United Methodists have a long history of generously carrying for the poor, sick, orphaned, widowed, homeless, hungry and marginalized.

United Methodists can be found on every continent but Antarctica seeking to do as Jesus said: “I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:35-40)

Locally, as United Methodists in Rochelle you’ll find our people and dollars at work all over our community: from big community-wide projects like the food pantry and homeless shelter; to helping individuals keep lights on or make a first month’s rent; to living out one’s faith in the classroom; ring the bell for the Salvation Army; helping a neighbor; listening to a friend; working with the Hub Cluster mission team. The dollars and hours spent locally are really difficult to measure because so much of it happens beyond our church’s budget and formal ministries.

Globally, United Methodists are 12 million people strong and growing. When you put the dollars and hours of 12 million people together - the world is changed for good; we do as just as Jesus said above. Our global mission efforts support:

- Over 300 missionaries, (and UM missionaries don’t just teach the Bible, but they teach farming and agriculture, how to care for newborns, how to read and write, how to take a micro-loan and turn it into a business that can feed a family).
- Hot, healthy meals to NU students who struggle to pay tuition & keep food in the pantry.
- Partnering with groups on the ground in Aleppo providing humanitarian aid to survivors and refugee support in Lebanon as 1/3rd of the Lebanese population are refugees from places like Syria.
- The administrative costs of UMOR so that 100% of donations for relief go towards relief.
- Rehab houses through partnerships with Habitat, Rockford New Hope.
- Fight & treat diseases like: Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis from Chicago to the Congo.

In 2016, RUMC has made a commitment of nearly $40,000 to global mission work. We’ve surpassed the $30,000 mark and the number is growing fast!

Because we are passionate about missions we’re committing all (yes, ALL) of our Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and all Christmas special offerings to missions work through our apportionment giving. If everyone donated $53 for global missions, who also donated to mission work in 2015 we’d meet our goal easily!

Want to make a generous gift tonight? A gift bigger than what you can get out of the ATM? Scan the code below or go to http://www.rochelleumc.com/#/donate on your smartphone to make a secure credit card donation now or do it during the Christmas message. I promise I won’t mind!

Thank you for your generous support of global mission work.

Rochelle United Methodist Church wants to help you with your New Years’ resolutions in 2017.

As a community of faith committed to helping people CONNECT with God and other, GROW in the habits of Jesus and SERVE in the Spirit of Jesus - we think we can help you on the road to meeting your new years resolutions in a way that also strengthens your faith!

Tired of debt? Have a change in income or expenses?
In February, we’ll be offering Financial Peace University a great program to help get your finances in order.

Want to eat healthier?
Clean cooking classes starting in February too!

Want to run a 5k this year?
Run for God will take you from your couch to the finish line all while deepening your faith.

We’ll help you make sense of the Bible in Lent with preaching and book studies.

Want to connect better with your partner?
We’ll have baby sitting and date nights throughout the year!

Want to do more as a family? Want to volunteer more this year?
Our new Missions Possible program will have several great opportunities to serve.

Want to discuss important questions of faith and philosophy in a casual nonjudgmental space with thoughtful people and tasty beverages? Check out our Philosophy Club.

Scan the code below or go to http://www.rochelleumc.com/#/connect to join our email list and learn more about the great opportunities to Connect, Grow, & Serve in 2017!
THE STORY IS SHARED WITH THE LEAST OF THESE
LUKE 2:15-30

OFFERING
“*The Coventry Carol*

100% of our offering tonight goes to support our Global Mission Work through apprenticeship giving.

OFFERING RESPONSE:
Hymn #219 *What Child is This?* (Chorus only)
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

COMMUNION (THE GREAT THANKSGIVING) UMH pg. 13
We celebrate an open table: Regardless of your background, if you’re seeking to love Jesus as best you can, you are welcome to come. Small children may participate at the discretion of their parents, or they may come forward for a blessing from Pastor Rob.

Gluten-free elements are also available from the station attended by our Pastor.

THE LIGHT HAS COME!

**Hymn #246 “Joy to the World”**
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

*Parting Blessing

“*And the Glory of the Lord*