

2017 Mission Grants Awards



This year, we rejoiced as 20 different churches in the Penn West Conference received over \$29,000.00 worth of grant monies for various projects in their ministries! Grants for “Reaching Out” were distributed from our Corman Fund and our Neighbors in Need Fund. Grants for “Strengthening the Church” were distributed from our Strengthen the Church Fund. And grants for “Operational Support” were distributed from our Kermit Thomas Bequest Fund. Some grants in this final category were awarded in amounts larger than that announced maximum due to the fact that we must exhaust the money that we receive from this fund each year. We are deeply grateful to our donors who have made these grants possible!

The final reports for our 2017 grants are due by September 14, 2018. While not every church received all the grant monies for which they applied, **this year every church that applied received some award!** We are very excited about this and hope that as churches become more aware of what is expected of them in the application process that more churches will avail themselves of the opportunities to receive these monies. We encourage all of our churches to apply and also encourage them to reach out to us if help is needed with the application process. Here are our Mission Grant Awardees for 2017!

The Abbey Reformed UCC in Huntingdon received a \$1,500.00 grant for their Celebrate Grace Project. Celebrate Grace is a weekly program of food fellowship, informal worship, and small group support for those who struggle with addiction, co-dependency, depression, grief, or any other debilitating malady.



The Abbey also received a \$1,000.00 grant for the Lighting of their Sanctuary. This project will help to improve the lighting there.

Last, but not least, The Abbey also received a \$750.00 award for their High on Hope program. This is a training event in Faith-based addiction ministry. Pictured here receiving the grant (with our Conference Minister David Ackerman) is Sam Slicker.



Christ UCC in Latrobe received a \$1,472.00 grant for the installation of a two-level stair lift connecting the basement social hall to a stair landing and the second li- from the stair landing to the sanctuary and chapel area. Pictured here receiving the award are Jim O'Connor & the Rev. Richard Seigfried.

Community United Church in Erie received a \$1,000.00 Equipment Boost grant. They will use this award to replace the main desktop computer in the church office. Pictured here receiving this award is Pastor Joy Johnson.



St. Paul's UCC in Imler received a \$700.00 award for a laptop purchase. This will allow the church to present more multimedia, Powerpoint offerings in both worship and for Christian education. This will also provide additional support to the pastor as well as other ministries in the church when the need arises.

Emmanuel (Hill's) UCC in Export received a \$1,472.00 grant for their Two Hundredth Anniversary Spring Cleaning project. As part of their celebration, they will be renovating the church office, pastor's study, music minister's office, and nursery. These funds will to help toward those ends.

In addition, Hill's Church also received a \$300.00 award to help their pastor with a Spiritual Direction & Leadership plan. The pastor will attend the Bridges Spiritual Direction program in Dormont for nine months, in anticipation of getting a certificate in Spiritual Direction. Pictured here are Jennifer & the Rev. Joseph Hedden, receiving the award.



Grace UCC in Manns Choice received a \$370.00 grant to repair the informational sign in the front of the church by replacing the rotten wood in the sign and painting the frame. The contractor will also pull weeds on each side of the main steps, place fabric, spray with weed killer, and spread mulch.

First Reformed UCC in Greensburg received a \$1,500.00 grant for their Confirmation & Leadership event.

The congregation wants to send their six confirmands to a Penn West Conference sponsored confirmation retreat to the United Church of Christ House in Cleveland OH. The event will take place in April of 2018.



First Reformed UCC also received a \$500.00 award for their Community Days Activity Booth. They will provide information about their church in gift bags to participants during Greensburg Community Days over the Memorial Day Weekend, 2018, at Lynch Field in Greensburg.

First Reformed also received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Painting Project. They plan to repair plastered walls in their meeting room and handicapped accessible restroom. Here is the Rev. Steve Craft receiving the award on the church's behalf.

Amity Reformed UCC in Meyersdale received a \$1,000.00 grant for continued support for their Youth Group. Their group has grown since our Conference supported them last year, and they are excited about new projects that their group will accomplish in 2018.

Trinity UCC in Dorseyville received a \$1,000.00 bathroom and entryway renovation grant. This project will renovate two downstairs bathrooms used primarily by the Sunday School children. It will also renovate their basement entrance, which is a key entry point for families and children. Pictured here receiving the grant are the Rev. Dave Mears and Gail Prager.



First UCC in Irwin received a \$1,000.00 grant for a new computer for outreach and communication. This will be for the pastor's study and will help to create social media accounts and enhance communications by email. Pictured here on behalf of the church is the Rev. Steve Craft.

Grace UCC in Claysburg received a \$1,500.00 grant for their Can You Hear... And See Me Now Project. The planned upgrade to their audio and video system will include the ability to produce digital quality audio of services and other functions that take place at the church. The software upgrade will allow them to take full advantage of the abilities of their video recording hardware. These upgrades/additions will allow them to reach members of their community that were not previously possible and help to bring the word of God into their lives.

Unity UCC in Shanksville received a \$1,472.00 award to help them replace their kitchen equipment. It will specifically replace a refrigerator that recently stopped working. Other worn equipment will be replaced depending on funding. This includes a possible new stove and convection oven. Pictured here receiving the grant are the Rev. Jay Shaffer and Megan Evans.



Grace UCC in Duquesne received a \$1,000.00 grant for a stone pointing project. There is mortar falling out of some of their stones and rain is making its way into the walls. This will help to prevent further damage to the building. Receiving this award on behalf of the church is Don Girt.

Jerusalem UCC in Rimersburg received a \$1,500.00 grant for their Blessing Kids project. This local outreach helps to provide supplemental food for children of low income families over weekends, when local schools are not open for breakfasts or lunches. Here is Peggy Mortimer receiving the grant.



Paradise Community UCC in Reynoldsville received a \$1,500.00 grant for Feeding His Flock. This program feeds low income and budget stressed families (and elderly) eat well at the end of the month, when paychecks tend to be stretched. It is a free meal for anyone that needs it. It provides an average of 59 meals a month, including takeout meals/home delivery in the area for those who need them. The Rev. Audra Krise and Roberta Becker are pictured here receiving the award.

St. Paul's Community Church in Chicora received an award for a mission trip to help with the hurricane recovery efforts in either the areas of Houston or Florida. They are hoping to take a team of 10-12 people to work with an established organization in the affected area. Here is Maxine Tack receiving the award on behalf of the church.



St. Paul's UCC in Johnstown received a \$1,000.00 grant for their security system. This system will help to insure the security and safety of church members and friends.

St. Paul's also received a \$1,000.00 award for repairs to their roof. The sections of roof that are leaking are above the chapel, where they now worship, and above their office, as well.



St. Paul's UCC in Trauger received a \$1,000.00 grant for the repointing of their church exterior. The brick has been exposed to severe weather conditions and needs to be fixed. Elly Hill, Sandy Specht, and the Rev. Dan Baker are pictured here receiving the award.

Trinity UCC in Greensburg received a \$ 1,000.00 grant to computerize their financial system. This will replace the pencil and ledger system of the financial records with either Quickbooks or similar software. Here is Pastor Shirley Musick receiving the award on Trinity's behalf.



Zion's UCC in Transfer received a \$1,000.00 award for four steel door that they need to replace or repair. Three are in their main building and the fourth is in their garage/storage building.

Last, but not least, Zion's UCC received a \$1,500.00 grant for their Reynolds Backpack program. This program provides weekend food for 120 Reynolds Elementary students during the school year. The food is purchased through the Mercer County Food Bank. Here is Laddie Ohl receiving this award.



Congratulations to all our 2017 Mission Grants Awardees! We hope that more will apply for awards in 2018.