articles and helped bind the booklets, and our tech savvy and creative Office Administrator, Julie Jaquette, who did all the graphics, unified type fonts, and did so many other things on her computer to make the



Are you eligible?

- You are at least 70½ years of age
- The distribution must otherwise be included in gross income
- The distribution must otherwise be fully deductible as a charitable contribution.

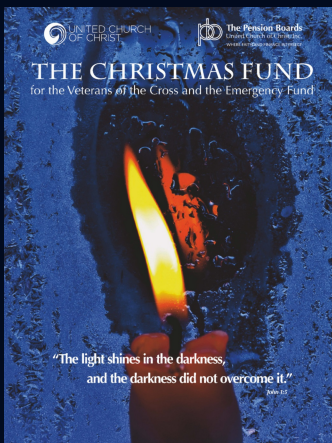
Benefits

1. Up to \$100,000 is removed from your gross income for income tax purposes.
2. The distribution counts toward your required minimum distribution.

booklet look professionally done.

Also, heartfelt thanks to the many oh-so-talented members of our congregation who wrote such beautiful Christmas memories. Without your contribution, there would not have been a booklet at all. So, thank you very much (or as my countrymen would say "Dziękuję Bardzo").

Angela Imbierowicz



Christmas Fund aids many small-church retirees, surviving spouses

December 13, 2019

Written by Staff Reports

Early in her ministry, the Rev. Julia Proctor felt called to serve small churches. She did just that for years - until her health forced her to retire on a small pension. Now she is grateful for the help she receives because of an offering many United Church of Christ congregations will gather this month. Sunday, Dec. 22, is the suggested 2019 date for gifts to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, one of four special mission offerings of the UCC. As always, local churches are encouraged to pick an Advent or Christmas date that works best for them.

"Gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs," said the Rev. Krista Betz, director of ministerial assistance for The Pension Boards, which administers the Christmas Fund. "As UCC members and congregations, this is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care."

Small churches often mean small pensions

"The only reason I retired was my health — it's not the greatest, and right now I'm unable to walk," said Proctor, a graduate of UCC-related Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine. Ordained in 1989, she primarily served small-membership churches in Maine and New York. "I loved working in small churches. I remember a day in seminary when I overheard a couple of students talking, saying that the thing to do was get a small church to start and then that's your stepping stone to a bigger church. That's when I decided I would always serve small churches. They deserve people with experience."

A small-church career is a common reason pastors have insufficient retirement income. "I didn't stop to think about the tiny annuity I would have at the time I made the decision to work with small congregations," Proctor said.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund are the source of the pension supplementation Julia and many other retired pastors and lay workers receive monthly—and depend upon. "Since I am disabled," Julia told The Pension Boards' staff, "your help with the money you are sending me means more to me than you know."

Christmas Fund gifts provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees—the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. In 2018, the Christmas Fund provided assistance to retired clergy and lay workers and their surviving spouses in the following categories:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 379 retirees, totaling \$1,453,050
- Health benefits supplementation for 174 retirees, totaling \$429,903
- Christmas "thank you" gift checks to 401 retirees, totaling \$214,000
- Emergency grants for 49 active and retired UCC clergy and lay employees in urgent need, totaling \$60,526

'Easing the anxiety of financial worries'

One longtime Christmas Fund contributor - a well-known professor and theologian - can relate to stories like Proctor's because of his family's own experience.

The Rev. Walter Brueggemann - an Old Testament scholar who served on the faculties of Eden Theological Seminary in Missouri and Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia and authored several

widely read books - watched his father pastor a German Evangelical church in Tilden, Neb., for many years.

"There are many poorly paid pastors in the UCC, not unlike my father was," Brueggemann said. "When they retire, often with a spouse, they are left in some considerable need. When my dad died, my mother was left with the results of his low salaries.

"For that reason, I am a regular contributor to the Christmas Fund and deeply committed to it. The Christmas Fund is a great boon for such folk who have served the church long, well and faithfully. I commend the Christmas Fund and hope that many others will sign on to support this concrete gesture of generosity and gratitude."

"Year after year, the Christmas Fund makes a difference in the lives of our United Church of Christ retired pastors and their surviving spouses," Betz said, "easing the anxiety of constant financial worries."



Free to everyone. Our gift to you.

Christmas Pageant
Dec. 22 @ 10:30 a.m.
Join Us During Worship Service



Christmas Brunch

Bring a Dish to Share
Dec. 22 @ 11:30 after Worship Service
Sign-Up Sheet in Perkins Hall

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service



7:00 p.m.

Experience Taizé

A Service of Prayer, Song, and Contemplation

Due to our heavy Holiday schedule here at the church, Taizé will resume in January on the 15th of the new year. Join us at 6:30 p.m. 1/15/2020



BIRTHDAYS

Helaine Berman 12/15
Randy Jay Wilcher 12/17
Pete Norum 12/18
Jay Eby 12/24
Dillan Osborn 12/25
Don Stephens 12/25
Christopher Hoitt 12/27
Ralph Wagner 01/01
Don Hull 01/09
Brent Walker 01/10
Darcy Walker 01/10
Nitaray Thomas 01/15
Paula Jo Parker 01/16
Katie Bradstreet 01/19
Jane Cheek 01/25
Julie Jaquette 01/28

- **EVERY-WEEK COMMUNION**

We have communion each week right after worship at the front of the sanctuary, everyone is welcome to participate.

- **MONTHLY COMMUNION**

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

- **PASS MEAL**

Once a month, we provide a meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, the third Wednesday of the month.

- **CABINET MEETING**

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Office Conference Room unless otherwise announced.

- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

We will train you! We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 am. On Thursdays in the Hazeltine Room downstairs.

- **CHANCEL SINGERS**

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship service to rehearse. All are welcome.

- **ALTER-NOTES**

We meet at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday after Coffee Time in the Sanctuary Chancel. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining: 207-391-3276

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children may participate with Sunday School downstairs after "Children's Time".

