

The Church Has Been the Heart of My Life

The Rev. Victoria Snow

Victoria Snow knows how to multi-task. A necessary skill for any local church pastor, successfully managing work and home responsibilities is indispensable if you're also a single parent of three children.

"It hasn't always been easy," says Victoria, "but it's always been the support of the UCC that got me through it." Clergy groups she belonged to were her "rock." "They helped me raise my kids."

Having grown up in New Hampshire, Victoria served churches in New England until 2015, when she became Pastor of Community Congregational Church, UCC, in New Port Richey, Florida.

For as long as Victoria can remember, the church has been there for her. She said, "I am dyslexic, and I struggled in school and had very low self-esteem. But the church was my lifesaver! When I was a young teenager, my pastor, Rev. William Cunitz, encouraged me to participate in church activities. When I went to Andover Newton Theological School, each spring and fall the Men's Group at my home church would dedicate the proceeds from their famous Roast Beef Suppers to pay for my books in seminary."

Last fall, Victoria's oldest child was hospitalized. Nearly a year later, Victoria is still making payments on that hospital stay. At around the same time, Victoria was in an automobile accident and her car was totaled. This was followed by a costly dental procedure necessary to prevent the loss of her teeth. The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance provided Victoria with an emergency grant to help her through this difficult period.

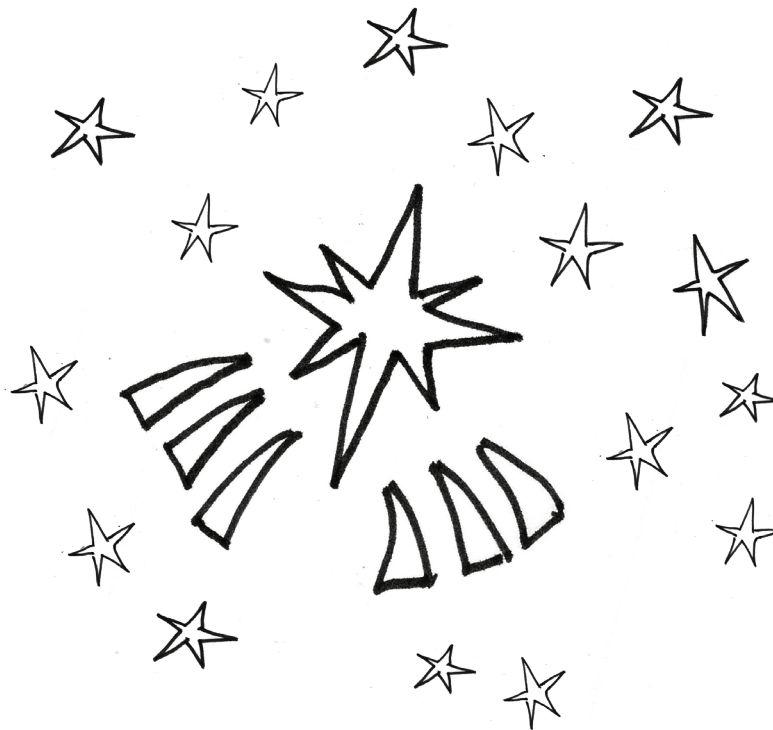
"With so much coming at me at once, financially, I wasn't sure how I would manage. I was able to receive a gift from the Christmas Fund to get my teeth and gums treated. I am very grateful for this help," said Victoria.

"The church has been the heart of my life. It is because of the church that I am the person I am today. Without all those faithful people who believed in me, I would not be serving Jesus Christ or God's people today."



THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



In 2017, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled

- Small pension supplementation for 424 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$1,513,602
- Health benefits supplementation for 210 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$492,863
- Emergency grants for 384 servants of the church, totaling \$136,012
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 477 retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses, totaling \$228,300