

✦ **Christmas Joy—Special Offering**  
**November 27—December 18**

And the Word  
became flesh  
and lived  
among us...

—JOHN 1:14

THE PERFECT GIFT.

Dear Grace-filled friends:

December, 2022

**Our final special offering of the year is always the Christmas Joy offering.** With this we recognize the needs of church leaders – retired and in training at the beginning of their careers. Retired pastors and church workers sometimes have special needs for housing or medical care. Students in theological training sometimes need financial help to make it through school.

At Christmas we are joyful that Jesus was born to lead us in new faith. Last year our Christmas Joy offering was part of \$1.1 million of grants, to provide income, and housing supplements and emergency grants for current and retired Presbyterian church worker in their times of need. Income supplements from the Board of Pensions helped 278 individuals. Housing supplements helped more than 227 individuals remain in their homes, afford assisted living or long term care. Emergency Assistance Grants went to 246 recipients.

Let's spread Christmas Joy to those who have served our Presbyterian Church so well. The offering also provides over \$1 million to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color with education and leadership development skills.

“God is with us.” All the time. During this season of Advent, as we approach Christmas, there's no more perfect gift than that. Thank you for sharing those lessons and truths, through your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Please give generously, for “if we all do a little — *together* — it adds up to a lot.”

*Thank you, Witness and Ministry Department – Liz Bradner, Freddie Delamain*

**Explore the Grace Church website (<https://www.gracewc.org>)  
“Ways to Give” page and you will find information about  
different ways to make donations for special offerings and more.**

**If you need help** with anything on the “Ways to Give” page,  
contact Linda Neyer, Treasurer, at [gracepresbytreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:gracepresbytreasurer@gmail.com)  
or 925-433-5456; or Faye Hutchings, Financial Secretary,  
at [afhutchings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:afhutchings@sbcglobal.net) or 925-588-3527.

**An envelope is attached here** and you may still submit your offering  
by check in the mail—drop it in the collection plate, or send to the office.

***Thank you on behalf of Grace Presbyterian Church.***

# THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Witness and Ministry Committee is sponsoring this year's Christmas Giving Tree as an opportunity for the members of Grace to contribute towards two wonderful organizations that support great needs of our community—food and shelter.



## *The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties*

Every month people served by the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano must choose between buying food or paying for other basic needs. In partnership

with 260 local nonprofit organizations, **the Food Bank provides**

**3,500,000 meals each month.** In order to meet this great need, the Food Bank depends on donations of food and money and they rescue 4,500,000 pounds of food waste each year! 50% of the food they provide is fresh produce. We share their mission of nourishing our neighbors today and advocating for a hunger-free tomorrow.

You may choose to donate to these organizations by placing your cash gift into one of the envelopes hanging from the tree in the Church foyer. You can also write a check or contribute online. Please note that your gift is for The Giving Tree.

## *Hope Solutions*

This organization is our partner in the tiny homes project. Their proven model of providing permanent housing with supportive services is helping vulnerable individuals and families in our community to overcome the impacts of poverty, trauma, substance use, racism, mental health issues, and inadequate access to healthcare.

**We share their vision for a beloved community in which everyone has a place to call home and the support of a strong community so that they can live with dignity and reach their full potential.**

**OVER 20 YEARS AGO, WITH FAITH AND HEART-**  
We envisioned a world in which everyone has a place to call home and the support of a strong community.

**1997**  
**OUR MISSION:**  
15 Faith Communities came together to address poverty and homelessness.

**2004**  
**27 FAMILIES**  
Found home. Support. A positive path forward and *Hope.*

**2012**  
**HIV/AIDS HOUSING ADVOCACY**  
began supporting 140+ households.

**2002**  
**OUR FIRST STEPS**  
Garden Park Apartments was purchased and renovated.

**2007**  
**ADDED VITAL SUPPORT SERVICES**  
An academic specialist and mental health provider joined the team. Homework Club was established.

**2016**  
**LAUNCHED HOUSING NAVIGATION**  
as part of county-wide system transformation. Supported 300+ new households.

**HOPE SOLUTIONS**  
*The Heart of Housing and Services*

**2019**  
**OUR 5 YEAR PLAN:**  
Launched new programs to serve more families, and support homeless youth.  
*WITH INFINITE HOPE, WE CAN END HOMELESSNESS.*  
New name and brand identity were created to better communicate who we are and what we do.

**2020**  
**OUR GOALS:**  
**TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE SERVE.**  
**SERVE NEW POPULATIONS.**  
**DEVELOP NEW HOUSING SITES.**  
**RAISE \$15 MILLION.**

**Thank you so much for your heart-felt generosity towards these two wonderful organizations!**

*The Witness and Ministry Committee*