

## **Special Offering**

### ***January Offering to Support Retired Ministers and Missionaries***

*I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out –  
plans to take care of you, not abandon you,  
plans to give you the future you hope for.  
When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen.  
When you come looking for me, you'll find me.  
--Jeremiah 29:1-11, (The Message)*

Throughout the month of January, Emmanuel Friedens Church participates in a special offering to support retired missionaries and ministers. As a congregation that is part of two denominational families, we invite members and friends to contribute either to the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund (United Church of Christ)** or to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (American Baptist)**.

Our retired missionaries and ministers deserve ongoing support in retirement. The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** (*Hope for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*) and the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross** (*"For Such a Time as This" Esther 4:14*) both offer channels to express our gratitude for the lifetimes of service so many pastors, relief and development workers, and educators have offered. The offerings also provide emergency funds that are shared with retired church workers and their families in times of challenge or crisis.

*"It meant a lot for a stranger to care—without saying a whole lot, and in just a small amount of time. It meant so much to me to be connected to the wider church, and to feel this level of care and support."* -- Jane, anonymous recipient of a UCC emergency grant.

*"When pastors become involved in the life of church members such as in weddings, funerals, baby dedications and even house blessings, the pastor is often seen as an auxiliary family member. It is always important to remember family especially when in need."* --Rev. Don Ng, retired Senior Pastor of the First Chinese Baptist Church in San Francisco.

Appropriate envelopes are provided in your newsletter, or may be picked up in church, or sent to you from the church office when requested. Thanks for giving generously! For more information: <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home> (UCC) and [rmmo@mmbb.org](mailto:rmmo@mmbb.org) (ABC-USA)

## **Thank you from the EFC Staff**

From Peter...*Thank you so much for your gift-both to me and each staff member. Your generosity in a challenging year was timely and supportive!*

From Michael Harrison... *Thank you to the congregation for your generous gift. It is much appreciated. I hope to use it toward doing some traveling once traveling feels safe again.*

From Maria Puccio... *Thank you members/friends of Emmanuel Friedens Church for the most generous staff gift. I, too, will use the gift toward traveling later in the year despite the pandemic concerns.*

From Dave Snyder... *Thank you for my gift. As always, it is very much appreciated! You are a great bunch of people.*