



December 11, , 2022

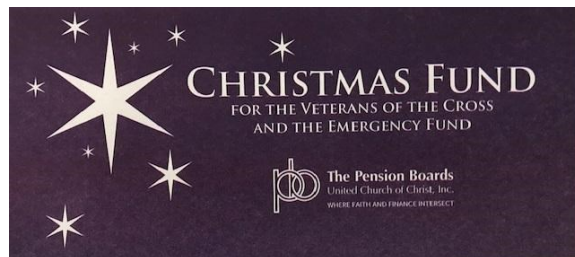
## The Christmas Fund

... “[The Magi] set out and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.” Matthew 2: 9-10

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

This year, we rejoice at the opening of possibilities for gathering and worshipping together again, as we anticipate the good news of great joy at Christmas. Still, challenges remain for many of our pastoral leaders who continue to experience loss of income as congregations struggle with budget shortfalls.

Please show your continued gratitude for our active and retired UCC clergy who need our support by encouraging your congregation to give generously to the Christmas Fund this year.



## From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Fentanyl strips

The Pennsylvania Department of Health reports that of the 5,343 overdose deaths that occurred in PA in 2021 78% involved fentanyl. It is odorless, tasteless and cannot be easily detected. It is often found in street drugs without the user being aware it is there in what could be a deadly dose.

Until November 3, the state of Pennsylvania classified fentanyl strips as drug paraphernalia. On that date Governor Wolf signed a bill making them legal. These strips would allow people to test drugs before use, which may save their lives. This is part of Harm Reduction initiatives being brought forward across the country. As of January 2023, these strips will be available from [nextdistro.org](https://nextdistro.org) and other resources.



## UCC Seeking Generosity Officers

The United Church of Christ, National Setting has an opening for four Generosity Officers to be deployed throughout the U.S. by region. The Generosity Officers will assist the Director of Philanthropy, the Development Strategist, OPTIC team, and volunteers in carrying out the major gift program/planned giving program of the national setting of the United Church of Christ. Each will hold primary responsibility for the solicitation of individual gifts of \$10k or more for the UCC. These positions will be charged to identify, cultivate, solicit, and steward 75-100 prospects and donors, concentrating on one of the identified Regions of the UCC, partnering with other staff and conference offices and local churches as appropriate. This position will require both electronic and direct face-to-face solicitation and stewardship, with an expectation of travel.

Generosity Officer (Middle Atlantic): Penn NE, Penn SE, Penn Central, Penn West, Central Atlantic – Apply at this link:  
[https://www.appone.com/MainInfoReq.asp?R\\_ID=5038752](https://www.appone.com/MainInfoReq.asp?R_ID=5038752)