

THE NON-PROFIT Networker



THE
INTERCHURCH
CENTER

JANUARY 2026 EDITION

President's Corner

On January 5, we are officially back in motion. The calendar has turned, the inbox is awake again, and 2026 is already asking questions. Before we answer them too quickly, it is worth taking one last look over our shoulder at 2025 with gratitude.

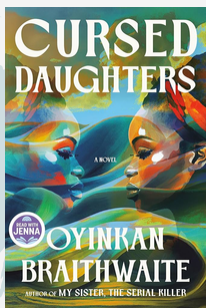
We did meaningful work. We navigated hurdles that required patience, creativity, and teamwork. Some days were smooth. Other days tested us. Yet we kept showing up, serving well, and staying mission aligned. That matters.

As we step into this new year, let us carry two things at the same time: confidence and perspective. Confidence because we have proof that we can handle complex seasons.

Perspective because a strong start does not require rushing; it requires clarity. So this week, start steady. Start focused. Start with appreciation for what you already overcame and what you already built. You have earned the right to walk into 2026 with your head up and your heart full.

Thank you for serving and shining in every season, the brighter moments and the darker ones. We are ready for what is ahead because we have already been faithful through what is behind.

† Robert Bolton



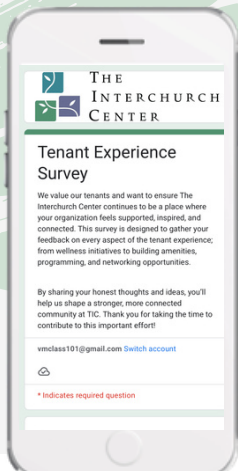
BOOKS THAT BIND BOOK CLUB @ THE RUTH STAFFORD PEALE LIBRARY

This month, the Books That Bind Book Club features *Cursed Daughters* by Oyinkan Braithwaite, a sharp and darkly witty novel exploring family, fate, and the generational stories that shape women's lives. Moving between Nigeria and the diaspora, the book follows a lineage of women bound by a mysterious curse, raising questions about legacy, truth, and the choices they inherit.

Help Us GROW!

Help us improve your experience at The Interchurch Center by sharing your feedback on amenities, programs, and community opportunities.

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TENANT SPOTLIGHT

REVEREND PAUL FLECK



This month, we spotlight Reverend Paul Fleck, Executive Director of Immigration Law & Justice New York (ILJNY), whose faith-rooted leadership and commitment to justice continue to uplift immigrant communities across New York City and Long Island.

About Immigration Law & Justice New York

Immigration Law & Justice New York, established in 1999, welcomes immigrants with compassion, dignity, and respect. The organization provides free or low-cost legal services, educates communities of faith, and advocates for immigrant rights, ensuring individuals and families are supported with care and integrity.

ILJNY operates four church-based legal clinics, offering safe and familiar spaces where clients feel valued and supported. Last year, ILJNY assisted more than 260 new clients and managed over 1,200 cases. Through education events and community briefings, ILJNY helps immigrant New Yorkers understand their rights and navigate complex systems with confidence.

Their work includes:

- Providing free or low-cost immigration legal services
- Educating communities of faith on immigrant justice
- Advocating for immigrant rights and protections
- Building trust-centered, relationship-based support

Spotlight on Rev. Paul Fleck

Reverend Paul Fleck is an ordained Elder in The New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and a former litigation attorney. Before joining ILJNY, he served as Pastor of New Milford United Methodist Church and Hamden Plains United Methodist Church in Connecticut, where he co-founded New Sanctuary CT, a coalition of eleven faith communities committed to providing physical sanctuary to immigrants facing deportation.

As Executive Director of ILJNY, Rev. Paul brings a friendly, personal, and approachable leadership style grounded in faith and pragmatism. He thoughtfully manages projects and resources while remaining deeply committed to uplifting immigrant communities, ensuring ILJNY's mission is carried out with both compassion and impact. Under his leadership, ILJNY continues to be a trusted presence—standing for dignity, justice, and hope.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

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"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

-Martin Luther King Jr



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/01 Building Holiday (New Years Day)
- 1/07 Noon-Day Concert: Gene Bertoncini)
- 1/08 Building Orientation
- 1/14 MLK Day Celebration Service
- 1/15 Books That Bind Book Club Meeting
- 1/19 Building Holiday (MLK Day)
- 1/21 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service
- 1/28 Noon-Day Concert (Carlin Lee)



BOOKS THAT BIND BOOK CLUB 2026 READ LIST

The Books That Bind Book Club 2026 Reading List is here! This year's selections span genres and global voices, offering powerful stories that explore identity, justice, resilience, imagination, and human connection. Each monthly pick is chosen to inspire thoughtful reflection and meaningful conversation, bringing readers together through stories that challenge, uplift, and remind us of the joy and power of reading in community.

THERE IS
ONE BODY
AND
ONE SPIRIT.
JUST AS YOU ARE CALLED TO THE
ONE HOPE
OF YOUR CALLING
EPHESIANS 4:4

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026

Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute invites communities of faith to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026, a sacred time dedicated to prayer, reflection, and renewed commitment to unity among Christians. Rooted in the Franciscan spirit of reconciliation, this annual observance calls believers across traditions to come together in humility and hope, seeking healing, deepened understanding, and visible expressions of Christ's prayer "that they may all be one."

MISSION MASTERY

TIPS & TRICKS FOR NON-PROFITS

PLAN SMART, START STEADY

January offers a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and prepare before the year gains momentum. Start by taking a thoughtful look back at the previous year, reviewing program outcomes, fundraising performance, communications reach, and partnership effectiveness. Identify what worked well, what fell short, and where adjustments are needed. Use these insights to set clear, achievable goals for the year ahead, ensuring they are aligned with your mission, capacity, and community needs.

This is also an important time to strengthen relationships and reinforce trust. Consider reaching out to donors, volunteers, tenants, and partners with messages of appreciation that acknowledge their role in your organization's impact. A well-timed January update that shares priorities, upcoming initiatives, or anticipated improvements can re-engage stakeholders and set expectations early. Internally, confirm budgets, refine work plans, update calendars, and ensure reporting timelines and compliance requirements are clearly understood by staff and board members.

Operational readiness is another key focus for the month. January is an ideal time to clean databases, review policies and procedures, update contact lists, and streamline workflows so systems support your work rather than create friction. With fewer competing demands, organizations can also invest in professional development, strategic planning sessions, and grant research and applications. By starting the year with clarity, consistency, and intentional pacing, nonprofits position themselves for sustainable growth, stronger collaboration, and deeper impact throughout the year.

MLK DAY CELEBRATION

Join us at The Interchurch Center for a meaningful MLK Day Celebration honoring the enduring legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. This special gathering will feature a keynote address by Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood and honor Rev. Dr. James Forbes for his lifelong leadership and commitment to justice, faith, and service. Together, we will reflect, be inspired, and recommit ourselves to advancing Dr. King's vision of beloved community through action and unity.



Riverside Cafe

Check out the weekly menu here:

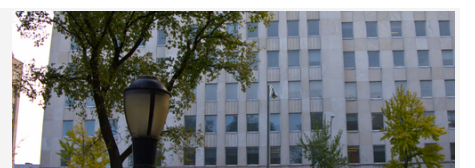
<https://interchurch-center.org/the-riverside-cafe/>



Got News?

Want to place an announcement in the Non-Profit Networker?

Contact Rachel Rivera at rrivera@interchurch-center.org or (212) - 870 - 2954



Thank You

FOR BEING A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!