Dear Fellow Members,

"He'd give you the shirt off his back!"
"She'd give you the shirt off her back!"
These expressions, known as idioms, have been used to describe great generosity for years, and are perhaps some of the most well-known to many of us.

In two previous messages I wrote about two of our United Church of Christ's 3 Great Loves, Love of Creation and Love of Children, and today I write of the third, LOVE OF NEIGHBOR.

Could "giving the shirts off our backs" be a way to describe how our congregation loves our neighbors?

Let's take a look at how our congregation has, in the words of the UCC's 3 Great Loves mission initiative, lived out God's love for our neighbors by looking again at our 2019 Annual Report.

In addition to the dozen outreach ministry offerings and activities listed in the previous message specifically for the love of children, here's what is also listed for the love of neighbor: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors In Need, Strengthen the Church, Veterans of the Cross, Hartman Center Love Offering, Special Offering for Incarnation UCC flood support, Church World Service clean-up buckets, Blanket Month, Silver Express Food Bank, Garden Produce Program, Community Garden Plots, UCC Elves, Pet Blessing, showed movie" Risen", Book Study, hosted Wayne Band concert, hosted WCFC Thanksgiving service, and Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat.

Our Annual Report indicates that we love our neighbors in a multitude of ways! Also revealed in the report is that we provide and maintain a comfortable and attractive building and grounds with a dedicated and talented pastor, staff and membership so that we are able to show our neighbors that we love them unconditionally when they read **"No matter where you are on life's journey you are welcome here."**

It may even be said that "Church of the Apostles, UCC would "give you the shirts off their backs."

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Mark 12: 31
"The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (RSV)

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Take good care,
Bob