

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

May 2022



International Council of Community Churches

Volume 72

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

Number 7

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President's Message

Abraham Wright

Do you love me this much?

For believers in Jesus Christ, one of the things about the coronavirus and its variants, including what appears to be the subsiding stages of the pandemic, is a sensible, compelling call to examine our lives, especially based on the extent of our Christian faith, by placing side by side what we believe and what we actually practice. The pandemic forced and is still compelling us to discover how much we love our Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is similar to a question my niece Crystal (who was 4 or 5 at the time) asked me about 30 years ago while on a trip with her mother from New York City to Clayton, North Carolina. I had not seen Crystal for approximately three years. So as I sat at a desk in a second bedroom one afternoon, she came into the room, sat on my lap and asked, "Uncle Bro, do you still love me?" Of course I said yes. Crystal immediately followed with, "How *much* do you love me?" I hesitated briefly, and she detected that I was struggling. Then, very naturally she extended her arms into a circle and asked, "Do you love me *this* much?" At a time like this, when God has shown us numerous acts of love that we probably did not even imagine, we owe it to ourselves and to God to re-examine our faith by posing the question, how much do we love Him? Dr. Seretha Renee Pearsall puts it this way: In our make-believe world we sometimes don't have or take the time to see ourselves as we actually are, but the pandemic gave us the time to "force" ourselves to "see who we really are."

Before we move forward, let me briefly acknowledge that I partly know first-hand of the devastation the pandemic has caused, including being on edge for almost every little thing and being housebound for over a year with prolonged separations from several family members; including the too regular news reports of thousands of individuals dying each day, some as close to us as the next block, others including family members; including places (cities and remote areas) with scarcity of food; in others, with food supply more than adequate for individuals of

varied incomes; including church hosted funerals that seem to come

in battalions; including hour after hour on Zoom either at work or at school, and intermittent "in" church, with several successful Zoom experiences but also with several glitches; including months with churches being opened for worship and temporary closures when the coronavirus statistics increased rapidly in a ward, a city, or a state. We also recall that New York City and California, at times, were severely impacted as the epicenters of the pandemic.

Despite these situations, however, some of us were unwavering in our faith. Like Jesus when he was about to face the cross, we said in essence: "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name" (John 12:27-28b). In short, when things get tough, genuine believers do not quit. They keep on working for the kingdom so that God will be glorified. So despite the obstacles we faced, some of us still glorified the Father. We learned how to worship through Zoom, Live Stream, and other media for months, and later, including now, online and in-person. For fellowship, some of us made use of media for other programs such as Power Hour and Meet-and-Greet. Bible Study, Church School, and essential meetings (including some choir rehearsals) also were held online; and we found other ways to keep in touch with our members. These churches not only survived; they thrived. Membership increased—online and in person—and finances exceeded the norm. These churches are still vibrantly relevant today. Several also assisted their membership and the community in securing needed healthcare, food, and technology to communicate for worship and for other needed purposes. Additionally, they used available



continued on page 2

President's Message *cont'd. from page 1*



community and state grants for assistance in providing needed services.

This group learned to use time more judiciously, both in preparation for services and during the actual services. They learned to listen more attentively; to practice some humility and compassion, and to strike a balance among worship, the study of God's Word, discipleship, and intentional fellowship. They also used evaluation to promote God's kingdom, not to denigrate individuals.

Other churches survived. Some were not so diligent

and creative, and primarily provided weekly worship and essential leadership meetings to keep the church operating. Some had a significant number of elderly members who died and some members just stopped supporting the church. Several of these churches also took longer to return to in-house worship.

Then, there are those churches that did not survive. Whether the reason was a lack of leadership, because of a number of pastors who "just quit," or whether it was a lack of finances, in some cases, is difficult to determine. However, one thing is certain: We should not point our fingers at them and rejoice but pray for them and welcome them to our houses of prayer for all people; so let us feel their hurt and pray for their recovery as churches, individually, or both.

Also, Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension remind us that a new covenant has been initiated, one that places God/Jesus as close to us as a sincere prayer or secret utterance, all the time, any time. So I pray that we will continue giving our congregations, including those members who will remain online worshippers, meaningful, creative worship services and activities designed to enable us to be part of God's kingdom here on earth.

We also say to those of who are still grieving that we know that grief is *real*, and that Jesus gives us permission to grieve ("Jesus wept," John 11:35). Just remember also that God "heals the broken hearted and binds up the wounds" (John 14:1). When death struck our family, my mother would weep for a while. Then she sang an old hymn

*Have a little talk with Jesus
Tell Him all about our trouble.
He will hear your cry.
Answer by and by.*

At times, our wounds take a long time to heal; yet, we must love God enough and trust Him enough that He will heal the broken hearted and save those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18).

God loves and cares for all of us. With our renewed commitment, partly because of our experiences during the pandemic, partly because of our recent Lenten experiences, and partly because of our re-examination of determining how much we love Jesus, who died that we might live eternally, our answer to the question, "Do you love me *this much*?" should be, Lord, I say yes, yes, yes to Your Will and to Your Way.

Abraham

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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International Council of Community Churches

***"As people devoted
to following Christ
we are committed to
community,
to treasuring diversity,
to living our faith
in service and love."***

ICCC MAY 2022

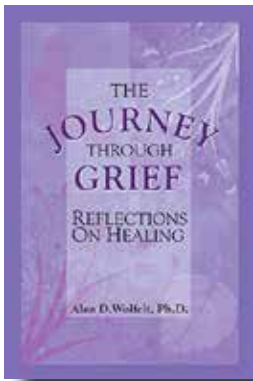


Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson

Restoration and Revival. Encouraging Our Hope (Romans 15:4)

As we prepare for the memorial season,
here is a resource that may be helpful to us.



The Journey Through Grief: Reflections on Healing by Alan D. Wolfelt, Chicago: Companion Press, 2006. Print \$22. 144 pages ISBN-13: 978-1879651111

Some of us dread memorial days. It does not matter what reason we choose. It can be a tough time unless you reconstruct your approach to grief and mourning. *The Journey*

through Grief: Reflections on Healings offers an immensely helpful way to start realistically with our grief.

One reviewer observes that this book is “a wonderful path that people who are grieving might choose to take to lessen their pain. Wolfelt distinguishes between grief (what you feel on the inside) and mourning (the outward expression of those thoughts and feelings). It’s a short book, which one might read in an hour. Or it’s a long book which one might read, reflect on the quotes, and use the journaling prompts. Either way, whichever way fits for the reader, it will be a salve for the pain in their soul.”

When you read this favorable, yet partial observation, your soul is quick to state, “Not another quick fix.” Wolfelt is quick to explain to what we can expect when he writes, “to mourn is to be an active participant in our grief journeys. We all grieve when someone we love dies, but if we are to heal, we must also mourn ((p. 1). Wolfelt begins to share how we endure doing our toughest challenges by understanding our grieving and mourning.

Wolfelt maintains that we go through various stages of grief and mourning, and our best helping takes place through this process. Wolfelt shares, that “this book

describes six “yield signs” you are likely to encounter on your journey through grief—what I call the “needs of mourning”: Acknowledging the reality of the death. Embracing the pain of the loss. Remembering the person who died. Developing a new self-identity. Searching for meaning. Receiving ongoing support from others” (p. 2).

Each chapter provides engaging reading and reflection about the grief and mourning process. In fact, Wolfelt encourages when he writes, “never forget that grief is a process, not an event. Your pain will probably ebb and flow for months, even years; embracing it when it washes over you will require patience, support and strength” (p. 28). One of the benefits of this reflection process is we can review our progress in our most quiet reflective period, especially in our most challenging memories.

Wolfelt has an engaging way to help people through grief and mourning. I have found his resources to be encouraging and better than maintaining social customs that hinder the healing process. I recommend this book because, as Wolfelt, states: I truly hope this book has served as a loving companion to you. I believe you can and will go on to discover renewed meaning and purpose in your life, in your living and in your loving! Just one more thing: Right now, take a moment to close your eyes, open your heart, and remember the precious smile of the person who died” (p. 143). Take the time to heal. It is worth it.

SHARE YOUR COMMENTS. Remember, please share your thoughts at ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net by the end of the month. And let us know if we have your permission to quote or paraphrase your comments. *Thank you for your feedback and have a blessed month.*

Chaplains' Corner

Let's Talk

What is a chaplain?

Chaplains are trained clergy of various religious traditions who serve in secular settings.

Below are just some of the institutions:

- hospitals
- schools
- universities
- prisons
- corporate settings
- branches of the military

The duties of a chaplain vary depending on what sector he/she serves.

All chaplains, no matter which setting he/she serves in, are expected to support the spiritual and emotional needs of those they serve.

If you would like to know more about becoming a chaplain, please visit our website

<https://www.iccnw.org/chaplains-corner/>

We look forward to hearing from you.



Ecumenews

Rev. Rock R. Fremont Jr., VP Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

I speak to many of our Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations committee members regularly, and in several of these conversations, we've wondered out loud about how many people have a good grasp of what "Ecumenism" and "Interfaith" even mean, so I'll be going to the basics in the months to come.



ECUMENISM? WHAT'S THAT?

The word "ecumenism" comes from the Greek, meaning, "the whole inhabited world." Today we use the term to describe the movement to bring about unity of all Christians.

We could say that ecumenism is a spiritual process of conversion and reconciliation. It involves the work of getting to know our sibling Christians and growing together in faith in order to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in His mission to the world.

It isn't clear yet what form this Christian unity might take. At present, some Christians see the organizational union of churches, and others see no organizational union but closer cooperation. However, there is a growing consensus that true Church unity, in the future, will include the profession of a common faith in Jesus Christ, common baptism, and eucharist, along with variety in liturgical practice and style of government. Our unity might be like a rainbow - one arc made of bands of blending colors.

WHY SHOULD WE GET INVOLVED OR CARE?

The Gospel gives us a clear call to unity. Jesus prayed for his followers, "May they all be one, Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe that it was you who sent me" (John 17: 18-21). Christians are called to unity so that the world may believe. Our common witness strengthens us and offers the world a model of trust and reconciliation. The Church is one, and we are being called by Christ to affirm that unity.

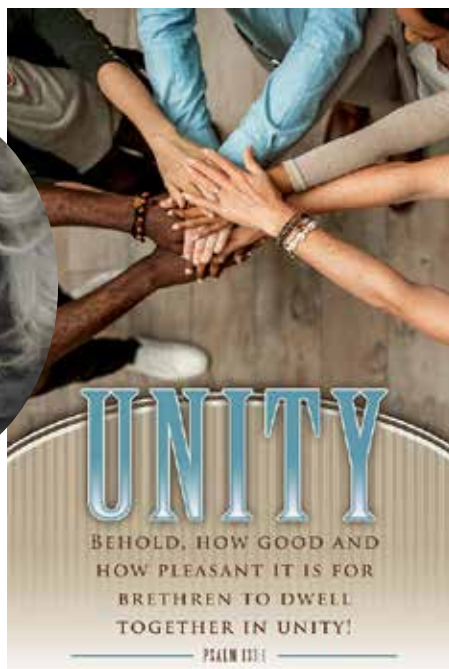
QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Why should we be concerned about Christian unity?
2. What form do you think Christian unity should take?
3. What gifts does the Community Church movement bring to the Universal Church?

Greetings from the Women's Christian Fellowship

Behold how good and pleasant it is for brothers (sisters) to dwell together in unity. Psalm 133:1

Dear Sisters,
I greet you in the joy of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the officers of the I.C.C.C.-W.C.F. I want you to know our 1st Vice President, Winessa Crutchfield is planning an exciting program for our time together at the Annual Conference but we won't be able to do it without you so it is our hope you are planning to attend. As a reminder, "women in white" is no longer necessary on our last morning. Please come as you would like.



The Bazaar will be back in full effect this year. Bazaar Coordinator, Elaine (Richardson) Dennis is eagerly awaiting your handmade crafts to be sold to support our mission projects. Any questions or concerns, contact Elaine at 205-639-9391. Also this year, Elaine will be accepting gift cards from Walmart or Visa to support a shelter in the Dublin area which she has identified.

"Let Us Prayer." A Prayer Journal is being developed. If you would like to submit a prayer with a donation of \$5.00 to have it published, send your prayer to me, typed via email with your name and where you are from at the bottom of your prayer to robertssandra1951@gmail.com or by text 667-225-7443 or Sandra Roberts 2706 W. Mosher St. Baltimore, MD 21216-4314 no later than June 30, 2022. If mailing your prayer you may include your \$5.00 donation made payable to the WCF-ICCC. Feel free to send more than one prayer at \$5.00 each. If you are sending your prayer(s) electronically, send your donation to Mary Summers 21 N Main St PO Box 423 Union Bridge, MD 21791. You can also send your Ministry and personal donations to Mary via the above address. All checks made payable to WCF-ICCC.

We are looking forward to seeing friends and making new ones so invite and encourage other ladies to attend.

See you in Dublin?

Sincerely,
Sandra Roberts
Administrative Assistant
Dr. Connee Fitch-Blanks
W.C.F. President

Come SOAR with us!

In 2022, the R.R.R. (Reimagine, Re-vision, Reframe) team will lead us in a SOAR visioning process; a profoundly positive approach to strategic thinking, planning, and leading.



SOAR stands for Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results, and is intended to be a positive approach to strategic conversations that allows an organization to construct its future through collaboration, shared understanding, and a commitment to action.

The SOAR visioning process focuses on what the system is doing well, what the system wants more of, and how we move forward from positive images to positive action and results. SOAR leverages the Appreciative Inquiry paradigm to shift and amplify the energy and dialogue of stakeholders to strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results, and this is a fantastic opportunity to learn the process and take it back to your own communities.

We'll begin to SOAR May 2 when the R.R.R. team enters a time of retreat and discernment about the future of the Council and effectively learn the process to lead others.

The SOAR conversation will widen at our Annual Conference to include conference participants. R.R.R. members will collaborate to include local churches and communities in the conversation in the months following our annual gathering.

Our ecumenical, interfaith, and wider church partners will also have ways they can participate in the SOAR conversations. Come SOAR with us!

Rev. Rock Fremont
Committee Moderator

ICCC Annual Conference Workshops Added



Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation Workshop

This simulation workshop is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty and wealth.

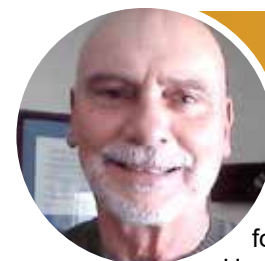
The Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation was a joint effort from Bread for the World and NETWORK. Since the simulation emphasizes the importance of racial equity, it can be a helpful companion tool for churches, organizations, agencies, schools, and communities that have begun working on race and want to learn more about the role that public policy has had, over time, in creating structural divides based on race. This workshop will be facilitated by the ICCC Agape Team.



God Cares

This workshop is led by Rev. Eloise Crenshaw. Knowing God cares, the 23rd Psalms comforts you. In your time of sorrow and brokenness, God cares.

God's caring is showing regard and concern for us. Letting us know he is watching over us. Jesus knows the need for him to care for us when we are weak. The 23rd Psalms shows we must depend on God for everything, as the sheep does the shepherd. When we mourn, repent and die to sin we come to see our need for total dependence on God. The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want gives us freedom from devastation. Give us the strength and freedom to release us from the devastation of sin and create a new place that God longs to reveal to us. In this place of satisfaction, we find the comfort David found, giving us peace beyond all understanding.



Workshop on Healing Prayer

This workshop is led by Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman. The prayer and focus of this year's conference is "God, Heal Us." As the Gospels and Acts make

clear, healing was central to the ministry of Jesus and the early church. God has always been and still is in the healing ministry. This workshop will provide a brief theological and historical overview of the ministry of healing and discuss considerations in praying for physical, emotional and spiritual healing. We will offer an approach to praying for healing and be available to pray for healing throughout the conference.



How Can We Promote Racial Equality in 2022?

This workshop is facilitated by Linda Abington, Ph.D. The question of how we can promote racial equity in 2022 will be examined and approached from a solution oriented perspective. Racial equity is

the process of eliminating racial disparities and policies as individuals, communities, and as a society.

In his book, "How to be an Antiracist", Dr. Ibram X. Kendi suggests in order to promote a racially equitable society, we as individuals must be intentional when interacting with others and must be aware of our actions and behaviors through self-evaluation. This may mean being present in the moment and being in the "now" as much as we can, seeing ourselves and others through the loving eyes of God as much as we can, and not beating ourselves up when we don't; just striving to do better.

The following are goals and objectives of the upcoming workshop:

Goal 1: Examine how we as an International Council of Community of Churches can continue to strive for racial equity.

Objective 1: Look at ways to develop personal practices that individually combat racism and promote racial equity

Objective 2: Look at ways in which our communities and congregations can combat racism and promote racial equity.

Objective 3: Examine how we can empower ourselves and others to be antiracist.

Goal 2: Strategically work to eliminate racial equity gaps in our communities and congregations.

Objective 1: Examine the culture and climate of our respective churches and communities.

Objective 2: Look at ways to interact regularly with people of color and communicate shared desires, experiences, etc. This might allow us to see our equality and communal humanness, realizing that we share more commonalities than differences.

Ministerium Lecture at 2022 Annual Conference

The Ministerium will be having an event on Monday, July 18th from 1:30pm-5pm. All Clergy are invited! Hosting the lecture will be the 2022 Conference Bible Study Lecturer Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade, Author of *Preaching in the Purple Zone*:



Ministry in a House Divided: Discovering Our “Theologies of Conflict”

Tensions and conflict are normal within churches and among people of faith, but they are also sources of anxiety and dread for many. However, if we look at conflict from a theological perspective, we may discover God’s presence in unexpected ways.

This session will explore the unspoken assumptions that people of faith can have about the relationship between God and our human disagreements and skirmishes. *Is it possible to be in conflict and yet remain connected? How do we assess our “theologies of conflict” to understand ourselves and our faith more fully?*

Participants will work with a tool that they can use in their congregations to unearth our beliefs about how God relates to us in the midst of conflict so that we can find common vocabulary and handle tensions in a healthier and growth-producing way.

For up-to-date conference information and registration,
visit <https://www.icccnow.org/annual-conference/>



As some of you may have seen, at the Annual Conference, we’ve had an ICCC Picture Directory available. If you’d like to be in that directory, and are not already, please complete the form below and send it to the office with your photo or email: icccnow@sbcglobal.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Email address _____ Email electronic photo to ICCCNOW@sbcglobal.net

The ICCC intends to insert the information you provided for a Picture Directory of all interested ICCC members. Only include the contact information you prefer. The purpose of this directory is to be able to identify members with a photo. Only entries with a photo included will be added. By returning this form and photo, you are agreeing to the use of your information for ICCC members only.

Signature: _____



International Council of Community Churches
2022 Annual Conference: July 18-21
"God, Heal Us"
 Dublin, Ohio

Name (as you would like it on badge) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Church (member of) _____

First Conference: Yes ☐ No ☐

Status: ☐ Clergy ☐ Laity



FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS ONLY!



■ Age (on 7-1-2022) _____ Grade completed by (7-1-2022) _____

■ If **under 18**, an adult who is registered for the Conference and who will serve as a sponsor and assume responsibility for said young person must sign below:

 Sponsor Signature

 Print Sponsor Name

CONFERENCE FEES

Fill in Dollar Amount for this
 Registration

Infants (not occupying chair at banquet)	\$ 0.00	\$
Child* with Kid's Meal** (Ages 1-5)	\$ 35.00	\$
Elementary* with Kid's Meal** (entering kindergarten - entering 6th grade)	\$ 60.00	\$
**Add-on ONLY if Adult meal is preferred for Banquet Child/Elementary regis.	\$ 30.00	\$
Youth (completed 6th grade - entering 12th grade)	\$ 145.00	\$
Young Adult (completed 12th grade - age 23)	\$ 170.00	\$
Adult Register by June 1, 2022 - Early Bird Special \$195.00	\$ 230.00	\$
Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) M T W Th meals not included	\$ 40.00/day	\$
CC	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

A Banquet ticket is included in your registration fee. This meal includes: Classic Caesar Salad with Parmesan and Croutons, Herb Roasted Airline Chicken Breast, Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Haricot Verts with Braised Pork Belly and Onion, Apple Cobbler Tart, Coffee, Hot Tea and Iced Tea. Fish Option: Grilled Fresh Salmon with Citrus Butter Kid's Meal Option: Small Garden Salad, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Fruit Punch and a Cookie. Meals are subject to change.

Please circle one of the following for your preference at Thursday's Banquet Dinner.

Chicken Breast (Default Option)

Fish Option

Kid's Meal Option

**Child & Elementary registrations include the Kid's Meal option. If the adult meal is preferred, please add \$30.00 to your total enclosed.

Please return this form with payment to: ICCC, PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502

☐ Check or Money Order made payable to ICCC ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

Acct. #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____ Signature _____

One form per person. **Early Bird registration must be received in the office by June 1st.** Registrations after June 25, 2022 will be accepted at Conference only.

CANCELLATIONS: A \$25 administration fee will be assessed for each.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS MAY BE VIDEOTAPED or placed on Social Media. I agree the ICCC may use my image, name, voice and story in any medium or format, throughout the world forever, free-of-charge, and for any reasonable purpose in furtherance of its mission.

2022 Conference Meal Programs

The **2022 Annual Conference** offers 2 optional meal program opportunities: the **Fellowship Luncheon** and the **Prayer Luncheon** hosted by the Samaritans. The Conference Banquet Dinner is included in your registration fee* (Additional quantities can be reserved for an additional cost). You can visit our website **ICCCNOW.org** to see a brief description of the meal program, or watch for details in upcoming issues of the *Christian Community*.

Monday, July 18, 2022 at 12:00pm is the **Fellowship Luncheon**. This meal includes House-made Chicken Salad Served with Lettuce and Tomato on a Croissant, Pasta Salad, Potato Chips, Peanut Butter Pie, Coffee, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea.

Vegetarian Option: Roasted Vegetable Wrap **Kid's Meal Option:** Chicken Tenders, French Fries, a Cookie and Lemonade.

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 12:00pm is the **Prayer Luncheon**. This meal includes Mixed Greens with Bleu Cheese (on the side), Dried Cranberries and Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing, Chicken Marsala with Mushrooms, Herb Roasted Yukon Potatoes, Zucchini Squash Medley, Chocolate Layer Cake, Coffee, Hot Tea and Iced Tea. **Fish Option (Add \$3.00):** Pan Seared Salmon with Mango Salsa. **Kid's Meal Option:** Macaroni and Cheese, Applesauce, a Cookie and Fruit Juice.

Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. is the **Conference Banquet***. This meal includes: Classic Caesar Salad with Parmesan and Croutons, Herb Roasted Airline Chicken Breast, Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Haricot Verts with Braised Pork Belly and Onion, Apple Cobbler Tart, Coffee, Hot Tea and Iced Tea. **Fish Option:** Grilled Fresh Salmon with Citrus Butter **Kid's Meal Option:** Small Garden Salad, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Fruit Punch and a Cookie.

All meals are subject to change.

2022 MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Mail this form & payment to: ICCC, PO Box 846, Longmont, CO 80502

Name: _____

Please reserve _____ places at \$29.00 each for **Monday's Fellowship Luncheon**

☐ Check for Vegetarian Option

☐ Check for Kid's Meal Option \$19.00

Please reserve _____ places at \$32.00 each for **Wednesday's Prayer Luncheon**

☐ Check for Fish Option (add \$3.00)

☐ Check for Kid's Meal Option \$19.00

*Please reserve _____ add'l places at \$48.00 each for **Thursday's Banquet Dinner**

☐ Chicken

*Please reserve _____ add'l places at \$51.00 each for **Thursday's Banquet Dinner**

☐ Fish

*Please reserve _____ add'l places at \$20.00 each for children under 12yrs.

☐ Kid's Meal

***A Banquet ticket is already included in registration. Order only if additional tickets are needed.**

Total Enclosed \$ _____

If paying by check: make check payable to: International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)

If paying by credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

Account Number on Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline for meal function reservations is June 25th. There will only be a VERY LIMITED supply of tickets available at Conference registration, so please purchase your tickets before the deadline. After June 25, meal reservations will not be accepted in the Council Office.

***The Conference Banquet is included in the registration fee. You do not need to reserve a ticket for this meal, unless you require additional tickets. Kids 12 yrs & under will automatically receive the kid's meal at the Conference Banquet, unless an Adult Meal upgrade is purchased.**

Our prayers are with:

- The family of **Rev. Harold Turner**, past Assoc. Pastor at **Second Community Church** in Columbus, OH. Rev. Turner also assisted ICCC's **Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Newhall** for a short while years back in the role of visiting some of the ICCC churches. *"Park Road Community Church in Washington, DC fondly remembers Rev. Turner's visit with them including his powerful message and the love and care with which he delivered it. Rev. Turner was a kind and faithful servant whose love was clearly visible in his work for the kingdom of God."* ~ Abraham Wright. Rev. Harold Turner passed away March 22, 2022
- The family of **Mrs. Caroline Burke, Tellico Village Community Church**, TN. Caroline passed away March 27th. She was the wife of Tellico's founding pastor, Rev. Carl Burke. Caroline was a lifetime ICCC Conference attendee and was very involved in the ICCC WCF, where she served as President for 2 years.
- The family of ICCC admin DeAnn Bath. Her father, Dean Granahan, passed away after a battle with cancer on April 9th, surrounded by his family. "Thank you everyone for all your prayers, cards, concerns, kindness and patience as I try to get my mom and family through this difficult time." ~ DeAnn

**Sharing Joys with:**

- **The Gahanna Community Congregational Church**, Gahanna, OH had a Homecoming and Anniversary Celebration Weekend April 2nd and 3rd. There were services, displayed archives and a luncheon. Congratulations!

Someone You Should Know



We've been going through old photos here in the office. Recognize these ICCC faithful supporters? Hint: One of these pastors is leading a workshop at the 2022 ICCC Annual Conference.

It's **Revs. John and Susan Hardman-Zimmerman!**

Pictured here at the 1992 ICCC Annual Conference, John grew up going to Wilson Memorial Union Church in Watchung, NJ. His first church out of seminary, and where Ralph Shotwell presided over his ordination, was New Carlisle Community Church in IN. He and Susan recently served as Interim Ministers at Norris Religious Fellowship, in Norris, TN.

Thank you, John and Susan, for all your support and love!



Senior Minister

Bridgeport Community Church, (Bridgeport, Michigan) is seeking a candidate for Senior Pastor to replace current pastor retiring December 2021.

BCC is an interdenominational church that has been serving the community since 1867.

Responsibilities include spiritual leadership, pastoral and youth ministry, church and community relationships and church administration.

Ideal candidate will have a Bachelor's degree and seminary degree or equivalent. Strong biblical knowledge and proclamation of The Word is required, along with good communication and planning skills.

Qualified individuals should submit a resume to Attention: Pastoral Search Committee via 1867BCC@gmail.com.

Senior Minister

Join us in turning the tide from surviving to thriving in 2021 and beyond. The historic Community Church of East Williston is a Mainline, Interdenominational Protestant Church serving the needs of persons from all backgrounds. We have a faithful, hardworking congregational core and seek a Senior Minister who, through Christian love and action, will help us turn those with occasional attendance into persons with faithful commitment.

The position requires an experienced, ordained Protestant minister with youthful enthusiasm to reestablish CCEW as the "Light in the Community." We offer a competitive salary and a beautiful manse in a verdant suburb with a highly ranked school district (top 10% in NY), only 25 minutes from Manhattan via railroad.

The Pastoral Search Committee is accepting packages containing (but not limited to) your resume, your calling (share your call to ministry), style of ministry (share your beliefs) and samples of your sermons on a website, blog or Facebook.

To view their ideal candidate thoughts, visit the ICCCNOW website for the full ad.

<https://www.icccnow.org/careers/>

Please email your response to:

maryellen@ccew.org,

or mail a hard copy to:

Community Church of East Williston

Pastoral Search Committee

Mary Ellen Williams, Chairperson

45 East Williston Avenue

East Williston, NY 11596

Full-Time Pastor

Speed Memorial Church of Sellersburg, Indiana is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of pastor. Nearly 100 years ago, the residents in Speed, Indiana, came together to worship God in a manner that respected their diverse denominational and theological backgrounds, but which expressed their common faith in Jesus Christ and to help carry His message to the community and world. With the support of the Louisville Cement Company, that vision became a reality in the form of Speed Memorial Church. Speed Memorial Church remains a vibrant expression of the faith that inspired its founders to action. We are a stable church, with an approximate attendance of 50-75 in worship, which has experienced years of slow, but steady growth. Sellersburg is a community of approximately 10,000 located in Southern Indiana and less than fifteen minutes from downtown Louisville, Kentucky. The successful candidate will have preferably 8 to 10 years of vocational ministry and at least 8 years leading a church experience with an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited Bible college or seminary. The candidate must have a demonstrated ability to effectively communicate God's Word through a solid, biblically based expository style. The candidate should have an established record of "making disciples" and have the capability to lead the church in deeper discipleship and evangelism. The candidate should possess a shepherd's heart, providing pastoral care and relational investment for the membership. In addition, he or she should be able to provide administrative leadership and organizational structure in all areas of church life.

To view the entire ad, please visit
<https://www.icccnow.org/careers/>



Time to Go Back to CAMP!!!

By Mike Mahan, Gahanna Community Congregational Church, Gahanna, Ohio (and 56 year old "camper")

The long-awaited Spring is finally here, and Summer is not far behind! Along with Summer comes thoughts of summer camp. After two years of shutdowns or Covid-related restrictions, it is finally time to safely return to camp. CAMP, which stands for Constructing Assured & Motivated People, is being planned for youth in grades 6 (Fall 2022) through 11 (Fall 2022). The dates are Sunday, July 31 through Friday, August 5 at the beautiful Tar Hollow State Park, Resident Camp facility, which is located in the scenic Hocking Hills region of south-east Ohio.

CAMP began in 1956 as a youth ministry of Gahanna Community Church, with Rev. John Selvey

as the founding minister, and Janny & Dave "Boonie" Brizius as the founding directors. Their son, David, is now the Camp Director, his wife, Tina is the Camp Administrator, and Janny is still very active at camp as Camp Director Emeritus. With the exception of 2020, CAMP has operated every year since 1956. CAMP is motivational in its programming, faith-based, and ecumenical in its philosophy and worship experiences. The staff are all volunteer, which makes CAMP extremely affordable. A significant majority of the staff are former campers who return year after year (some as many as 50 years) to give of their time to help today's young people have the same rewarding camp experience they had as youth. Campers sleep in log cabins with at least one staff member per cabin. High school seniors and recent grads have the opportunity to be "motivators-in-training," learning under the careful guidance of long-time staff members.

Campers can choose from several different class options while at camp, depending on their interests and class availability. The facility has a huge lodge

for meals and programs, a craft pavilion, basketball and volleyball courts, several playing fields, a beautiful 15 acre lake for swimming, boating and fishing, and a chapel in the woods affectionately known as the Green Cathedral. Campers also participate in "Trail-Blazing" classes, which are discussion groups where kids can grow as individuals and learn more about themselves and others. Worship experiences at camp include Morning Watch, afternoon Chapel, evening Vespers and late-night Vespers. A service of Baptism by immersion (optional) is offered one evening, and a service of Holy Communion (participation also optional)

takes place on the final evening of the camp week.



Since CAMP has its own kitchen staff under the great leader-

ship of long-time Associate Director and Head Cook Karen Ingram, our meals are well-balanced and are the absolute BEST!! I always gain a few pounds while I am there!

CAMP has been the recipient of several awards and commendations in its 66 year history, including from Parents' Magazine, Successful Meetings Magazine, several Gahanna, Ohio Mayors, two Ohio Governors, and President George H.W. Bush.

Our mission statement says it best: "Our mission is to 'Construct Assured & Motivated People' by providing a faith-based environment that encourages Campers to get to know God by setting the foundation for them to learn to love themselves, become more confident, and find their Special Spark; in doing so, Campers are enabled to use their abilities to become leaders of the greater community."

Sound interesting? Does your church have youth who might like to attend? Please visit the camp website www.sfacamp.org for more information and to register. Hurry! CAMP often fills up quickly!

Meet Our Leadership, One by One



**REV. JULIA
POWE**

**ICCC Regional
Trustee**

As Trustee of Central Zone Region C, the experience has been rewarding. The connections with many churches have made my position as Trustee a learning and also a teaching experience.

As with all phases of life, we strive to represent the Region well as we strive to do the ministry that God has ordained for us.

Region C is comprised of approximately 15 churches who are working together to become a stronger Region. Telephone calls and newsletters are our points of contact.

My desire is to continue to work with the Region and the ICCC and to renew and restore past relationships with our churches who we haven't heard from in a while.

On Sunday, April 24, 2022, Region C held its Annual Meeting via Conference Call. Following devotion, we were greeted by, Executive Director, ICCC, Rev. Phil Tom, Alabama Area Council President, Pastor Dennis Brock and President, ICCC, Mr. Abraham Wright.

Pastor Vicky Kirkman of Tennessee Valley Community Church and Center, Florence AL, preached a powerful message, titled, "Small Service Count Too."

I am blessed to be the Trustee of a great Region and a member of the ICCC. Continue to pray with and for Central Zone, Region C.

Rev. Julia Powe