

2019 BISBEE COMMUNITY MINISTRY GRANTS AVAILABLE!

Most of our church pews hold at least five persons for worship. Did you know that the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) reports that one in five Americans will experience a clinical mental illness this year? And one in seventeen of us struggle with a chronic severe mental illness, often through most of our lifetime. Jesus himself spent significant time and energy in responding to those in mental and spiritual distress. How is the church, the Body of Christ, responding today to these same needs?

Has your congregation made an effort to address the challenges of mental illness? Would you like to? Click [here](#) to listen to a recent excellent sermon by the Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City entitled “Let’s Talk about Mental Illness.”

Perhaps some special funding would help you to generate some new approaches to this crying need in our communities!

- Maybe you could host a seminar (or series) for the public on mental health issues featuring a variety of professionals and a church member or two who is willing to speak about their own or their family’s struggles?
- Have you considered hosting and/or facilitating a grief support group, a caregiver support group, or a local NAMI chapter? What about a Mental Health First Aid course?
- Maybe your Nurture Committee, Deacons, or the entire congregation would benefit from reading a worthwhile book on the subject and discussing it in small groups?
- Perhaps you could assist needy people with excessive expenses for professional medications and/or treatment?
- Or assemble a user-friendly resource list for those in need of mental health assistance?
- Even better, perhaps you already have a program in place to address mental health issues in your neighborhood!

This year’s Bisbee Fund Community Ministry grants will be dedicated to such efforts to address the mental health needs of our communities. Applications may be found [here](#).