



Overwhelmed with

**JOY!**

Matthew 2:10

## Understanding, Compassion, and Financial Relief

**E**ach year, the Pension Boards receives cards, calls, and letters of thanks from grateful recipients of financial assistance from the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross—a UCC offering received each year by congregations across the country in recognition and love for retired servants of the church, their families, and survivors. Here are some excerpts from just a few of these expressions of gratitude:

*“The Pension Boards is really helping me with a monthly annuity supplementation. It is so wonderful to know that I can now buy healthy food and not have to go to food banks—and will be able to buy Christmas presents for my grandchildren. There were many years when in order buy Christmas presents, I cut back on food spending.”*

*“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. But 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. Help from donations to the Christmas Fund has been a Godsend. Thank you!”*

*“I’ve always been proud of the UCC that we’re open about all kinds of difficult things people face in life. I’m even more grateful for our wider church that expresses that openness by providing understanding, compassion, and financial relief when people really need it.”*

### 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