



THE CHRISTMAS FUND

The UCC's Special Mission Offering, The Christmas Fund (formerly known as Veteran's of the Cross) is a special way to help and honor those who have been active in our church as pastors or other Christian workers. This special offering provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in kindheartedness to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

In 2016, UCC congregations and members generously contributed \$1,562,260 to the Offering. This enabled the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, to provide, on behalf of the whole church, supplementation of small annuities, retiree health premium supplementation, emergency grants and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to individuals and families in need.

The theme this year is "Shepherding the Light". The recipients of these gifts have faithfully served the church and now, in their time of need, we can be the church to them. Envelopes will be available December 3rd and your gift can be placed in the offering any Sunday in December. Please try to be the "Shepherding Light" in the life of retired pastors and families who have faithfully served the church and are now in need.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

On Sunday morning, December 17th the Christian Education school children will present their Christmas program. This is always a wonderful part of the Christmas celebration and a delightful time to give thanks for the wonderful children God has given our church family. A special thank you to every one of the parents who are working behind the scenes to make this a success once again!

Our Christmas Eve service will be Sunday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. Give yourself and your loved ones a gift this year...worship together!

LOOKING AHEAD – ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on February 18, 2018 immediately after worship. Deadline for information to be placed into the annual report is Friday, February 2, 2018.

A WORD FROM TOM, THE INTERIM

It's the Season of giving and getting, as a friend so often reminds me, and it is the season when we prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is truly a time of preparation and I hope we will use it as such. The confirmands and their families have received an Advent booklet which will enable them to spend a few moments each day reading and thinking about scripture and its meaning for this moment in history. If you have any interest in such a document, please see me and I will see if we can get some more copies of Celebrating Abundance by Walter Brueggemann.

In addition, we should also use this as a time for sharing with those around us whose lives are not as fortunate as ours. Opportunities are still available for anyone wishing to "adopt a family" and if you are not able to pick one up from church please call the office and we can help you out.

The season can become overwhelming and not a time of joy or celebration. One of the purposes of books such as mentioned above is to take us "out of" the moment and offer a time for reflection, prayer, and renewal. AND they also remind us that while gift giving and getting offers joy and the thrill of surprise, it is the "presence" of God which we ought celebrate and embrace as the gift we wish to share. And that gift is most often made known by the presence of a community of care, acceptance, and sharing of self. May we, as a response to the gift of God's presence, seek to continue to be such a place and such a community. See you in church or sometime soon I hope.

Tom

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We had over 44 surveys returned (that is a huge success given the short timeframe) and we are busy compiling the data received so we can complete the Church Profile and send it off to the Northeast Association for approval. While we understand this can take some time, we are hoping to have that all completed by the first week of December. Once we have this approved and returned, we meet again with our UCC NE Association Pastor Jane Anderson for training on how to read profiles that we will receive. With the Christmas holiday right around the corner we are hoping to start receiving profiles in January. It is an exciting time for Peace. The Search Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to all that took the time to complete and return the survey! We know it was lengthy and uncomfortable, but it was also necessary for us to proceed in our search process.

BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2018

If anyone would like to sponsor the monthly bulletins for 2018 in loving memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for their family or for a special anniversary, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. The cost is \$30.00 for the month. If you have questions or would like to sign-up over the phone, please call Kathy Daun at 756-3334.

E-GIVING FOR 2018

For all members who are signed up for e-giving, who HAVE NOT returned your stewardship information into the church office, you will continue with the same giving plan in the 2018 year. If you would like to review your contributions, please call Kathy Daun at 756-3334 as soon as possible.

If anyone would like to start using e-giving, please feel free to call the office and Kathy will explain the process and get you started with this easy and convenient way of supporting your church.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR CHURCH

We will have two Council positions to be elected for the coming year. Carla Zander has completed her term, leaving one vacancy and the first term of Todd Schneider has been completed. We want to begin by offering an expression of deep gratitude

for Carla's dedication the past 4 years. At the end of this year, Carla has fulfilled two - 2 year terms on the Council making her ineligible for re-election.

Todd Schneider has completed his first 2 year term and is eligible to run for a second term. We thank Todd for what he has brought to the Council in these past two years and appreciate his work. Anyone who feels led to being considered for election to the Council is asked to speak with a member of the Council so we may be sure you are on the ballot.

Bob Lowe, who has faithfully served on the Endowment Committee, is also completing the end of his 4 year term. He is not eligible to run again. If you are interested, and have questions about what is involved in serving in this capacity, please speak with Bob Lowe or any member of the Endowment committee. Special thank you to Bob Lowe for serving these past four years!

If anyone is willing to serve on the council, or the endowment committee, please speak with Carla Zander our council president.

FINANCIAL GIVING

November 1 – 21, 2017

Sunday school Children - \$23.00
Loose Collection – \$25.00
General Fund - \$2,254.00
E-giving - \$2,322.00
Thanksgiving Offering - \$25.00

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Money taken from savings from January 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017, including the 2017 Chicken Fry Profits, to pay general operating expenses: \$16,600

GREETERS

December 3 – Steve Smith
December 10 – Barb Kesler
December 17 – Children from Christmas Program
December 24 – Drew & Tammy Williams Family
December 31 – Debbie Schuh

CONFIRMATION PARENT HELPER

December 6 – Klika Family
December 13 – Williams Family
December 20 – Aplin Family

ACOLYTES

December 3 – Brynn & Trae Williams & Alex Nowak
December 10 – Collin Greve & Joshua Schuh
December 17 – (Children's Christmas Program)
Jacob, Emma & Nathan Schneider
December 24 – Morgan Janas & Aubrie Williams
December 31 – Rachel & Jacob Fischer

SUNDAY HELPERS

December 3 – Todd Schneider
December 10 – Dawn Voight
December 17 – Sandy M. Kuchenbecker
December 24 – Todd Schneider
December 31 – Dave Sommers

COFFEE HOUR

December 3 – **need volunteers**
December 10 – **need volunteers**
December 17 – (Children's Christmas Program)

LAY READERS

December 3 – Sue Cooney
December 10 – Karla Miller
December 17 – (Children's Christmas Program)
December 24 – Tony Reese
December 31 – Barb Wittmann

USHERS

December 3 – Duane Loose
December 10 – Karla Miller
December 17 – (Children's Christmas Program)
Chuck Burich
December 24 – Roger Schwahn
December 31 – Paul Cooney

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

December 6 – Children's Christmas Program Prac.
December 13 – Children's Christmas Program Prac.
December 20 & 27 – No Class

YEAR END REMINDER & SUPPORT ENVELOPES

This is just a reminder that the church's fiscal year is ending on December 31st. If you would like to make a contribution for the 2017 tax year, please do so before the end of the year. Any contribution is welcome! If you have any questions regarding your giving to date, please contact Kathy

Daun at 756-3334 and she will be happy to assist you.

Your new giving envelopes for all adults will be available toward the end of December. We are asking all Sunday school students to continue to use their present envelopes. When your child/children are down to their last few envelopes, please drop a note in the collection or call the office at 756-3334 and Kathy will give your child a new box. This is the church's way of saving money, since the children's envelopes are **NOT** date sensitive.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS AND HELPERS

The January and February 2018 teaching sign-up is available in the fellowship hall, please take a moment and please help by volunteering to teach or assisting in the classroom. We are in need of teachers and helpers for the pre-school through 2nd grade classroom on the following dates:

January 10, January 17, January 24, January 31, February 7, February 21 and February 28.

We are in need of teachers and helpers for grades 3 -6 on the following dates: January 31, February 7, February 21 and February 28.

Just a reminder that classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

FUNERAL CHAIRPERSONS NEEDED

Since we no longer have a Women's Guild Committee to chair and organize funerals, we are looking for two members of the congregation to come forward to serve a six month period as funeral chairpersons. Your term would run from January 1st through June 30th of 2018. Your responsibilities would include coordinating all funeral dinner activities during this time and contact others on the list to help with working and bringing food items when we have a funeral. We would also ask these volunteers to keep an eye on the kitchen area to purchase coffee, plates, napkins, cups needed for coffee hour or other functions. All receipts may be given to Lillian Kuchenbecker until the balance of the Women's Guild checkbook is depleted. Please contact the church office at 756-3334 if you are interested in serving your church in this capacity.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 3 – Deadline to return all gifts purchased for our Adopt-a-Family and “Star” Gift Project.

December 3 – Meeting with all committee members immediately after worship

December 10 – Mini Missions during worship for our “Love Baskets”

December 10 - Assemble Love Baskets after Worship

December 17 – Council meeting immediately after worship

December 17 – Children’s Christmas Program at 9:00 a.m., with a social to follow. **Every Sunday School family is reminded to bring cookies and/or candy for the social that will follow worship**

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service with communion at 4:00 p.m.

(PLEASE NOTE, THAT THIS IS THE ONLY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 24 AND DECEMBER 25)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 4 – Brad Loose

December 4 – Patrick Cooney

December 4 – Trent Leiterman

December 4 – Emily Horn

December 5 – Lily Horn

December 5 – Bill Wittmann

December 11 – Susan Schneider

December 13 – Crystal Helm

December 15 – Logan Neuman

December 19 – Dale Klika

December 21 – Dean Schmitt

December 23 – Dennis Kesler

December 26 – Bonnie Smith

December 28 – Alex Nowak

December 29 – Karley Schmitt

December 31 – Lois Schwahn

December 31 – Alyssa Sommers

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 9 – Roger & Lois Schwahn

December 31 – Kevin & Amber Horn-Leiterman

SCRIP

December is upon us and our Savior’s birth is mere weeks away. So please don’t let the worries of holiday spending shroud the true meaning of this glorious holiday. Pick up some prepaid SCRIP cards today!

If you have a large order, please have that to Todd no later than December 10th to allow enough time to receive and get them distributed. Otherwise, here are the cards we have on hand that you can take with you every Sunday:

Restaurants: Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Cobblestone, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Subway

Entertainment: Marcus Theatres/Resort

Supermarket: Econo Foods, Festival Foods, Piggly Wiggly

Gas: BP, Cenex Exxon/Mobil, Kwik Trip

Sporting Goods: Cabela's

Department Stores: Bath & Body, Bed Bath & Beyond, JCPenney, Kohl's, Sears, Shopko, Target, Walmart/Sam's Club

Home Improvement: Lowe's, Menards, Mill's Fleet Farm, Home Depot

Check out the full list of available products at peaceuccbrillion.com/cards. Cards ordered generally will be available on the following Sunday for pickup. A paper copy of our order form is also located by the clipboards here at church. Please stock up today!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship with Communion –
First Sunday of Advent

10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

Sunday, December 10, 2017

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – Mini Missions
Second Sunday of Advent

10:15 a.m. –Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Assemble Love Baskets

Sunday, December 17, 2017

9:00 .am. Sunday Worship –
Third Sunday of Advent
Children’s Christmas Program

10:15 a.m. – Coffee Hour & Fellowship

Sunday, December 24, 2017

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship/Communion

Sunday, December 31, 2017

9:00 .am. Sunday Worship

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Dates to Remember:

November 28 - 9:00 a.m. Mission and Outreach meeting – preparing of baskets for Love Basket Project

December 3 - All Adopt-A-Family gifts need to be back to the church

December 10 - Assembly and delivery of Love Baskets – after worship service

As we enter this busy season that is to focus on the birth of our Savior, I am reminded of the saying "where your money goes, so does your heart go." Mission and Outreach provides you with project ideas that will hopefully lead your hearts to serve and reach out to others.

Adopt-A-Family: The deadline for having your gifts back to the church is coming up fast – December 3rd!! If you have not already selected a gift card please take the time to look the remaining cards over and help our church place Christmas gifts under the tree for a child or family. If you don't care to shop but want to be part of this project, simply notify any member of the Missions Committee and we will gladly shop for you. We have some great shoppers ready and willing to find the bargains for you!

For the children not being adopted this year, a smaller selection of gifts will be available to their families and we have also given you the opportunity to be part of this program. Our "Star" project is an opportunity to help these children. Just pick out a STAR and buy a gift. Tape the STAR on the board. Let's see if we can fill up the board with STARS and make this a very Merry Christmas for the children. We have stars remaining in the Fellowship Hall and they will also need to be returned by December 3rd.

Organizing the Adopt-A-Family program is a huge undertaking for the Salvation Army and requires not only the help of countless volunteers but also our assistance in getting the gifts to them in time to be recorded for distribution days. If you wish to

volunteer at the Manitowoc office please call Lisa Sticklin at 920-684-7117.

A special thank you to all of you for your generosity and taking the time to extend your love to others during this Christmas season.

Love Baskets: Available in our Fellowship Hall is everything you need to bring the feelings of love, caring and peace to someone you know needs to be reminded that God loves them and we also care about what they are going thru. It is so easy to turn our backs and not get involved when someone is lonely, afraid, hurting or just going thru a rough time. Take a moment to write their names on a registration form and drop it in the Love Basket canister. Consider taking it one step further and join in the fun as we assemble and deliver these baskets of love.

When you've filled out the registration form you've completed the most important part, but you can also help by signing up to provide the items needed to fill the baskets on December 10th. There are several additional ways you can be part of this project including cleaning and sorting the baskets on November 28 at 9:00 a.m., or help with final organization of baskets/cards on Saturday December 9th at 9:30 a.m. Mark your calendars to help assemble and deliver your baskets of love on December 10th following worship service.

Mini Missions: November Mini Missions was a special salute to the veterans residing in Century Ridge, Garrow Villa and West Haven. Your collection totaled \$85.01 and providing a special gift for each of these 14 veterans.

The December Mini Mission collection will be used to purchase small gifts for the Love Baskets. Thank you to the members and friends of Peace Church who each month help highlight the many opportunities we have to reach out and touch the lives of others. Have good ideas for future Mini Missions? We would love to hear from you!

The Mission and Outreach Committee wishes each of you a Blessed and Happy Christmas Season. May the Lord's Love shine upon you as you love and serve others.

Christmas Flower Order Form

To donate a plant this Christmas Season, please fill out this form and enclose it in a marked envelope along with a check payable to "**Schroth's Floral**". All orders can be placed in Carla Zander's mailbox and must be made by December 10th

My donation is in "Loving Memory of"

OR

My donation is "In Thanksgiving"

This plant was donated by

_____ Yes, I would like to take my plant home after the Holiday Season

Please check which plant you would like to donate:

- ___ \$15.00 White Poinsettia w/Gold Foil
 - ___ \$17.50 White Poinsettia w/Gold Foil
 - ___ \$22.50 White Poinsettia w/Gold Foil
-