

## HOW WE BEGAN

**M**ANY DENOMINATIONS have come into existence since the days of Jesus. Our beginning was the result of filling a great void.

Following the Revolutionary War, the frontier began moving westward faster than the Church's witness. Men called by God were needed to carry the message about Jesus and the new life He offers to these new settlements. Jacob Albright answered this call.

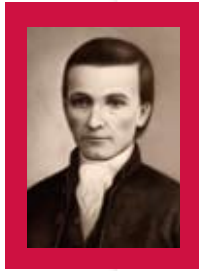
Albright, a soldier in the War for Independence, experienced conversion under the preaching and teaching of earnest godly leaders. Settling in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, he began his preaching as a circuit rider, organizing groups for prayer and worship. Many like-minded people gathered about him, and out of this humble beginning came the organization of the Evangelical Association.

This denomination grew rapidly in the early American frontier, and was noted for its aggressive and dynamic faith. With the establishment of many new churches came institutions of higher learning, publication of books used in worship and Christian education, and support of the Sunday school movement, missionary societies and Christian Endeavor.

The late nineteenth century saw the church reorganized into the United Evangelical Church. Within 25 years the denomination almost doubled its size.

Following World War I the leaders of the Church declined to have part in a planned merger. They determined to push forward as the Evangelical Congregational Church.

Today the earnest and sincere zeal of Jacob Albright lives on in the vision and spirit of our many churches. Today, we are continuing the work Albright began, a ministry of people to people, as defined by the Bible.



## WHERE YOU FIT IN

**T**O NOT GIVE UP MEETING together is a command of Scripture. Furthermore, Jesus promises that where two or three are gathered together in His name, there He will be among them.

Why be a part of the church? Through the years believers have found strength and inspiration in gathering together for worship. The Christian needs three things to be fulfilled in his or her spiritual life: 1) instruction in God's Word, 2) Christian fellowship, and 3) the opportunity to become involved in meeting the needs of others. Church is both a place to give and a place to receive.

If you're looking for these ingredients, join us in fellowship and worship. In addition to worship services, prayer meetings, and Christian education opportunities, you might want to become a part of one of our many discipleship programs, evangelistic outreach programs or social activities.

The CHURCH is PEOPLE. People who have a personal faith in Christ. People who love Him and want to serve Him. People who realize their need to grow in His grace. People like YOU.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, AND WISH TO HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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# WELCOME

## EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



TO KNOW CHRIST AND  
MAKE HIM KNOWN





# TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN



## THE EC CHURCH IS....

**T**HE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH is people – people just like you – committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that men, women and children may experience saving faith in Christ. The people of the EC Church also seek to help new believers discover their place in a church family where they can find support on their faith journey, a journey that leads to personal growth in Christlikeness.



## THIS WE BELIEVE

**B**ELIEVING THE BIBLE to be our final authority for faith and Christian living, we affirm the following:

- That the universe is the purposeful creation of a personal, loving, almighty God.
- That all human beings are made in the image of the Creator and are of infinite worth.
- That our world is under the sway of sin as a result of historical and personal human rebellion against, God, so that suffering, death and separation from God are the experience of humankind; and that without the intervention of God's grace, this condemnation will be the eternal state of all persons.

• That Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, through his virgin birth, sinless life, sacrificial death on the Cross, and glorious resurrection and ascension, graciously offers new life to all who receive him by faith.

• That the Holy Spirit, indwelling believers, gives them a desire and an ability to follow biblical standards of conduct in their personal lives and in society.

• That the Christian faith is lived in the community of the church, where worship and witness are embodied through the spiritual gifts of its members.

• That Jesus Christ will return to this world, bring an end to history as we know it, inaugurate the final judgment and welcome believers into his eternal kingdom.

## HOW WE WORK

**I**N OUR LOCAL CONGREGATIONS the pastor is charged with supervising the work. Each congregation has its own governing body, an Official Board or Ministry Council, which gives direction to the entire church program. The board or council assigns much of its work to other local commissions and committees in matters of property, finance, education, evangelism, youth work, and missions.

Our name, "Evangelical" expresses our desire to share our faith with others; and "Congregational" describes our form of government. Each congregation owns its property, determines its membership, manages its affairs, and has the final prerogative in choosing its ecclesiastical affiliation.



Though we are congregational, we are not independent of one another. We enjoy a fellowship of congregations called the National Conference that supports the local congregations through a Bishop and several Conference Ministers.

## WHERE WE WORK THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HAS:

### Congregations in:

- Kentucky
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Illinois
- Maryland
- Ohio

### Camps for all ages:

- *Twin Pines Camp*, Pocono Mountains, PA
- *Camp ECCO*, Carrollton, Ohio
- *Rock River Camp*, Rock River, Illinois

### Campmeeting Groves:

- *Waldheim*, Allentown, PA
- *Rosedale*, Reading, PA
- *Herndon*, Herndon, PA

### Missionaries:

- Over 50 mission workers
- Serving in 12 countries
- Partnering with 20 sending agencies

### International Churches in:

- Japan
- Costa Rica
- India
- Nepal
- Mexico
- Liberia

### Institutions and Cooperative Ventures:

- Continuing Care Retirement Communities
- Evangelical Theological Seminar
- Historical Society