

THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING



The Christmas Fund
For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund is one of several United Church of Christ special offerings and has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. We receive this offering during Sunday worship on December 18 and 25. You may contribute anytime through the end of the month. To give directly via PayPal, please [click here](#) and note "The Christmas Fund".

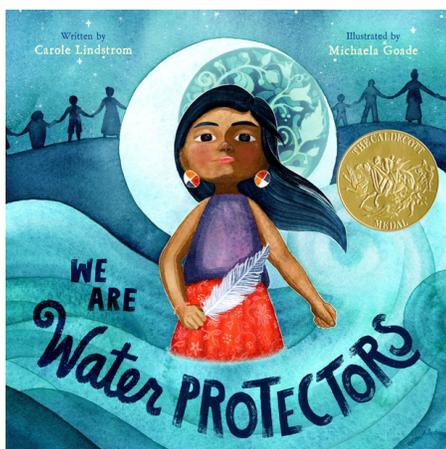
United Church of Christ retired clergy, servants of the church, have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower 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 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 assistance 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!



BOOK DONATION BY FRIENDS FOR JUSTICE



As part of the Indigenous Peoples' recognition activities last month, Friends for Justice donated a book to the children's book cart located in the upper narthex. "We Are Water Protectors" by Carole Lindstrom is a Caldecott Medal winning book, beautifully illustrated by Michaela Goade. The author is tribally enrolled with the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe and describes herself as "a fierce water protector". In the story, the child narrator shares the lessons she's learned from her grandmother about the sacred nature of water. We hope you take the time to read this story and enjoy the beautiful illustrations.

Submitted by Louise Mollinger, on behalf of Friends for Justice Team