



## Year after Year, Your Gift Brings Joy

**T**he Advent season of waiting and watching is also a season of preparing. Our generosity prepares the way for hope, peace, justice, and community. United Church of Christ retired clergy, 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 for the Veterans of the Cross, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our gifts of gratitude and love bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful, and deep love to those who have ministered in God's love for so long. By giving generously to the Christmas Fund, we will help retired clergy, church staff, and their families to pay bills, maintain health insurance, and meet emergency needs. Year after year, our gifts make a difference, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries.

Last year, the Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, provided over \$1.6 million in pension and health benefits supplementation, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired servants of the church and their families. Every cent of that money came from the pockets of people like you. Please give as generously as you are able this year!

### 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