



February 15, 2021
NACCC NEWS
The Messenger



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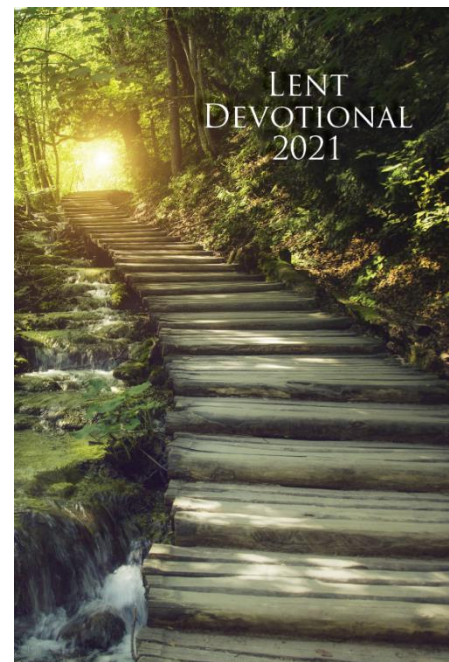
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Ash Wednesday and the NACCC Lent Devotional

Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum, Executive Director

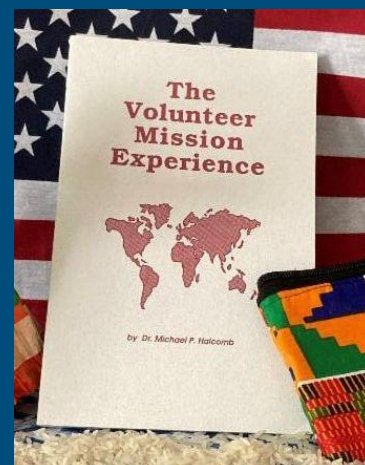
Ash Wednesday is just two days from now. If you have not made all of your preparations for your congregation for the observance of a Holy Lent, you should consider utilizing the 2021 NACCC Lenten Devotional. There are a limited number of copies left and available from the Oak Creek office. If you order now, the books will likely not arrive in time for Ash Wednesday, but might be in your hands in time for the First Sunday in Lent. [Order online](#) or contact [Laura Wright](#) to order.



The Volunteer Mission Experience

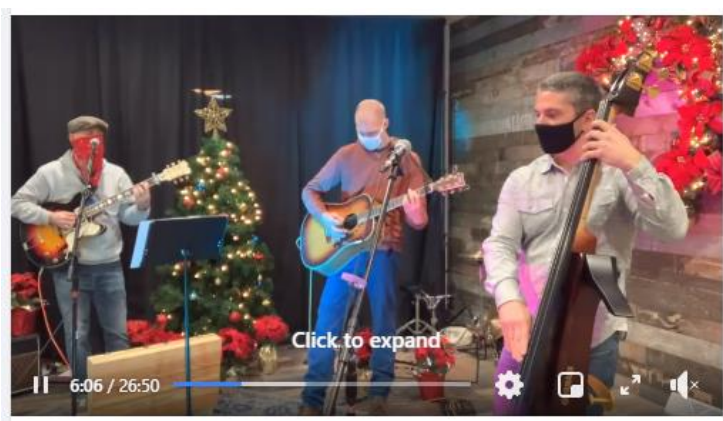
Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

There is a good chance that for years to come, we will not look at toilet paper the same again. Here today, gone tomorrow. Many missionaries worldwide feel that way about their connections with churches and individuals - Here today with visits, promises made, frequent emails, financial support... Gone tomorrow when the mountain top experience fades and the romance of mission relationship is replaced with the reality of the commitment – that coming alongside some of the most vulnerable of God's people can be hard, dangerous, and costly. This is what can and often does happen, but it doesn't have to be that way. ***"The Volunteer Mission Experience"*** by The Reverend Dr. Michael P. Halcomb was written for volunteers serving domestically as well as internationally. Contact Laura Wright by phone (414-764-1620) or [email](#) to order your copy.



Concert Enjoyed by Many

Debby Fulton, Director of Development & Communications



Congratulations to the First Congregational Church (FCC), Laingsburg, MI, recipient of the 2020 [John Richard Memorial Endowment](#) award. Each year the endowment provides grants to member churches who are planning a Fine or Performing Arts event.

This year, due to the pandemic, FCC was faced with the fact that the in-person *Winterfest* concert to be held at their church would not be held as originally planned. However, rather than holding the concert at the church a smaller group of musicians came together and performed the concert while streaming through their Facebook live page. Although unable to gather in person the church found a way to provide their members and others in the community with a wonderful and much-needed concert, obtaining 1,852 views. The *Winterfest* concert was not only well-received but served as a way for the church and the community to stay connected.

Church Fair Share Giving Update

Member Church News

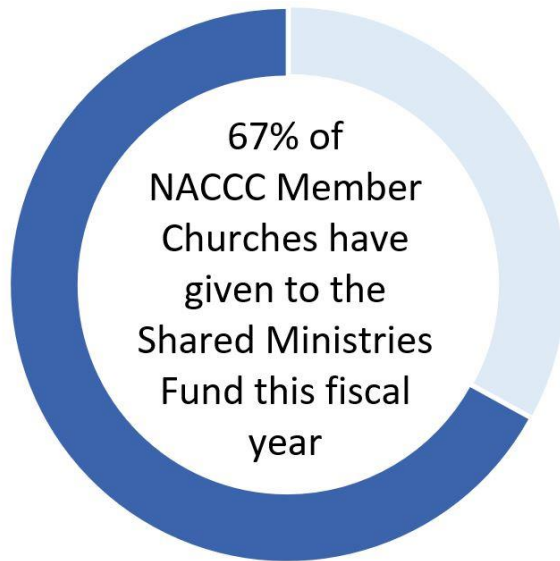
February + COVID 19 = Drive-Thru Italian Food! [Rockwood First Congregational Church in Rockwood, MI](#) and the [First Congregational Church of Spencer, IA](#) are both hosting Drive-Thru Italian food events this month. *Cibo delizioso!*

What creative events are happening in your church? Tell us about it so we can share with other member churches!

NACCC Reminders

John Richard Memorial Endowment applications are due on April 15, 2021. Applications and information can be found [here](#).

2021 Virtual Ministers' Convocation is scheduled for April 12-15, 2021. More info [here](#).



[About Church Fair Share Giving](#)
Deadline: March 31, 2021

The **2021 Annual Meeting & Conference** will take place virtually. Watch [this page](#) for updates.

The **NACCC Prayer Circle** is Thursdays at 2 PM Eastern, 1 PM Central, 12 PM Mountain, 11 AM Pacific on Zoom. [Click here to join](#)
All are welcome!

Send us your news and photos!
Submissions for the March issue are due by February 25, 2021

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

8473 S. Howell Avenue, P.O. Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154
800-262-1620 ext. 1610

Devotionals

Order your NACCC Devotionals
Advent 2020 and/or Lent 2021
Online: www.naccc.org

2020 Advent Devotionals

Please send _____ Advent Devotionals
Price: \$3 per copy – includes shipping & handling charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send Devotionals to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

2021 Lent Devotionals

Please send _____ Lent Devotionals
Price: \$3 per copy – includes shipping & handling charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send Devotionals to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

NACCC
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288

or

Email your request to: lwright@naccc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1614
Fax: (414) 764-0319

Please send completed form to:

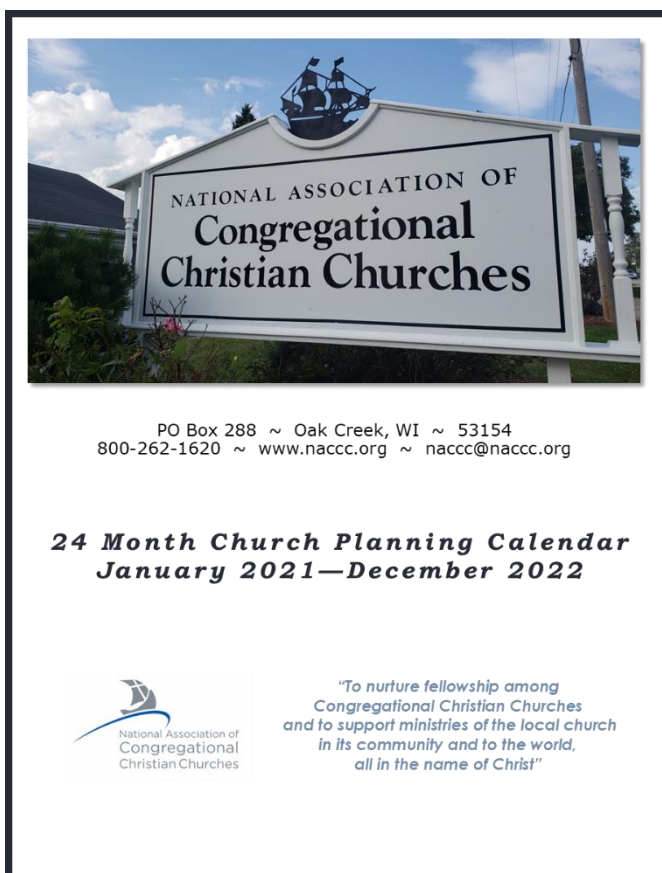
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Fax: (414) 764-0319

Ash Wednesday
is
Feb 17, 2021

2021 - 2022 NACCC Planning Calendar Order



Please send _____ Two Year (2021-22) Calendars
\$10.00 per copy - plus shipping

(Please Print Clearly) Send Calendars to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

NACCC

PO Box 288

Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288

or

Email your request to: lwright@naccc.org

Telephone: 800-262-1620 ext. 1614

Fax: 414-764-0319

NEWS & NEEDS

of our Missions

Winter 2021

A quarterly publication of the **Mission and Outreach Ministry Council**
from *Julie Robie, Missions Administrator*

Seafarer's Friend, Massachusetts

Seafarer's Friend recently visited the crew of the Hourai Maru and met Master Rao and a few of the officers who were busy at work. Because of loving ministry partners, they were able to provide 20+ ditty bags as a belated Christmas present. Items are always needed for ditty bags. For the list of items, please visit www.seafarersfriend.org.



Morgan Scott Project, Tennessee

From Crystal Tompkins: Morgan Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns was able to help make the Christmas of the children in their area a little brighter with the help of many donors and volunteers. Toys, stocking stuffers, and toboggans (hand knitted by several from all over the United States) were given to children in Morgan and Scott counties of Tennessee. 838 children received gifts this year.



God's people sharing their blessing with others make this program possible, from the donors giving gifts and monetary donations to the volunteers showing up, organizing gifts, and playing elves for families.

Panamerican Institute, Mexico

Juana Santos reports that their 2020 year of classes ended with the distribution of support for 50 families to buy enough food for a nice Christmas dinner and to buy groceries to last about one week. Sadly, the picture on the wall is of a young family member who passed away from heart complications. She also noted that this was the 49th consecutive year of this growing ministry. In 1973, they provided a couple of grocery bags to 4 families. Juana sends along her appreciation for the privilege you give them to your extending helping hand to Panamerican Institute's families.



Pilgrims Presence, Kenya

Geoffrey Lemoi, Assistant Director of Pilgrims Presence, was in a bad motorcycle accident which resulted in a broken leg. He had a recheck to see how the leg was healing on January 26th.



ECHO, Florida

A note from ECHO - **Hope is an action. It is hard work.** At this ECHO training (pictured below), women are being equipped to prepare their community fields for planting in time for the upcoming rainy season.



As we reflect on 2020, we celebrate that there is much to see beyond the hardships. In nearly four decades of serving the hungry, this year we've helped more families than ever before. And in a year of economic disruption – we give thanks for each person who has sacrificially given to bring life-changing hope to families around the world! We are grateful for YOU!

Charles Rush Award

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS APRIL 15, 2021

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council is accepting nominations for The Charles Rush Award which is presented to minority persons who are working with Congregational Christian Churches toward worthwhile social and personal goals. The award exemplifies the spirit of Rev. Charles Rush and emphasizes the importance of Christian social involvement.

The late Rev. Rush lived in California. His life of unselfish service as an educator and minister, friend of the Free Church, and active participant in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches set an example for many. Friends have honored his memory by establishing this fund in his name. The Charles Rush Award is presented at the Annual Meeting and Conference of the NACCC.

Read more [here](#). Please send letters of nomination to:
Julie Robie, Mission Administrator
184 Main Street, Kingston, NH 03848
or email to: jrobie@nacc.org

Word Alive, Ghana and the Ivory Coast

Pictured below is Rev. Charles Nyane presenting a thermometer to be used as part of their COVID 19 protocol and an example of how they must disinfect their churches.



Contact Us

For more information on NACCC missions, or to make a donation please contact Missions Administrator Julie Robie at 800.262.1620 or 603.642.7270 or email at jrobie@nacc.org.

**National Association of
Congregational Christian Churches
Missions and Outreach Ministry Council
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154**

**For a complete listing of NACCC Mission Projects
or to donate, please visit our website:
www.nacc.org and click on "Missions."**

PRAYERS & NEEDS

CMFE, Philippines

Prayers: Ongoing flood control project at their central office.

A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, Colorado

Prayers:

- ◆ We recently lost a Ministry Support Committee Member, Dale, in Glacier National Park to an unexpected heart attack. The community is grieving. He was a really joyful, selfless, and loving individual.
- ◆ Another Ministry Support Committee Member in Glacier, Shelby, is having her 4th surgery today for her battle with cancer and the outlook is not strong.
- ◆ Recruiting Associate, Toni, is recovering from COVID-19.
- ◆ We are praying to find creative ways to recruit team members for the 2021 season since our typical ways are not possible.

Needs:

- ◆ 2 Nest Cameras (security) to have in our office.
- ◆ Sending a care package to one of our 8 winter teams
- ◆ Fuel gift cards to send to our team members who have to travel for their worship services and ministry

Happy Life Children's Home, Kenya

Prayers:

- ◆ Thanking God for protection of our children and staff throughout the pandemic season.
- ◆ We need God's protection for our mission and especially the schools. We have opened schools after 9 and 1/2 months and are trying to cope with the new normal.
- ◆ For the children's health and well-being.
- ◆ For provision of food, school uniform, books, and tuition fees for our children at Happy Life and those from the community - most parents are struggling after job losses.
- ◆ For God's favor upon our schools within the community.
- ◆ For our candidate class to get ready for the final exam in March.

Needs:

- ◆ School books and stationery
- ◆ School uniforms
- ◆ Funds to complete the Phase One of our high school
- ◆ Funds to equip the high school - furniture, computers, etc.
- ◆ Food and supplies for the schools and the rescue centers.
- ◆ Funds to equip our Jesse Kay Satellite clinic.

Congregational Church of Myanmar

Prayers: Provision of Okkan Mission House and Yangon Grace children dining hall.

Needs:

- ◆ Child sponsorships for 45 children.
- ◆ Provisions for rural mission workers, pastors, and families.
- ◆ Rice for mission families.

ECHO, Florida

Prayers:

- ◆ Tensions, due to terrorism and political instability, are running high all across West Africa. Please pray for our West Africa Team, based in Burkina Faso, that God will grant them wisdom to provide training in Burkina and throughout the Region as borders begin to re-open.
- ◆ Continued prayer for God's grace within the ECHO-Florida Team as we implement our new Masters Level Certificate elements into our long-standing Intern Training Program.
- ◆ Continued protection for ECHO's global teams as we are receiving, and seeking to respond to, increasing requests for training and assistance that entail increased staff exposure during this pandemic.
- ◆ Prayers for our Board of Directors as they continue to carry out their governance of ECHO's global work through virtual means during this pandemic.
- ◆ For the more than 683 men and women, from 70 countries, who participated in our Virtual International Agriculture Conference on November 19th. We pray that they will be blessed and encouraged, and God will be glorified, as they take the new knowledge and insights they gained and apply them to benefit the people they serve.

Needs:

- ◆ Continuing to raise financial support to distribute seeds around the world and provide hands-on rural trainings throughout Africa and Asia. We have ongoing needs to cover the financial costs ECHO embraces to train young people who have a heart to serve on the mission field through our internship program.

Panamerican Institute, Mexico

Prayers for the several families who have COVID 19 and for them to have access to medicine which would enable them to recover at home.



JOHN RICHARD MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

GRANT APPLICATION

Application Deadline: April 15, 2021

Church Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Contact Person _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____
Minister (if not the contact person) _____
Number of years the Church has been a member of the NACCC _____
Number of Church Members _____
Event Name _____ Date of Event _____
Estimated Total Cost _____ Amount Requested (*not to exceed \$500*) _____

Attach a brief description (*1 page maximum*) that includes the following:

- A description of the fine or performing arts event you are planning.
- Why you are planning this event and the benefits you expect to receive from it.
- A projected budget that shows itemized costs
- How you heard about the program

I/We have read the Guidelines for the John Richard Memorial Endowment for grant support and agree to the terms and conditions outlined therein (See reverse).

Signature of Contact

Print Name and Title

Date _____

Please send this page and brief description sheet to:

Congregational Foundation
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154
FAX: 414-764-0319
EMAIL: development@naccc.org

John Richard Memorial Endowment

The John Richard Memorial Endowment was established by his family as a loving and living memorial. His love for music and theater performance was a large part of his talented but short life.

About:

- The Endowment awards annual grants to National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) Active Member Churches of 200 members or less that are planning a fine or performing arts event in their church.
- Grants will be awarded up to \$500 per church.
- All funds awarded for an event must be used by April 1, 2022.

Requirements:

1. The event program or bulletin must include mention of the John Richard Memorial Endowment of the Congregational Foundation and the NACCC. A copy of this program or bulletin must be submitted with the final grant report.
2. The church must have 200 members or less.
3. Grant recipients must complete and submit a brief questionnaire as a final grant report within 30 days of the event for which the funds were received

Church Fair Share Giving

Why Contribute?

- As an organization, our vitality is directly tied to the support our member churches provide. The NACCC exists to serve our churches and relies on financial contributions to carry out our various programs and services.
- While every congregation is unique, we strive to be valuable and relevant to all our member churches, regardless of size and needs of the church.
- Whether you see value in being a part of a national organization, utilize our networking opportunities, take advantage of our leadership resources, or rely on us to find a pastor, we ask you to contribute your Fair Share to ensure we are able to help all of our congregations for years to come.

What is Fair Share?

- The NACCC requires each of our member churches to make an annual contribution to our Shared Ministries Fund, which directly supports our programs and services.
- FAIR SHARE refers to our suggested contribution. We do not require a membership fee, but we do expect that each church support the organization through a gift. Currently, the Fair Share we ask our churches to contribute is \$13 a member.
- Consider joining other member churches who give their "Fair Share Plus," which is a contribution of \$15 or more a member. This level of giving has a significant impact on the ability of the NACCC to help churches.

How does the NACCC support our churches?

- Pastoral Searches
 - Aiding member churches and clergy in pastoral searches through a pastoral search process
- Financial Opportunities
 - Granting funds to churches facing challenges through the Hurting Churches Fund
 - Providing professional management for church endowments through the Congregational Investment Trust (CIT)
 - Loaning funds to member churches through the Building & Loan Fund
 - Subsidizing the cost of attendance at the Annual Meeting & Conference through the Providence Fund
 - Funding fine arts programs at member churches through the Richard Fund
- Fellowship
 - Hosting the Annual Meeting & Conference

- Facilitating regional retreats
- Ministers' Convocation
- Preparing tomorrow's leaders through National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship (NAPF) and Heritage of Pilgrim Endeavor (HOPE) programs
- Education
 - Training lay ministers through our Lay Ministry Training Program
 - Providing seminary education and financial support through the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS)
 - Hosting Congregational History and Polity Seminars online and in person
 - Printing, editing and distributing the *Congregationalist* Magazine
- Vetting and Supporting Missions
 - Vet and support 27 national and international missions
 - Provide financial support to 5 national and 11 international missions
 - 100% of all donations to specific missions goes directly to the mission.
- Providing Advisors for:
 - Church growth and vitality
 - Assessing your organizational structure and practices
 - Managing conflict
 - Evaluating clergy and other church staff, lay leaders, and volunteers
 - Creating a culture of stewardship in your church
 - Strategic planning

“Our church gives at this level because we are grateful for all the NACCC has done to help our church. We realize the budget for the NA is not extravagant, and providing services to the local churches costs money. We have certainly benefited from the organization.”

-Fair Share Plus contributing church

Mission

Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ

For more information on Fair Share Giving contact:

- Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications
dfulton@naccc.org or 414.856.1610
- Tracy Bernhardt, Development and Communications Assistant
tbernhardt@naccc.org or 414.856.1615
- Dan Drea, Chief Financial Officer
ddrea@naccc.org or 414.856.1616