



**Shining Stars for January:
Char and Larry Burch**

Larry and Char first heard about Uplands in 2009 at the UCC Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting. There was a booth and the Uplands couple responsible for the booth, kept raving about it. As the Burchs approached retirement, they had certain things they were seeking: Community; Access to good continuing care; Independent Living; Affordability; Active living; and Access to a UCC church. They found all of these at Uplands Village!

Char and Larry moved here in March of 2017. Although they moved most immediately from Sullivan, Missouri (southwest of St. Louis), they had moved around quite a bit because of Char's career. This has resulted in living in Latrobe, PA; Harrisburg, PA; Webster Groves, MO; Tiffin, OH; Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA; Honolulu, HI; and San Francisco, CA.

After Larry earned a degree in Business Administration at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and military service in Viet Nam as a helicopter crew chief, he worked primarily as a financial and management consultant for small to medium size companies and non-profit organizations. In addition to consulting over the years, Larry has done extensive volunteering as a Case Worker for long term disaster recovery for several disaster response organizations. He retired in 2012.

Char retired in 2016, having specialized in interim ministry for the United Church of Christ. She served as an interim minister in local churches, conference and national settings of the UCC.

Larry's only noteworthy hobby has been collecting several hundred piggy banks over the years. Free time and personal interest is devoted to dining out, movies, hiking, blue grass concerts, reading and volunteering for a wide variety of activities.

Most of Char's focus has been on developing skills to assist churches, pastors and conferences through times of transition (interim ministry). Since coming to Uplands the hope is to become reacquainted with the keyboard, enjoy learning about the history and culture of the area, and discover how best to use her skills in retirement.

For Larry, volunteering at Uplands has encompassed maintenance projects on walking trails, calling Bingo at Dougherty/Lake and Braun Homes, assisting in the Blue Barn sales events, and serving on committees or as a board member for various organizations that are part of Uplands and Pleasant Hill Community Church. In addition, he is exploring membership in the Crossville Rotary.

Char has been involved various ways in Pleasant Hill Community Church and served as a supply preacher in a neighboring community. In addition she volunteers at The Grab Thrift Shop, serves as secretary for the Uplands Assembly Council, and has assisted in the Blue Barn sales events.

Char and Larry say, "The best thing about living at Uplands is the sense of community and care among the residents and the staff. In addition, we have treasured the attitude toward volunteerism and the legacy of Dr. May Cravath Wharton which seems to be part what it means to be community. There is also a sense of the importance of continual learning and education, offering personal growth and development opportunities. We continue to be very impressed with the staff – their willingness to face issues and their dedication, particularly evident in the long-term care and memory care facilities".