

# WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## The Gifts of Christmas

2017



“Come, you who are blessed by my Father...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... For just as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:34-37

## **The Gifts of Christmas: A Unique Giving Opportunity**

The gifts from this catalogue are intended to honor your friends and relatives in a unique way – by helping others. The Gifts of Christmas are designed to help the hungry, the homeless, the sick and the challenged.

Here's how it works:

1. Select your gift from a wide range of agencies. For each gift that you purchase you will receive an explanatory note and a special star ornament.
2. Note that gifts are priced with suggested donations. We encourage you to exceed these minimums!
3. Complete the order form that is located in the back of this catalogue. Bring it to church along with your payment. You may write one check for the entire order. Make your check out to "WPC – Gifts of Christmas." We can also accept credit cards if you make your purchase after worship on Sundays from 11 – 12.
4. Each week, orders placed by noon on Thursday will be available for pickup after Sunday service or in the office during the following week.

### **2017 Gifts:**

#### **The Gift of Food**

- The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County
- Rise Against Huger (formerly Stop Hunger Now)
- Open Door Shelter (Manna House)
- DC Central Kitchen

#### **The Gift of Shelter**

- Bridges to Community
- Home Front
- Domestic Violence Crisis Center
- Cystic Fibrosis Bridge of Hope

#### **The Gift of Hope**

- Pivot Ministries
- Closer to Free
- Family Re-entry
- Liberation Programs

#### **The Gift of Community**

- A Better Chance of Wilton
- Wilton Social Services
- Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- WPC Memorial Garden

# The Gift of Food

## The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County

This food bank seeks to provide sufficient, reliable and nutritious food to non-profit organizations that feed the hungry in Lower Fairfield County.

Gift #	Description	Price
1	A bountiful basket of groceries to help a struggling family enjoy a nutritious, delicious, and filling dinner.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

## Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now)

An international hunger relief agency, RAH's meal packaging program perfected an assembly process that combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix including 23 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packets. RAH works with international partners that ship and distribute the meals in-country. At the town-wide event in October of this year, over 165,000 meals were packaged by 700 volunteers - that's enough to feed over 450 children for an entire year!

Gift #	Description	Price
2	Sacks of rice (remember, it goes last!) to be scooped, combined with protein and dried veggies then weighed, bagged, packaged, shipped, cooked, and distributed to school children in areas of need.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

## Open Door Shelter ("Manna House")

The mission of this emergency shelter is to provide safe, sanitary shelter care to homeless men, women, and families. On the second Tuesday of every month, a group of faithful and wonderful WPC volunteers serve food at the Norwalk Emergency Shelter's Manna House.

Gift #	Description	Price
3	Canned goods to stock the pantry shelves so that homeless men and women may have the grace of a meal and the dignity to eat at a table in a warm and welcoming dining hall, served by volunteers who will look them in the eye and give them hope.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

## DC Central Kitchen

DC Central Kitchen combats the interconnected problems of hunger, poverty, and poor health. They are a leader in reducing hunger with recycled food, training unemployed adults for culinary careers, serving healthy school meals, and rebuilding urban food systems through social enterprise. Many of WPC's youth have served at DC Central Kitchen on mission trips in the recent past.

Gift #	Description	Price
4	Cutting boards and cooking utensils to be used by unemployed adults trying to lift themselves out of poverty and the ghetto by training for culinary careers.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

## The Gift of Shelter

### Bridges to Community

Bridges to Community is an international not-for-profit organization that helps impoverished communities. Members of WPC have traveled to Nicaragua through Bridges to Community and worked with a local community to build familial shelter. The organization's mission is to build a more just and sustainable world through service learning and community development.

Gift #	Description	Price
5	Sturdy cinderblocks to be used in the construction of a new earthquake resistant house for a family currently living in a home of cardboard and tattered sheets.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Home Front

Home Front is a community-based, volunteer-driven home repair program that provides FREE repairs to low-income homeowners, thus enabling them to remain in their homes with an improved quality of life. Since 1988 the program has completed nearly 2,500 projects in almost 150 communities and delivered more than \$38 million in donated products and services. WPC periodically sends teams to work with Home Front.

Gift #	Description	Price
6	Tools and supplies for a work crew to repair, paint, refresh or revive a crumbling home of a low-income family so they may live safely and focus on the future without worrying about their immediate surroundings.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Domestic Violence Crisis Center

Since 1980, the DVCC has provided crisis services to victims of intimate partner violence and their children and safeguarded their rights through a variety of initiatives. The congregation of WPC has a long history of involvement and support for the local DVCC. Some of our very own provided safehouses for these families in need during the early formation of the crisis center.

Gift #	Description	Price
7	Blankets and pillows for a safe house to warm and calm a troubled victim so they can ready themselves to break the cycle of violence and live free of fear and abuse.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Cystic Fibrosis Bridge of Hope

The CF Bridge of Hope initiative aims to improve the health and life of Cystic Fibrosis patients in underdeveloped areas of the world. Through these efforts, CF patients across the world, most of whom are children and young teens, are given a chance to lead more productive lives as they receive the much-needed therapies and medicine otherwise not available to them. Members of WPC have helped with recent efforts that brought children to the US for medical treatment by driving patients to and from daily treatments during their medical treatment in the US, as well as arranging meals and housing during their stay.

Gift #	Description	Price
8	Help house a child suffering from cystic fibrosis and their guardian as they prepare for surgery that will literally save their life.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

## The Gift of Hope

### Pivot Ministries

Pivot Ministries is a grass-roots, Christian-centered program which provides intensive, long-term rehabilitation services for those in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Many of you know the enthusiastic choir which periodically enriches our worship service. We have helped support their population by providing new carpeting and a commercial grade washer-dryer for their Bridgeport residence, as well as a donation toward the purchase of a new van.

Gift #	Description	Price
9	Snacks and provisions for educational sessions to free men from the grips of addiction, raise their souls and find the strength to fight for another drug-free day.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Closer to Free

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital have joined forces to create Closer to Free, a fund that provides essential funding for breakthrough cancer research and compassionate patient care by combining the gifts of many donors.

Gift #	Description	Price
10	Equipment for laboratory research that will advance promising treatments to save a life and end the scourge of cancer.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Family Re-Entry

Family Re-Entry Youth Programs offer counseling, case management and mentoring support to youth impacted by parental incarceration, family violence and/or youth delinquency. Volunteer adults serve as mentors with a goal of enhancing the resiliency of children and youth through one-to-one caring relationships and supportive interactions. At least one WPC member is currently a mentor and WPC regularly contributes to a holiday party for the Champions program.

Gift #	Description	Price
11	Bring joy to a child through games, activities and crafts so they can navigate their parent's incarceration with guidance, love, and support from a mentor.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Liberation Programs

Liberation Programs demonstrates daily that substance use disorders can be treated successfully. With four decades of behavioral health expertise, Liberation Programs is committed to finding recovery solutions that work. The Liberation team caters to our area's poor and working poor with service offerings for older adults, men, women, mothers (pregnant or parenting) and teens; approximately 1,200 people are served each day.

Gift #	Description	Price
12	Soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other toiletries to help a mother present herself with dignity and metaphorically wash away the stigma and shame of substance abuse and work toward a brighter future for her and her family.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

## The Gift of Community

### A Better Chance of Wilton

ABC transforms the lives of 14 academically talented minority students with financial need by providing them with the opportunity for a superior high school education. Wilton is one of only four communities in the United States with both a girls' and boys' house, and the program is supported entirely by donations and fundraising within our community.

Gift #	Description	Price
13	Support these amazing scholars with needed supplies for school such as binders, paper, sporting equipment, and art supplies.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Wilton Social Services

Wilton Social Services provides assistance to residents of the Town of Wilton who are in need for any reason. WPC has supported Wilton Social Services with baskets for the homebound and the elderly in recent years.

Gift #	Description	Price
14	Gift card to a local supermarket to help a Wilton family purchase produce, meat, and perishable items.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County

Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County is a non-profit, home health and hospice care agency that has touched the lives of those in need for more than 100 years. The agency offers skilled nursing and support services, physical rehabilitation, senior care management, health education, community wellness programs, and compassionate hospice and palliative care to children and adults in Wilton and throughout Fairfield County.

Gift #	Description	Price
15	Provide an ailing and fragile senior with the dignity of personal care and the joy of hope through a home health aid who can assist with bathing, dressing, and exercise.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The organization enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

Gift #	Description	Price
16	Hygiene and clean-up kits to help survivors of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico restore their souls, recover their surroundings, and move forward with grace and hope.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

### WPC Memorial Garden

The Wilton Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden was dedicated in 1997 to serve members, families, strangers, and friends of our congregation. All are welcomed to this place of rest, worship, and remembrance.

Gift #	Description	Price
17	Bulbs to be planted so they can bloom and spread hope and joy to souls who use the Memorial Garden to mourn, find peace, or to celebrate and be inspired to spread the Gospel and God's love.	\$15.00 suggested minimum

