

ADVENT II

A Donor's Story

The Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann

The Rev. Walter Brueggemann, a longtime and loyal contributor to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, is well-known in the United Church of Christ. Widely considered one of the most influential Old Testament scholars of the last several decades, Walter served on the faculties of Eden Theological Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary for many years, and is the author of numerous books, notably, *Theology of the Old Testament*, *The Prophetic Imagination*, and *Message of the Psalms*.

A graduate of UCC-related Elmhurst College and Eden Theological Seminary, Walter earned his Th.D at Union Theological Seminary in 1961. His father was a German Evangelical pastor who served in Tilden, Nebraska for many years. Walter speaks from experience when he notes that "There are many poorly paid pastors in the UCC not unlike my father was. 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."

Year after year, the Christmas Fund makes a difference in the lives of our United Church of Christ retired pastors and their surviving spouses, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries. "I commend the Christmas Fund," says Walter Brueggemann, "and hope that many others will sign on to support this concrete gesture of generosity and gratitude."

★ THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



The Light Shines in the Darkness

In 2018, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled

- Small pension supplementation for 379 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,453,050)
- Health benefits supplementation for 174 retired clergy and lay employees (\$429,903)
- Emergency grants for 49 individuals and families (\$60,526)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 401 retired clergy and lay employees (\$214,100)