

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



MARCH 2026

International Council of Community Churches

Volume 76 |

A Voice for Ecumenical Congregations and Christians Around the World

| Number 5

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President Janet Millben Burch along with Rachael Cain and Dianne Booth on January 25, 2026. She was honored to fill in for Pastor Rob Ashmall as he recovers from Surgery. Bridgeport Community Church in Bridgeport, MI.

President's Message

Janet Millben Burch

*76th Annual ICCC Conference
Crystal City, Arlington, VA*



Greetings, please accept this personal invitation from the ICCC President to attend our **76th Annual ICCC Conference** in July at the Crystal City, Arlington, VA Double Tree Hotel.

We are pleased to share that Rev. R.C. Fleeman and his dedicated team are organizing our highly anticipated annual conference this summer. The event promises to be enriching and enjoyable for all attendees.

- Dates: Tues, July 21st to Thurs, July 23rd, 2026
- Location: Double Tree Hotel, Crystal City, Arlington Virginia
- Special Rates: Excellent rates have been negotiated for participants
- Make sure you register for the conference and make your hotel reservations early.

We encourage you to reach out to your family, neighbors and friends and invite them to join you at the conference.

It's a wonderful opportunity to connect and share experiences.

Don't forget to contact other ICCC members and let them know you are looking forward to seeing them at the event.

Keep in touch with fellow attendees and consider planning a sightseeing tour of the Washington, DC area to make the most of your visit. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,
Janet Millben Burch





Executive Director's Message

Bruce Merton

"QUO VADIS, DOMINE?"

According to the apocryphal "Acts of Peter," Peter leaves his followers to flee the persecutions of Nero. Along the Appian Way he encounters the living Lord Jesus and asks, "Quo Vadis, Domine?" The Latin phrase is translated, "Where are you going, Lord?" Jesus responds, "To Rome, to be crucified again."

Peter, hearing Jesus' response, realizes he should return to Rome, be with the burgeoning church and face Nero's wrath. Peter does return and, ultimately, is crucified.

The question, "Quo Vadis?" and Jesus' answer caused a major turning point in Peter's life. He went from being gripped in fear to standing with courage. He went from running to escape and returned to being involved. He went from being concentrated on saving himself to a commitment to be with and for others.

As we journey through Lent, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday I would like to suggest that we, the I.C.C.C., entertain, hear and answer the question, "Quo Vadis?". **Where are you going?**

The I.C.C.C., in the early and middle years of our history, demonstrated a genuine commitment to a community built on unity in diversity. Our mission, money, prayers, work and worship was a function of "we-ness". We were genuinely united by more than an annual conference. We were, beyond conference, concerned for and committed to the ongoing love, care and wellbeing of our member churches while expending prayer, time and resources to actively engage the needs of our world. We grew in our numbers and service. We were a genuine "force for good" in defining what the

post-denominational church would look like and be. At the height of our "we-ness" the temptations entered and attacks began.

The independence and freedom of our member churches began to take center stage and with it our "we-ness" began to wane. Denominations, in some areas, actively sought to remove churches from our ranks and succeeded. Our clergy, once the major force for encouraging and defining our "We-ness" began to think more about the individual success of self and the church they were serving.

Laity, wanting to believe in and respect their pastors, allowed themselves and their churches to be led away from the I.C.C.C.

In the face of the "persecution" thrust on us and self-inflicted, mission has been sacrificed, membership has declined, budgets have been cut and still not met, staffing has been reduced, and our continued existence is in question.

If the I.C.C.C. answers as Jesus answered Peter, "...to be crucified again" then we, individually and collectively, will approach Resurrection Sunday in a very different manner than many, if not most, Christians do. We will recognize that the only true path to our "resurrection" is the path of sacrifice!

If the I.C.C.C. hears Jesus' response and we, like Peter, return to embrace our call, mission, and reason for being with minds, hearts, strength, and souls committed to genuine sacrifice, our "resurrection" will follow.

Bruce

ICCC MARCH 2026

“Anchored by Grace, Transformed by Renewal: A Call to Revival.” Ezra 9:8 and Romans 12:2)



Book REVIEW

By Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson



For Women’s History Month, we honor the courage, faith, and perseverance of historic multicultural women lawyers and judges whose lives reflect resilience, justice, and transformational leadership. Anchored by grace and renewed in purpose, their stories invite us not only to remember their breakthroughs but to discover how each legacy can inspire our own call to service. May this reflection encourage you to learn, celebrate, and recognize the power of faithful contributions across generations.

African American Trailblazers

Charlotte E. Ray (1850–1911)

- First Black American female lawyer in the U.S., admitted to the D.C. bar in 1872. Her story is featured in Jill Norgren’s *Stories from Trailblazing Women Lawyers* (2013).

Constance Baker Motley (1921–2005)

- First African American woman appointed to the federal judiciary. Authored the original complaint in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1950) and defended Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Freedom Riders.
- **Book: *Equal Justice Under Law: An Autobiography*** (1998)

Pauli Murray (1910–1985)

- Civil rights lawyer, gender equality advocate, and Episcopal priest whose legal arguments directly influenced Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
- **Book: *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage*** (1987)

Juanita Kidd Stout (1919–1998)

- First African American woman to serve as a judge in Pennsylvania (1959) and the first in the country to win election to a court of record.

Ketanji Brown Jackson (b. 1970)

- First Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court (2022). Harvard Law graduate and former federal public defender.
- **Book: *Just a Girl: The Making of a Supreme Court Justice*** (2023)

Latina Trailblazers

Sonia Sotomayor (b. 1954)

- Born in the Bronx to Puerto Rican parents, she became the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in U.S. history, nominated by President Obama in 2009.
- **Book: *My Beloved World* (2013)** — her celebrated memoir from the Bronx housing projects to the nation’s highest court.

Native American Trailblazers

Eliza “Lyda” Burton Conley (1869–1946)

- Of the Wyandotte Nation, she was the first Native American woman to earn a law degree (1902) and the first to argue before the U.S.

Supreme Court (1910), fighting to protect her tribe’s sacred burial ground.

Margaret Seelye Treuer — Giiwedinookwe (b. 1943)

- Of the White Earth Band of the Ojibwe, the first Native American woman judge in the U.S., served as chief judge across multiple tribal courts; recipient of the National Lifetime Achievement Award (2012).

International Trailblazers

Tcheng Yu-hsiu (1891–1977)

- First woman lawyer and judge in China’s history. Defied foot binding and an arranged marriage, earned her law doctorate in Paris (1926), and fought for gender equality upon returning to Shanghai.

Essential Reading

- *Stories from Trailblazing Women Lawyers: Lives in the Law* — Jill Norgren (2013)
- *Sisters in Law* — Linda Hirshman (2015). Dual biography of O’Connor & Ginsburg.
- *My Own Words* — Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2016). Essays and speeches from RBG.
- *Belva Lockwood: The Woman Who Would Be President* — Jill Norgren (2007). First woman to argue before the Supreme Court.

We Want to Hear from You! Do you have thoughts to share, or would you like to start a book discussion? We invite you to send your comments or express interest in a discussion by emailing us at iccnw@sbcglobal.net by the end of the month. Consider sharing: Did the book inspire you to take action, change a behavior, or see things differently? How has it impacted your perspective or daily life? Let us know if we may quote or paraphrase your insights. Your feedback is valuable, and we appreciate the time you take to share it. Thank you, and may your month be richly blessed! If you would like to participate or want more information about discussion dates and formats, please mention this when you contact us. Your feedback is important, and we appreciate the time you take to share it. Thank you and have a wonderful month!

How YOU Can Help the Food-challenged in Your Community With One of Several \$500 ICCC Church Pantry Grants

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth".

1 John 3: 17-18



Rev. Daniel Coffey

When was the last time you went hungry?

This is not a question about a passing sensation of hunger. It is a question about scarcity. When was the last time you opened the cupboard and found nothing there to feed yourself or your family, even if you were not feeling hungry at that exact moment?

Many readers will be able to answer, "never," and we give thanks to God for that. Yet for millions of people, this question describes daily life. Feeding America reports that 48 million people in the United States experience food insecurity,

roughly one in seven of our neighbors. With reductions to SNAP and other food supports affecting the most vulnerable households, food insecurity remains an urgent concern in communities across the country.

For the ICCC, hunger relief is not a passing emphasis. It is a Christian responsibility. At the Lord's Table, we proclaim a gospel in which God provides, restores, and makes room. Yet the Church is not called only to proclaim that hope, we are called to embody it through faithful action in the world. With this commitment, the ICCC Mission Committee is advancing a hunger-focused initiative that strengthens a long-standing approach within the Council.

The ICCC is offering several \$500 Church Pantry Grants supporting ICCC-affiliated churches that currently operate hunger-relief ministries. That includes those churches seeking to begin new hunger-related efforts. The Church Pantry Grant supports the purchase and distribution of food supplies. What's more, it provides flexibility to also fund essential related needs that often accompany food insecurity. As grants are awarded and used, the ICCC Mission Committee will share stories and reports that demonstrate the impact of this support in member churches' local communities.

We began with a question, and we will close with one as well.

Will you partner with us? Will your church give time, talent, and yes—where feasible, matched funds—to help bring a little more heaven to earth for those who lack one of the most basic universal needs: namely, food? We pray you will. Because this is what Jesus calls us to do. May God forbid we grow cold. Instead, let us love deeply, give generously, work passionately, and see what harvest the Spirit brings. Let's do this for the good of our neighbors, the glory of God, and the love of friends we have yet to meet.

It's easy to get an ICCC \$500 Church Pantry Grant for your church. Just complete the application form on the next page. And help feed more families in your church's community.

Lake Erie Fellowship Holds Exciting Fall Meeting

The Lake Erie Area Fellowship of Community Churches (Ohio and Michigan churches) held their Fall meeting on October 11, 2025 at Gahanna Community Congregational Church in Gahanna, Ohio. 15 attendees enjoyed a wonderful day of worship, learning and fellowship (and really good food, too!).

Rev. Brad Rito, pastor of New Covenant Community Church in Akron, Ohio, facilitated a thought-provoking book study and group discussion on the book, *The Politics of the Cross: A Christian Alternative to Partisanship*, by Daniel K. Williams.

The group also participated in an interesting workshop on Community Ministry Principles & Opportunities, including Gahanna Community Congregational Church's Daily Bread Produce Garden, led by Pastor Robb Tarr, pastor of Gahanna Community Congregational Church.

Following a delicious lunch served by the ladies of the Gahanna church, the group met for a business meeting and then closed with a meaningful worship service in the church Sanctuary.

Many thanks to everyone who attended, to the presenters, and to the folks of the Gahanna church who hosted the meeting!

The Lake Erie Fellowship will hold their Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at People's Community Church in Detroit, Michigan. The day will begin with registration at 9:00 am and worship will begin at 10:00 am. Please watch your email and The Christian Community for more information.

Blessings,

Mike Mahan

President, Lake Erie Fellowship of Community Churches



ICCC \$500 Church Pantry Grants Application



Purpose: Each \$500 ICCC Church Pantry Grant helps an ICCC member church such as yours strengthen its food pantry ministry in the community(s) it serves.

Instructions: Please complete the form below legibly. If awarded, we ask that your church (1) publicly acknowledge its ICCC affiliation in connection with the grant-supported pantry work and (2) provide an equivalent ministry match in terms of funds OR the use of human resources.

1) Your Church Information

Church Name _____ Church Office Phone _____

Street/P.O. Box Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Church Email _____

Church Website or Social Media Address _____

Days Church Office Open _____ Church Office Hours _____

2) Pantry Ministry Overview

Pantry name (if different from church name): _____

Primary Pantry Contact Name _____ Phone/Email _____

How long has the pantry been operating? Years _____ and/or Months _____

Church Pantry Postal Address (if different from church): _____

Days/hours of distribution: _____

Community/area served: _____ Avg. households served per month _____

3) Grant Request

What will the \$500 ICCC Grant funds be used for? (please briefly describe):

When do you expect to use the funds? Within 30 days Within 90 days Other: _____

4) Certification and Signature

By signing, we affirm that the requested funds will be used for the pantry ministry described above.

Authorized Name (print) _____ Title _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

5) Please email your application for the \$500 Church Pantry Grant by April 1st 2026 to ICCC Mission Committee member Rev. Daniel Coffey at rev.daniel.coffey@outlook.com. Thank you!

ICCC \$500 Church Pantry Grants Application

Does your church's food bank partner with any organizations (food bank, schools, agencies)?

Yes No

If yes, please list partners:

4) Matching Ministry Commitment (Required)

ICCC expects each recipient to **match the grant amount in equal ministry value.**

How will your church match the amount awarded? (Examples: church funded pantry purchases, donated partner contributions, transportation support, hygiene supplies, etc.)

Estimated match value: \$ _____

5) Required Commitments if Awarded

Please initial each line:

____ **ICCC Acknowledgement**

We will indicate that our pantry ministry is supported by and associated with the **International Council of Community Churches (ICCC)** in connection with the grant supported work (examples: church bulletin, website, social media post, printed newsletter, signage when feasible).

____ **Newsletter Story**

We will provide a **short story for the ICCC newsletter** describing how the funds were used and the impact on the community (suggested length: 200 to 500 words). Photos are welcome.

____ **Spending Summary and Optional Ledger**

We will provide a spending summary after funds are used.

7) Optional Attachments (Not Required, but greatly appreciated)

- Photos of pantry ministry
 - Detailed budget or estimates
 - Pantry flyer/schedule
 - Partner letter or information
-

A Failure of Leadership

Submitted by Rev. Bill Ireland

Moderator for the ICCC Ministry Team for Leadership Development

Of all the flawed characters in the book of Judges, Jephthah is the most tragic. As with all the other judges, he comes to power in response to a crisis facing Israel. This time the Hebrews are struggling against the Ammonites, who have brutally “distressed, crushed, and oppressed” them. The situation is dire and demands a strong leader and warrior. Although an outcast, Jephthah fits the bill. He commands band of outlaws and apparently is something of a mercenary. As do all the judges, Jephthah will carry the fight to the Ammonites and defeat them. Jephthah, however, is not remembered for his military prowess but for his tragic vow. Although the Spirit has come upon Jephthah, that’s not enough for him. He needs a divine guarantee and so vows to offer whoever or whatever comes out of his house to greet him and celebrate his victory. Tragically, when he returns home victorious, the first person out of his house is his daughter, his only daughter. At that moment, he rends his clothes and dissolves into grief. He tells his daughter he must keep his vow. She requests a two-month reprieve in which to lament her fate. Jephthah grants her request, and after two months, she returns home. Jephthah keeps his vow and sacrifices his daughter.

The enormity of this tragedy staggers the imagination. To feel its pathos, all we have to do is recall a moment when our child or grandchild (or any child!) greeted us by running and leaping into our arms—so glad to see us! Not Jephthah! To our way of thinking, Jephthah should have confessed right then and there that he had spoken in haste, had made a terrible mistake, and renounced his vow. But he doesn’t. Some interpreters try to let him off the hook by saying he at least kept his word or some such nonsense. To my way of thinking, there’s no way to justify Jephthah’s action, none at all. Child sacrifice is never, ever acceptable. No altar is worthy of our children.

Perhaps the only way to wrest something of value and redeem this tragic story is to look at it through a different lens. In this regard, apart from the tragedy of his reckless vow, the writer of Judges leaves no doubt that Jephthah, the might and powerful warrior, is in many ways a poor leader. Indeed, he fails many of the tests that set good leaders apart from bad ones.

In that vein, let me call attention to the following:

- Despite the presence of the Spirit, Jephthah has a *transactional view of life and faith*. He apparently has



no awareness of God’s presence, and so, he attempts to bribe God and make a deal with the Almighty: “you give me this, and I’ll give you that.” For Jephthah, victory can only be purchased rather than won. In my experience, the best leaders operate out of a strong core of principles. While compromise may be necessary at times, the best leaders know what they won’t trade or surrender in order to achieve their objectives. Although they know what they wish to accomplish, they also know what they are NOT willing to do to get it done. They are not up for sale to the highest bidder.

- As well, Jephthah’s failed leadership shows up in his willingness to *blame the victim* for his poor choices. As soon as his daughter comes out the front door to greet him, his first response is to tear his clothes and then say: “Alas my daughter! *You* have brought me very low; *you* have become the cause of great trouble to me.” Jephthah makes like his daughter is to blame for her fate. That he has nothing to do with it. The best leaders, however, take responsibility for their actions and decisions. If they don’t succeed, they look their failure in the eye and own it, effectively saying, “That’s on me!” The best leaders don’t throw others under the bus in order to make themselves look good.
- Compounding Jephthah’s failure is his *unwillingness to back down from a bad decision*. In chapter 10, the writer of Judges notes that he has grown weary of bailing out his people. This time, he says, he will not deliver them. Nevertheless, God is moved by their suffering and decides to act for their deliverance. The contrast between God and Jephthah could not be more pointed: if God can change his mind, then why not Jephthah? Poor leaders refuse to acknowledge their bad judgment and instead double down and insist they’re right. When things get sideways, good leaders are willing to back up and try another path. Good leaders are not afraid to say, “This isn’t working. It’s time to try something else.”

The leaders of Israel recruited Jephthah and gave him enormous power. Although Jephthah defeated the Ammonites, Israel still spiraled downward. The strong and powerful warrior won the battle but ultimately failed in to provide the kind of principled and moral leadership that would set them on the right path. In this light, then, the story serves as a cautionary tale, warning us against granting too much power to those who would sacrifice others rather than themselves.



International Council of Community Churches
ICCC Registration Form – 2026 Annual Conference
July 21-23 Crystal City, VA near Washington, DC
“OUR FUTURE: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus”

Name (as you would like it on badge) _____

Full Address _____

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 7-1-2026) _____ Grade completed by (7-1-2026) _____
- 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:

\$ 0.00	Infants (not occupying chair at banquet)	\$
\$ 35.00	Child* (Ages 1-5)	\$
\$ 60.00	Elementary* (entering kindergarten - entering 6 th grade)	\$
\$ 50.00	**Add-on ONLY if Adult meal is preferred for Banquet Child/Elementary registration	\$
\$ 145.00	Youth (completed 6 th grade - entering 12 th grade)	\$
\$ 195.00	Young Adult (completed 12 th grade - age 23)	\$
\$ 230.00	Adult Register by April 1, 2026 for the Early Bird Special \$200	\$
\$ 75.00/day	Daily Registrants Circle Day(s) T W Th (meals not included)	\$
Total Enclosed		\$

THE MENU FOR OUR PLANNED THURSDAY EVENING BANQUET HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. YOU WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO ENTREE OPTIONS.

Please return this form with payment to: ICCC, PO Box 249, Loudon, TN 37774

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 April 1st.** Registrations after June 30, 2026 will be accepted at Conference only. **CANCELLATIONS:** A \$25 administration fee will be assessed for each cancellation.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS MAY BE VIDEOTAPED for advertising or Social Media. By registering for conference, you agree the ICCC may use your 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.

The ICCC Annual Conference Will Be Held at the Double Tree Hotel

in beautiful **Crystal City, VA**

It is just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC

Here's the link to make a reservation under our room block.

<https://book.passkey.com/go/dcaaeiccc26>



The conference will actually begin the morning of Tuesday, July 21 but we encourage everyone to arrive in the afternoon or evening of Monday, July 20. Registration materials will be available that evening in the hotel lobby.

Standard check out and departure will be Friday, July 24 **BUT...** if you want to come early or stay after the conference and do some sightseeing in our nation's capital, you can reserve up to three days before the conference or three days after the conference at the same room rate.

There is a complimentary hotel shuttle to and from Ronald Reagan Washington International Airport (DCA)

Information about how to contact the shuttle service will be included in the registration packet you receive prior to the conference.

We have some complimentary parking passes for delegates who may be driving in from east coast locations. 10 passes will be available on a first come first served basis. They will cover parking for all four evenings at the hotel – Monday, July 20 through Thursday, July 23. To qualify, send a copy of your hotel reservation confirmation to peacechurchnow@gmail.com. Pastor RC Fleeman, Conference Planning Chairman will reserve the parking passes for you.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A Voice for Ecumenical
Congregations
(ISSN - 0145-3297)

A periodical of news, reviews, and reflections for ecumenically oriented and community-minded churches, ministry centers, and clergy.

Published Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June by the International Council of Community Churches. Home Office: P.O. Box 249, Loudon, TN 37774. Subscription rate: \$12.00 per year.

Editors: Bruce Merton,
Robert Fread,
DeAnn Bath

Circulation: DeAnn Bath

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Website: www.ICCCNOW.org



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 Churches: Purchase an Ad for ICCC's 2026 Conference Booklet!

The 2026 Conference Planning Committee is seeking ads for the Conference Booklet. Hopefully, every member church will participate by purchasing an ad. Individuals may also purchase an ad for themselves or, if they have a business, they may also purchase an ad for their business or company.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- Ad prices are below. Despite inflation, the prices have not increased in several years.
- Choose the size of the ad you want to have included in the booklet.
- Create your ad copy / layout and send it to Rev. RC Fleeman (address below).
- Hopefully your ad will highlight your church and offer congratulations to the ICCC as we look to the future at our 76th annual conference. You might also wish to include the number of years your church has been a member of the ICCC.

Please send the ad copy Pastor RC Fleeman at iccc2026ads@gmail.com

Ads may be presented in JPEG, pdf, and MS Word, PowerPoint and Publisher formats.

If you prefer, you may also mail the ad copy to Rev. R.C. Fleeman c/o Peace Community Church, P.O. Box 60958, Fort Myers, FL 33906. Rev. Fleeman is the Planning Committee Chair. He is willing to help you with the layout for an ad if you wish.

Please send funds to cover the cost of the ad to the ICCC office by mail and indicate that the payment is for an ad in the booklet. Payment by check should be mailed to: ICCC, P.O. Box 249, Loudon, TN 37774. You can also pay through this website at: <https://www.icccnow.org/donate/>. Please note that your payment is for an ad.

DEADLINE: May 16, 2026

Indicate below the ad size you will submit:				
	<u>WIDTH</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>PAGE SIZE</u>	<u>COST</u>
_____	8" x	11"	Full	\$200.00
_____	8" x	5.5"	One Half	110.00
_____	4" x	5"	One Quarter	60.00

Thank you for your support!



Seeking A Full-Time Pastoral Director

The Pastoral Director serves as the primary spiritual leader of The Center. This role nurtures the spiritual heart of the organization and ensures that worship, pastoral care, and spiritual programming reflect The Center's mission, values, and founding vision.

The Pastoral Director provides compassionate spiritual leadership to the fellowship, staff, volunteers, and broader community. This is a relational, incarnational ministry rooted in presence, listening, service, and community. The role aims to cultivate spiritual culture and help people recognize God's presence in ordinary work, community, and creation. We strive to live what Jesus taught in Matthew 26: when you do it for the least of them, you do it to me.

The Pastoral Director works closely with the Executive Director, staff, and volunteers to steward The Center's mission and to walk faithfully with the community through seasons of growth, challenge, and transition.

Key Responsibilities:

- Pastoral care of The Center's fellowship and staff, including individual meetings, home and hospital visits, programs and special events.
- Plan and conduct 8:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. chapel services and memorial services.
- Work with other Program Directors to integrate the values of Christ and the Center into all offerings of the Center.
- Chapel Oversight:
 - a) Oversee the care and maintenance of the Chapel, chapel garden and labyrinth
 - b) Identify facility and housekeeping of the above areas and coordinate with the appropriate staff.
 - c) Recruit and hire Chapel-related staff such as auxiliary ministers, soloists, musicians and hostesses.
- Write content for The Center's newsletter related spiritual programming.
- Work with leadership to set financial goals and manage budgets for Chapel and spiritual programs.

Qualifications

- Masters in Divinity preferred
- Ordained as a Christian minister
- Ability to learn the basic software and technology used for scheduling, communication, and administration.
- Valid driver's license and the ability to perform the physical duties of the role.
- Must be at least 21 years old.

General Expectations

- Collaborate across the departments and support major Center events when needed.
- Demonstrate flexibility, initiative, and a strong commitment to The Center's mission.
- Participate actively in staff meetings and community life.
- Represent The Center with professionalism, humility, and warmth.

Schedule and Compensation:

This is a full-time, year-round position. Regular office hours are required, along with weekend and evening availability to support chapel services, pastoral care, and special events. Compensation is based on experience and includes a supportive and well-rounded benefits package, including individual medical, dental, and vision insurance; a non-contributory pension plan with a 5% annual employer contribution; generous paid time off; meals during work hours; and discounted access to Center programs.

How to Apply

All candidates must apply through our online application form, available at <https://thecenterpalos.org/pastoral-director/>. The application includes submission of a resume, a writing sample, professional references, and several questions related to spiritual beliefs, ministry experience, and alignment with The Center's mission and values.

To ensure a fair, thoughtful, and consistent review process, we kindly ask that all inquiries and materials be submitted exclusively through this electronic application. Phone calls, emails, or mailed materials will not be accepted.

Seeking Pastor

Seeking a Shepherd for Our Little Church in the Woods.

Bradford Woods Community Church, nestled in the heart of Bradford Woods, PA, (just a stone's throw from Pittsburgh), a vibrant non-denominational congregation, seeks a dynamic pastor who embodies warmth, charisma, and a passion for community. We are looking for someone who can connect with people, inspire growth, and lead our church. We're a close-knit congregation averaging about 30-35 in Sunday attendance, with a rich history dating back to 1915.

Our ideal candidate will embody Christ's love, foster inclusivity, and guide us in spiritual growth and community service. We are also looking for someone who can connect with people to grow the congregation in an intentional and meaningful way. If you are driven to make a difference and eager to engage with our congregation and the broader community, we want to hear from you!

Come help us continue our mission of spreading God's love through worship, education, and outreach in our serene woodland sanctuary. For more details, please contact us at BWCC2025@gmail.com.

Bradford Woods
Community Church
4836 Wexford Run Road,
Bradford Woods PA 15015
724-935-3135