

Our Covenant with the Wider Church - 2024

UCC One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

- Through OGHS, UCC members reach out to:
 - Build sustainable communities by supporting self-help program to more than 80 nations
 - Respond to disaster by providing emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, flood, fires, war, and other natural or human-caused events. OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.
 - Minister to refugees by providing advocacy and help, hope and hospitality to those uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million people are uprooted at any given time.
- McFarland UCC provided **\$7,780** in 2024.

UCC Strengthen the Church

- Support of this offering helps UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities
- McFarland UCC provided **\$1,650** in 2024.

UCC Neighbors in Need

- This special mission offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US by awarding Neighbors in Need grants to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities
- These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.
- McFarland UCC provided **\$1,225** in 2024.

UCC Christmas Fund

- The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards.
- Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.
- McFarland UCC provided **\$330** in 2024.

UCC Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

- Funds the work the UCC does in its Associations and Conferences, and in the national and global church.
- OCWM funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local churches strong, effective, and growing. An example of this for McFarland UCC has been the support and guidance the conference office has provided and continues to provide for our pastoral search.
- In 2012, McFarland UCC started increasing our commitment to OCWM from 7% to 10% of our general fund donations. We continued that 10% commitment for the past 9 years with our donation of **\$18,000** in 2024.

McFarland UCC Pastor Discretionary Funds

- Our pastor has access to discretionary funds that are contributions from church members and friends; these funds are used to provide support to individuals in need who contact our church for help.
- In 2024 this fund received **\$6,329** in donations and **\$272** in interest from our Money Market account at One Community Bank. A total of **\$14,024** was provided for gas, utilities, grocery purchases, car repairs, rent/housing and other needed assistance.

McFarland UCC Now In Our Name (NION)

- Originally called Not In Our Name, this group was formed in 2019 to bring awareness to the federal government's immigration policies that were separating families at the border. With the change in leadership at the White House in 2021, we changed to Now In Our Name in support of positive policy changes.

- Beginning in 2023 an opportunity presented itself for McFarland UCC to support an immigrant family. Collaborating with the Outreach Funds Committee to secure financial support for Tcheki, Jeffrey, and Jefferson (and now Tyrell), a total of **\$8,645** from the **Reed-Smeaton Outreach Funds** has been provided to support their housing expenses in 2024.

Haiti Allies

- The mission of Haiti Allies is to help empower Haitians to better their lives and country through education, meal programs, adult literacy, and job creation.
- Haiti Allies is under the nonprofit umbrella of Community of Hope UCC and Advent ELCA Lutheran Church in Madison. Pastor Bryan was one of the founders of Haiti Allies in 1999.
- Contributions from McFarland UCC to support the work of Haiti Allies during 2024 totaled **\$650**.

Sponsorship Program Aiding Relationships and Education (SPARE)

- SPARE is a Haiti Allies program that provides financial support to individual students for their education from 7th grade through university in Haiti, a country where less than 50% of children attend school, less than 30% will go past 6th grade, and 1 in 100 go on to a university.
- The Outreach Funds Committee made a commitment in 2021 to sponsor a SPARE student for 10 years using funds from the **Reed-Smeaton Outreach Funds**. **\$1,250** was provided in 2024 to support the 2024-2025 school year (10th grade) for our student in Haiti, Dieuslyne Joseph.

Reed-Smeaton Outreach Funds Distributions

- The Outreach Funds Committee is charged with oversight of and distributions from the Reed-Smeaton Outreach Fund. A total of **\$37,790** from the Reed-Smeaton Outreach Fund was distributed in 2024. In addition to the \$9,895 fund disbursements already identified in this summary, the Outreach Funds Committee agreed to the following other disbursements:
 - Two \$250 (**\$500 total**) college scholarships for McFarland UCC high school graduates.
 - A **\$4,000** contribution to Horizon High School to support programs at a WI Recovery High School.
 - A **\$5,000** contribution to a Palestinian family who resides in the West Bank; funds were used to support the family and their village.
 - A **\$5,035** contribution to N'aSonge that supports families in Haiti.
 - A **\$5,000** donation to the **Specialty Care Free Clinic** in Madison that provides specialty health care services to uninsured patients.
 - A **\$5,000** donation to **Solace House**, a local adult family home that provides end-of-life care for people with terminal illness and housing insecurity.
 - A **\$2,500** donation to McFarland Optimist Club to support the weekend food distribution program for students from McFarland Schools.
 - **\$360** for sponsorship and supplies for the **McFarland Pride in the Park** event.
 - A **\$500** contribution to the United Way to support the Abundant Life Christian School Emergency and Recovery Fund (paid by credit card in December 2024).

McFarland Food Pantry

- McFarland UCC has consistently provided support and assistance to the McFarland Food Pantry. This continued in 2024 with a **\$270** contribution.
- In addition, our Teen Youth Ministry supported the McFarland Food Pantry's "Giving Tree" in December by spending **\$464** to purchase Christmas gifts for children whose families are supported by the Food Pantry.

UNICEF - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

- UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1946 to provide emergency food and health care to children in countries that had been devastated by WW II
- Working in 190 countries, UNICEF fights for the rights of every child seeking safe shelter, nutrition, protection from disaster and conflicts, and equality
- McFarland UCC provided **\$200** to UNICEF in 2024.

Because of the generous spirit of our members and friends, both of financial resources as well as gifts of time and organization, McFarland UCC has provided **\$82,383** for local, national, and global causes over the past 12 months. This total represents a 29% increase (over \$18,564) of our financial contributions in 2023. Thank you!