

## 2016 Mission Grant Awards



This year, we rejoiced as 19 different churches in the Penn West Conference received over \$30,000.00 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. We are deeply grateful to our donors who have made these grants possible!

The final reports for our 2016 grants are due by September 15, 2017. While some churches did not receive grants (or all the grant monies for which they applied), we encourage all of our churches to persevere and to apply again next year. If you need help with the application process itself, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Here are our Mission Grant Awardees for 2016!

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**St. Paul’s UCC in Knox** received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Show & Tell Project.

The purpose of this grant is:

- ◆ Purchase of a projector to illuminate God’s Word.
- ◆ Installation of a projector screen and possible modification of ceiling or wall mount for screen foundation.
- ◆ Computer to program projector.
- ◆ Staff training.



St. Paul’s also received a \$1,000.00 grant for their efforts to help the Knox Caring Cupboard. The Knox Caring Cupboard has for years helped low income families and individuals have food to eat and household items.

Pictured here receiving the grant (with our Conference Minister David Ackerman) are Lee Ann Haun and Lynn Fulton.

**Emanuel UCC in Warren** received a \$1,000.00 grant for an office computer and printer, and possibly a modem (to allow internet access) at Emanuel. This equipment will be utilized by a variety of persons at Emanuel including the pastor, the church secretary, the Sunday School classes, and many others.



Emanuel also received a \$1,000.00 grant for an AED. An Automatic External Defibrillator will be purchased for permanent installation at Emanuel UCC. Additionally, key personnel and parishioners will be trained in its usage and maintenance.

Also, Emanuel received a \$1,500.00 grant for Free Community First Aid Training. Working in conjunction with the Warren County Department of Public Safety, it is Emanuel's desire to provide free CPR/First Aid/AED classes to the local community. It is also the intent of Emanuel UCC to dedicate a small component of this time to disaster mitigation and planning as it applies to families and individual community members. Another small component of the grant will be used to provide free childcare services to guardians and caregivers so they can attend the class without the worries of scheduling childcare. Pictured here receiving this grant on Emanuel's behalf is Pastor Madeline Edwards.

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**St. Paul's UCC in Imler** received a \$1,500.00 grant for their 2017 Summer Camp. This camp program has been in existence for over 40 years and has consistently endeavored to supply a quality alternative to more costly camping experiences. The program aims to make a formative experience available to youth and children who would not otherwise be able to attend a summer camp. Throughout the years, the number of campers attending who were not affiliated with St. Paul's or the United Church of Christ have been in the majority. The week of camp is currently being offered for a registration fee of \$65 per camper, with full scholarship available to any child. Monies received will allow the camp to broaden its offering to even more children. They will also free St. Paul's to provide an ongoing opportunity of interaction and teaching throughout the year, as a means of keeping the non-churched campers engaged and involved.



St. Paul's also received a \$1,500.00 grant for their Monthly Community Luncheon. Since 2013, on the second Saturday of the month, a meal is offered free of charge to anyone who comes to the church between 11 AM and 2 PM (plus take-outs). The age and condition of the church's present equipment (electric roasters) has combined for increased difficulty in maintaining food temperatures during serving times. A four-bin steam table would allow for the proper serving temperatures to be maintained during the meal time, thereby increasing safety, as well as an ability to broaden the scope of meals provided. Here in the photo are Nellie Smith, Pastor Jim Neatrou, and Lois Ickes.

**Grace UCC in Manns Choice** received an \$865.00 grant to help refinish their step railings and to caulk the vestibule in front of their church building.

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**Trinity UCC, also in Manns Choice**, received a \$500.00 grant to help replace flooring their kitchen, dining, and restroom areas. The present flooring had been in place since 1968 and had some water damage. Trinity also received a \$500.00 grant to help remodel their restrooms and entryway, including partitions used to block unsightly and unsafe areas. The grant will also be used to upgrade sinks, commodes, lights, etc. Very few upgrades had been made since 1968.

Pictured here representing both churches in Manns Choice, is Jennifer Ward.

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**Salem UCC in Martinsburg** received a \$1,000.00 grant to help replace their sanctuary windows. Energy efficient windows were installed in order to improve the efficiency of the current heating system and decrease drafts. Decorative (colored) glass is to be installed at the peak of each window. Here is Pastor Betty Royer receiving the award on the church's behalf.



**Community of Reconciliation** in Pittsburgh received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Oakland Outreach Program. These funds will support both their Summer Camp program and annual Block Party. For each endeavor, COR spends a minimum of \$2,700.00. Their Summer Camp is an arts program for up to 35 campers for one week. COR also takes the campers for a one-day trip to Slippery Rock to hike and swim. The Block Party happens on Welcome Back Weekend, when 40,000 college students return to Oakland. The weekend is designed to build bridges between the students, year-round residents, business owners, employees, faith communities, and, of course, Community of Reconciliation.



Community of Reconciliation also received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Church Growth Initiative. COR is planning a congregational retreat to begin a discernment process through which they will discern future direction and goals for the congregation. Here is Pastor Denise Mason-Bullitt accepting the grant on the congregation's behalf.

**Trinity UCC in Dorseyville** received a \$750.00 grant for their Surgicorps Backpacks Program. Surgicorps International is a locally based organization that provides free surgical and medical care to people around the world. This year, Trinity UCC has set a goal to provide 75 backpacks filled with school supplies, toys, coloring books, crayons, dental and hygiene items to the non-profit group founded by Fox Chapel surgeon Dr. Jack Demos. Pictured here receiving this grant are Pastor Dave Mears, Charlene Fortun, and Gail Prager.



**First UCC in Millvale** received a \$1,100.00 grant for their Worship Project. They want to upgrade their media system to match their creative worship. They expect to install multi-function monitors in the sanctuary and an upgrade in the sound system, allowing for clearer sound, and adjusting for those with hearing impairment (through devices and design). As Millvale evolves, the church is responding to new ways and wants its worship to reflect the changing community. It needs new media to share faith and worship with those who desire radical inclusion and acceptance. The church hopes to en-thuse its worship as a means of encouraging Christian service in the community and sharing faith in Jesus Christ.



First UCC also received a \$600.00 grant for their Website Project. They will consult a professional to upgrade their website, podcast interactively, and use internet outreach to accommodate new opportunities for ministry. This will especially impact those unable to attend worship, pet ministry outreach, and ministry to those who are geographically limited or traveling. The church had a Bible Study and included people from far and wide, and they want to expand on that, as well as grow through social media interactions and expand Wifi throughout their facility. Here in the photo are Diane Nugent and Pastor Alice Lindsay-Bignell.



**Stoystown Charge in Stoystown** received a \$1,000.00 grant for work on their carrillion bell tower system. They have a family requesting that their parents' bequest be used to help purchase a bell tower system. This system will be heard throughout the entire town. They will play bells and chimes at designated times of the day every day. Receiving this award is Pastor Sharon Fox.



**Amity Reformed UCC in Meyersdale** received a \$500.00 grant for their Youth Group Startup. The church plans to start a youth group for youth in grades 5-12. The goal is to ensure that the youth feel connected to the church body. Currently, many of these youth do not attend worship on a regular basis, and the hope is that this may be changed by giving them a voice and engaging them.

Amity Reformed UCC also received a \$500.00 grant for their Youth Group Outreach. They hope to reach out to the youth in the community who do not have a church home. They hope to bring them in with their own youth and guide them towards a Christian identity. Here in the photo receiving the grant is Ken Warnick.

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**Unity UCC in Shanksville** received a \$1,000.00 grant for Pavilion/Playground Equipment. Unity has a large grove and outdoor pavilion adjacent to the church building. The playground equipment was acquired by donations over the years and needs to be replaced. It is worn and designed for household use. This grant will be used to purchase a free-standing playset with swings and a slide, a Swing Seat with Pommel for a child/teen with a disability like Autism, and a Geometric Dome Climber Play Center. Unity's facilities are used by the congregation as well as the community. Pictured here is Pastor Jay Shaffer accepting Unity's grant.



**St. Paul's UCC in Somerset** received a \$1,000.00 grant for a laptop computer. The church's main laptop that is used by the pastor needs to be replaced, having been over service for over six years. St. Paul's plans to purchase another Mac Book Pro.



St. Paul's UCC also received a \$1,000.00 grant to benefit their work with the Somerset Area Food Pantry. The Somerset Area Food Pantry is the largest food pantry in Somerset County and serves families in the Somerset and Rockwood School Districts. The pantry has been a

long-time mission partner with St. Paul's. Here are Pastor Matt Deal and Barb Stutzman receiving the award for St. Paul's.



**Denmark Manor UCC in Export** received a \$1,000.00 for their Facing Transition project. The church is in a critical time of transition. The membership has dwindled, and the landscape of the church is in flux, changing from rural to suburban. The church's building location is somewhat isolated, working against its visibility. Pastor Meredith Hutchison will be retiring within the next two years, and the church is at a juncture as to what future pastoral leadership will look like. She is looking to work with a one on one coach who is a specialist in Transitional Ministry. Pastor Meredith took a course taught by this coach, and she is aware of her need to alter her focus from individual pastoral care to organizational care. This grant will help her with this coaching process, so that she will be better equipped to help prepare the church and its leadership for the future. Here is Pastor Meredith, receiving the grant.

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**First Reformed UCC in Greensburg** received a \$1,000.00 grant for Kitchen Repairs. The project involves repairs to the kitchen walls in their fellowship hall. Over many years, water damage has ruined several walls in the church kitchen. These areas need replastered and repainted.



First Reformed UCC also received a \$1,000.00 grant for their efforts to help with the CASA Run/Walk. They are helping to sponsor the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Superhero 5k Run & Walk timed race and Kids' 1k Fun Run on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Hempfield Park & Athletic Complex. The event benefits Court Appointed Special Advocates of Westmoreland, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides a voice in court for abused and neglected children in Westmoreland County. Through the work of their volunteers, CASA is a friend of the courts, and they ensure children's placements into safe, loving homes. The church will invite members of their congregation to participate in the event, and will plan, prepare, and host an activity station for the children in attendance. The church will also help to provide content for gift bags offered to participants.

In addition, First Reformed UCC received a \$1,000.00 grant to help with their Leadership Spiritual Retreat. This event will be held on March 11, 2017 at St. Emma's Monastery in Greensburg. The retreat will consist of a leadership presentation and a directed time of reflection and planning for the future of the congregation and its role in the United Church of Christ. The Benedictine Nuns of St. Emma's will provide a continental breakfast, lunch, beverages, meeting rooms, and a worship space. The grant will serve to defray these expenses. Pictured here are Pastor Steve Craft, Sherrie Dunlop (from CASA), Mandy Zalich (from CASA), and Mary Ann Seminary.



**First UCC in Irwin** received a \$1,000.00 grant for repairing and repainting their parsonage. All woodwork will be scraped, sanded, caulked, and primed with oil to ensure paint adhesion. All windows and frames will be sanded, re-caulked, and painted. All downspouts will be repaired if needed, primed, and painted. Rain gutters in the roof line will be cleaned, sanded, caulked where needed, then painted. All tin roofs will be prepped and repaired where needed, and painted in several coats of a marine grade roof paint. All paintable surfaces on the parsonage will be covered with one coat of oil primer and two finish coats of paint. Here is Tom Steiner, receiving the grant on behalf of First UCC.

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**St. Mark's UCC in Fredonia** received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Blessing in a Backpack Program. A monthly mission group packs lunches for local less fortunate school children to have for weekends to subsidize meals provided by their school. The Fayter-race program provides food during summer break for children. St. Mark's is involved in this ministry, and the grant will be a real benefit to it.

St. Mark's UCC also received a \$1,500.00 grant for Outreach Events. This grant will be used to support travel and lodging for members of the church to attend UCC sponsored training and seminars. Locally, funds would be used to sponsor faith based community activities at the church (concert, special speakers, picnic, etc.) to encourage local community interaction.

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**Calvary UCC in Turtle Creek** received a \$1,000.00 grant for their Opportunity Shop Renovation Project. The grant will be used to complete needed repairs to "The Opportunity Shop," Calvary's community outreach ministry to the Turtle Creek area. These repairs are necessitated by recent flooding and include repair/painting of the concrete floor, repair/replacement of an oversized entrance door, new shelving, and maintenance/possible replacement of a sump pump. The "Op Shop" has been serving the community since the mid-1970's by providing good quality used clothing and accessories, bedding, housewares, toys, books, and more at nominal or no cost to the community.

**Christ UCC in Latrobe** received a \$1,000.00 grant for their No More Boring Sermons Project. Their worship committee has been praying for a way to purchase a new projector for the church sanctuary, which has bright ambient light. The church's current projector is very old (and not too bright) and the replacement bulbs are very expensive. The grant will be used to purchase a new projector and portable screen to use in the sanctuary to enhance the church's worship experience.

Also, Christ UCC received a \$500.00 grant for their Sharing a Meal with My Neighbor Program. In an effort to combat hunger in the Latrobe community, a group from the church has reached out to partner with a local pizzeria. The church hopes to "pay it forward" by offering people a chance to pre-purchase a meal (a slice of pizza and a drink) so that someone else without money can eat. The grant will be used to make a monetary donation to start the project and invite the larger community to partner with them to help them feed those in need.

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**Penn West Conference** rejoices to offer Mission Grants to our churches! To learn more about how to help with our Mission Grants program, please contact our Conference Minister, David Ackerman, at 724-834-0344 or at [david@pennwest.org](mailto:david@pennwest.org). God bless you!

