



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 15, 2024)

Church of the Incarnation, Great Falls, Montana

600 Third Ave. North, Great Falls, MT, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/15/24.

patbrunzellholt@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
39	1	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$64500		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	No	No	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4			
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
up to/including \$500/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

All figures negotiable. Moving reimbursement available up to \$12K.

Church of the Incarnation, Great Falls, Montana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/15/24.

Contact:
patbrunzellholt@gmail.com

Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Church of the Incarnation is in a period of renewal and spiritual vigor after a decade of decline in participation and energy. This renewal was described by a parishioner in this way: "On the Sunday of Christ the King, I looked around me and saw our beautiful church full of worshippers, heard their voices raised in song, and felt the palpable presence of our Lord filling the sanctuary. Our choir, which had been silent for too long, was restored and was leading our singing once again. The water-damaged chancel wall had been repaired and was aglow from a fresh coat of paint. This day was the culmination of a tremendous amount of love, faith, and belief that we could come back from a low time. All around me were friends in Christ who had held the church together through thick and thin. My heart was full."

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

The church of the future requires faithfulness to Jesus Christ and ongoing discernment of what he calls us to do and be and have the courage to do it. Incarnation benefits from the foresight and generosity of past and present members. A well-funded and well-managed memorial fund, clear-eyed stewardship campaigns and members willing to invest sweat equity comprise the magic formula that makes our parish work. During this time of transition, we have explored our congregation's thoughts and feelings and inspired new or renewed involvement from many. We have a new mission statement and are full of enthusiasm to carry it out: "At Church of the Incarnation, we welcome all to join in the beauty of timeless ritual, seek Christian connection, and share God's abundance." Our historic, well-maintained church and parish hall are in the heart of downtown Great Falls and feature an auditorium, office spaces and classrooms, ample parking, and a large courtyard for events. Our call is to respond to the needs of a world that is increasingly loud, divided, and secular. We have a beautiful and holy space to share with those who long for spiritual respite from all the flash and noise of our culture.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

1. Forward-looking, 2. Compassionate, 3. Resourceful, 4. Energetic

Church of the Incarnation, Great Falls, Montana

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/15/24.

patbrunzellholt@gmail.com

Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Our liturgical style is flexible and of moderate formality, with an aim to spark joy and reflection. We are devoted to worship and seek to study and practice the teachings of Jesus through our Sunday and Wednesday services, Bible study, active fellowship and community involvement. Currently, Rite II is practiced on Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 12 p.m. Everyone is invited to receive the Eucharist during each service, either at the altar, or at the level of our pews for those who cannot manage the stairs to the altar. Parishioners serve as lay readers, ushers and acolytes. The worship services make good use of the Book of Common Prayer and the book "Enriching our Worship." Sunday's bulletins have most of the day's readings printed in them, so we do not need to search through the prayer book during the service. Bells, organ, piano and, on occasion, other instruments enhance our hymns. Our newly restored carillon bells ring as a call to worship and the service is followed by a short musical recital. Hearing devices are provided for those who need them and the services are available via Zoom. The church, parish hall, grounds and parking lot have provisions for wheelchair use.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We observe the teachings of Jesus Christ and use the unique and personal spiritual gifts we've received to demonstrate His love. Our emphasis is on strengthening and deepening that relationship. We participate in faithful worship and formation, which includes weekly Bible Study, Formation following Fellowship, and we review and embrace our baptismal covenant. We give newcomers time to get comfortable in our community before aligning their gifts with parish life. Personal invitations to get involved are found to be effective. Opportunities are shared at Sunday announcements and in our monthly newsletter, but people are more inclined to step up from a personal invitation or request. Our Altar Guild has been reinvigorated by contacting parishioners one by one, and emphasizing the opportunity to serve by preparing a beautiful table for our Lord. Our guild chair then carefully and thoroughly teaches how to accomplish the tasks involved. Elected members serve on the vestry and the laity are lectors, intercessors, worship leaders, and trained Eucharistic Visitors. A list is kept and in-home visits are made for those who can't make it to church.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

We offer and attend worship, regular fellowship coffee hours, Bible studies and other spiritual enrichment. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) meetings and activities raise funds, support altar flowers and provide a meal after funerals for all attendees. Pastoral care provided by clergy and trained laypersons is available. Many who attend the Wednesday noon healing Eucharist have found it nourishing for mind, body, emotions and spirit. Members and clergy visit the homebound or those in care facilities, providing connection to the sick and elderly. An active list is kept of parishioners who may be in need of special attention, such as in-home communion or simply a visit. The list is reviewed regularly and team members are assigned to contact those who may have special needs.

Church of the Incarnation, Great Falls, Montana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/15/24.

Contact:
patbrunzellholt@gmail.com

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Our members are involved in, and often leaders of, various civic groups around Great Falls. Some of our ministry partners include the YWCA, Special Olympics, River's Edge Trail, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, and the McLaughlin Research Institute. One specific service our Episcopal Church Women has chosen to be involved with is care for the unhoused women veterans and their children at Grace Haven, a newly established shelter that was previously a church. Our ECW set up a caring tree for Christmas gifts. Many of our parish members have toured the facility. On a monthly basis we will be collecting items requested by the home for their daily needs. In November, ECW sponsored a trip for all parishioners of Incarnation to Fort Benton, a small town north of Great Falls, to see the beautiful stained-glass windows of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, hear the history of the church told by a prominent local historian and meet members of the church. In response, we sent a check for \$300 to assist in the repair of the largest window. As individuals and as a group, we are parishioners of faith who are actively focused on contributing to the care of our community's needs beyond our church walls.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Incarnation, along with a coalition of other local churches, has a vibrant outreach through a local feeding ministry connected to the Great Falls Community Food Bank. Called FISH, the program directly serves people experiencing food scarcity in our community. It is also a great chance for church members to spend time together and get to know each other. For example, volunteers might distribute over 700 pounds of food to 30 or more qualifying individuals and families in the course of one day. Interacting with recipients and also hearing bits of their stories is a humbling, enriching experience - job loss, living in a car, illness and loss of a provider are common. All recipients express thanks. One trio came in trailing a wobbly plastic children's wagon. They had no car, but found the abandoned wagon in an alley. It was damaged and traveled crookedly, needing to be prodded along. We balanced 30 pounds of food in it and they bent down, holding the sides and navigating, and guided the wagon home. We are honored to be trusted by the people we serve.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

During our summer chat sessions, a longing for a midweek Eucharist was strongly expressed. This was a service traditionally offered at Incarnation, but it fell by the wayside over a decade ago. Conversations between our interim rector, vestry, lay Eucharistic visiting team and a number of parishioners, led to the re-establishment of this service as a Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing and laying on of hands. Wednesday noon Eucharist parishioners attending find it spiritually, emotionally, and physically enriching. In this intimate setting we bring our whole selves and find a place of safety and acceptance. It adds another spirit-filled dimension to our worship life that is deeply meaningful. Participants include folks in the church who worship faithfully on Sundays and neighbors who pop in just now and again find a place to meditate, pray and just be away from the fray. The service contact person is Rebecca Scott, rangedesign1@gmail.com.

Church of the Incarnation, Great Falls, Montana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/15/24.

Contact:
patbrunzellholt@gmail.com

What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Stewardship is very important to the life of the church. That said, it is a scary subject for some parishioners. The Rev. Lori Babcock, our full-time interim priest, has experience in fund-raising and helped us fashion an effort for 2024 that was successful. We also benefited from an excellent visit from the Rev. Bradley S. Wirth, who presented a workshop on stewardship. With such inspired guidance, church leaders feel well-prepared to explain to parishioners the value of stewardship in future years. In one example, the vestry used resources from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) in 2023, and plans to use it again in late 2024. Overall, Incarnation views the mission of a church as a spiritual discipline with a financial dimension – not as separate topics. Effective stewardship will help Incarnation surge forward into the future with a full-time priest and a sense of support, optimism and prayerfulness.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Church of the Incarnation has enjoyed a period of two years in which conflict was minimal and took a back seat to a sense of unified purpose, given our goal to find a new permanent priest. Prior to that, the church underwent a trying period during which clergy leadership was ineffective. A particularly damaging aspect was that pastoral care was nearly non-existent. Over the course of years there was growing discontent and discord over how to address the problems. When a new bishop was elected in December 2019, the vestry took a risk to reach out to her for advice and support. A course of action including retirement of the rector was undertaken. Episcopal support and diocesan resources have assisted us in our determination to care for each other, especially those with any kind of pastoral need including our homebound members. We have developed an even-handed approach to conflict by listening well and addressing matters with compassion. We also hold each other accountable and find joy when the Lord's work gets done.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

GONE WELL? Each of our interim pastors had his or her own personality, liturgical practice, style and expectations. They helped us realize that we are creative, flexible, open to new beginnings, and inspired by the strength of collaboration. The vestry appointed a Transition Team of church members. The goal was to hold chat sessions to gain views from parishioners about their visions for the future. More than half of the congregation participated in chat sessions that proved resoundingly successful, both in members feeling listened to, and church leaders ability to map a path forward. **GONE POORLY?** There was a time that required the congregation to request "Impaired" status. That decision was painful, but necessary. In early 2024, we were released from that status after making significant strides forward. We've **LEARNED** to ask questions and we listen with open hearts and minds to what God and our worship community have in mind for us. We have **LEARNED** to pace ourselves. In our enthusiasm to move forward, we plan carefully building a strong infrastructure, adding pieces, programs and activities when the time, personnel, funding, and situations allow. We believe we're meant to thrive.



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Mar 15, 2024)

Church of the Incarnation, Great Falls, Montana

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/15/24.

patbrunzellholt@gmail.com

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Lori Babcock	Interim	2023-03	2024-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Adam Linton	Interim	2022-01	2022-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Tim Ljunggren	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2005-01	2022-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
---------------	--	--

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
	8		

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Mar 15, 2024)

Church of the Incarnation, Great Falls, Montana

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/15/24.

Contact:
patbrunzellholt@gmail.com

Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.incarnationgreatfalls.com>

Media Links:

Online References:

YouTube.com@ChurchIncarnation1172
Facebook.com/incarnationchurchgf/

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins

montanabishop@diomontana.com | 406.442.2230

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon Mikayla Dunfee

mtcto@diomontana.com | 406.442.2230 ext. 105

Current Warden/Board Chair

Mr. Peter Jennings

petercj1@hotmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Sara Quay

quaystudioarts@gmail.com | 406.788.5828

Search Chair

Patricia Holt

patbrunzellholt@gmail.com | 206.972.1478

Parish/Institution

Donna Gleaves

incarnationgreatfalls@gmail.com | 406.453.4167

Local Community Leader