



Jarvis Lepper | CARE

What is Care?

Care encompasses the provision of physical, social, emotional and spiritual support for the world. Psalm 24:1 captures this idea of care for all things (cf. Genesis 1:28- the world itself, Luke 10:25:37 - the stranger; Romans 12:10 - the body of Christ).

As a community of faith, it is important for us to utilize our gifts when it comes to care (1 Peter 4:10); however, even if someone is not gifted in a particular area, we are still called to this mission. Moreover, we should be constantly asking, “How can I express care within our gatherings as God’s people, and as we scatter into his world?”

What are the Care Challenges?

Care presents challenges.

First, the pandemic created a disconnect in the past three years (i.e. social atrophy). Consequently, for some, attending church functions may seem like a step too far. How do we create a regular rhythm of connection for people?

Additionally, the current senior leadership transition provides a challenge in our understanding of how care within a church family is provided. Thinking that only paid pastoral staff can and should provide all care is not only ineffective, but unbiblical.

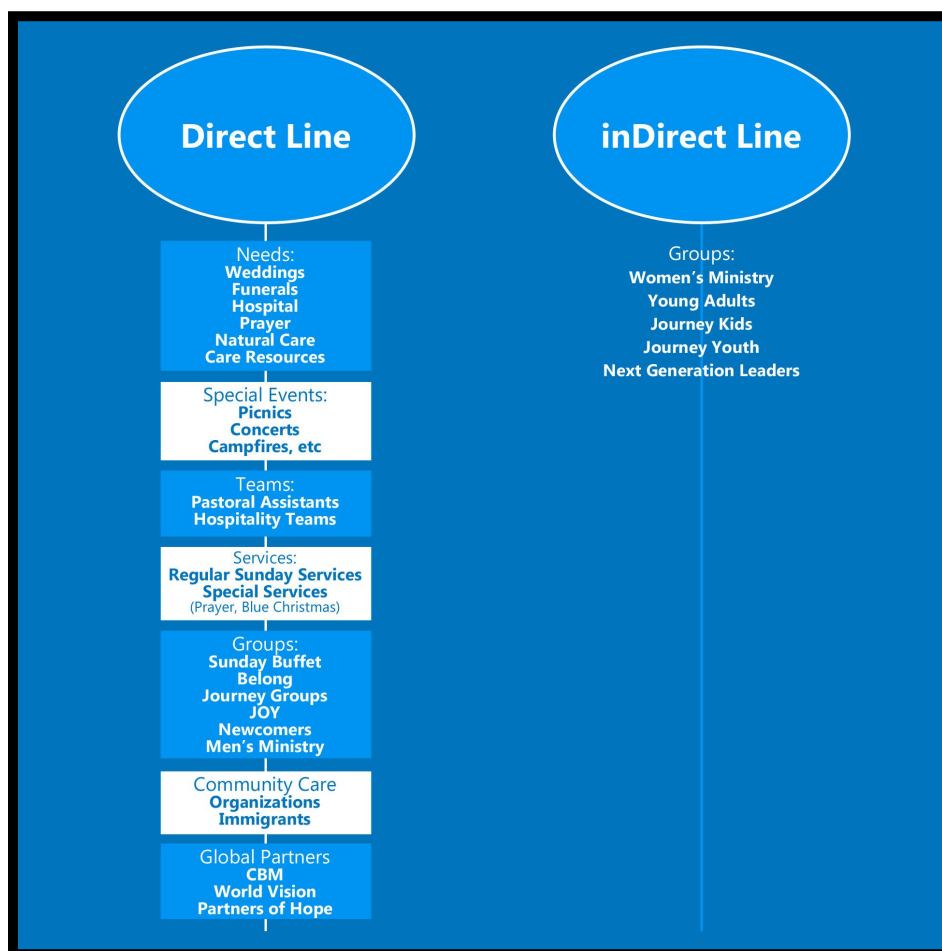
How can we ensure care for all? What are some steps we can take so everyone is on mission regarding care? How will we all contribute, and do our part in becoming the feet and hands of Jesus?

What are the Next Steps?

Care does not just happen spontaneously. It requires intentionality as we *gather* and as we *scatter* into the world.

As the Pastor of Care and Community, let me present the following model of care. This is how I see care unfolding in this transition season for our TJC family, and my role of leadership within it.

First, let's think about **Direct Care** and **inDirect Care**. *Direct Care* involves providing direct leadership to various groups and individuals to ensure effective pastoral care. *Indirect Care* entails encouraging congregational care (i.e. creating awareness and offering suggestions where needed) for other TJC staff/volunteers that give leadership to various groups.



Gather and Scatter

Another way to think about Care and our Community is to think about our church family when they **gather** and when they **scatter**!

Gather

There are four crucial areas of care that we should focus on when we come together as God's people: *Needs, Special Events, Services, Groups*

1) Needs

What are the next steps during needs? Share the care by communicating to the church as soon as possible:

- a) Weddings: info@onthejourney.ca or 506-853-7170
- b) Funerals: care@onthejourney.ca or 506-853-7170
 - i) The Pastor of Care and Community will attend visitation and/or attend funeral.
 - ii) When there is a death in the church family, it will be communicated via email to our church staff, prayer line and pastoral prayers in services as information is provided.
 - iii) Rennie Roop writes letters to grieving widows and parents who have lost children.

TJC VISION:

- I see us communicating with the church family that TJC hosting funerals is a more cost-effective option.
 - Reinstating grief care followup (grief care, cards).
- c) Hospital: If someone is in the hospital: care@onthejourney.ca or 506-853-7170
 - i) IWK: Jessica Morehouse serves as our, "IWK Care Connector," who brings gift baskets and prays in person for families connected to TJC
- VISION:
- Card ministry (sending cards to people in the hospital)

d) Prayer

To share prayer requests to the wider church family: care@onthejourney.ca. With any pressing prayer

needs: our Pastor of Care and Community will follow up.

e) Natural Care

Care should happen naturally by the church family, and not just staff. For instance, we all can provide meals for those in need (i.e. meal train). It is about supporting others through calls or texts. It is about offering transportation to our church services for someone who does not have a vehicle. Also, visitation should be a shared responsibility within the entire church family. The pastoral staff also hold the responsibility of visiting others. Moreover, Atlantic Canada has an older demographic and many of them are shut-in's and The Pastor of Care and Community will make regular visits to their homes and nursing homes.

TJC VISION

- Let us have a shared vision of inviting visitors (i.e. especially immigrants) to our homes/outing after the church service. We are following the biblical call of hospitality
- I see us having a dedicated team making regular visits in people's homes, prioritizing seniors.

f) Care Resources

Under the Care section of our website: we have compiled a range of internal and external care resources. (i.e. mental health, marriage, counseling). You can access these resources at: <https://onthejourney.ca/care/>

TJC VISION:

- I see our church family having public sessions on mental health with Kerri Fowler/Sheri Andrews every six months.

2) **Special Events**

Care happens when we have special events for the community and church family. Examples of these events include picnics, concerts, campfires, game nights, movie nights, BBQ in a public space, and hockey nights.

TJC VISION:

- I see someone from our church family giving leadership to special events.

3) **Teams**

To address care during regular and special services: we have two teams: Pastoral Assistants, Hospitality

- 1) *Pastoral Assistants* are on a rotation system. These volunteers provide a public pastoral presence with a welcoming posture and warm heart during our services along with the Pastor of Care and Community. The Pastoral Assistants also have pre- and post-service responsibilities such as connecting with people, and informing the Pastor of Care and Community about newcomers/needs etc. Here are the responsibilities:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TodkAbnQBii2m3Q7RuRuQPH0n7rCpNJOsf4niy6d5qQ/edit>

- 2) *Hospitality Teams* are a key player in creating a friendly welcoming environment mostly during the weekend services, but they will be called to serve at other special occasions. Here are the responsibilities:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15kqPxIENYIR_m aASdklyhLQ0fRWBbco/edit

TJC VISION:

- I see our church making leadership development available for the Pastoral Assistants.
- I envision the Pastoral Assistants engaging with others through our digital platform chat.

4) **Services**

a) *Regular Services*

A significant aspect of care happens at Sunday morning gatherings, but it is easy to overlook those who are not present.

The locations and times can be found on our website. <https://onthejourney.ca/weekend-worship/>. Also, if there is a new person: they can fill out a Next Step card in a seat, or our digital Next Step Card:

<https://onthejourney.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/98/responses/new>

b) Special Services

- 1) *Prayer Services*: We have regularly scheduled prayer services led by our Prayer Director: Sharon Francis.
- 2) *Blue Christmas*: This is a special service to remember deceased loved ones at Christmas.

5) **Groups**

We offer various groups that cater to specific needs or interests, providing consistent care:

1. JOURNEY GROUPS: You can join these groups, which are essentially Bible Study groups. Most care at TJC will happen through these connections. Also, these groups allow members to grow in their understanding of God's word. I envision running Journey Groups for six weeks between September and December, and another six weeks between January and May. You can find a group to join on our website: <https://onthejourney.ca/journey-groups>. For those leading a group or seeking personal devotional material, we are offering a free resource called RightNow Media. This platform provides access to more than 20,000 Bible Study videos, accessible anytime, anywhere, from any device. Click this link [HERE](#) to create your free account and start browsing. Once you are ready to lead a journey group, email nen@onthejourney.ca

TJC VISION:

- Our church providing small groups focused on discipleship, addiction recovery, marriage enrichment programs, and grief counseling

- The body of Christ conducting seminars on evangelism and apologetics (utilizing professors at Crandall University and Acadia Divinity College).
- Joining the Pastor of Care and Community on a journey to Israel through an organization called “Christian Journeys”, so others can understand the Bible at a deeper level.
- Let us have a shared vision using evangelism tools like Alpha.
- Pastor of Care and Community meeting with journey group leaders twice a year (September & January).

2) OTHER GROUPS

1. SUNDAY BUFFET: traditionally known as a potluck, includes entrees & desserts. These meals will take place four times a year (September, December, February, June) at each campus, providing an opportunity to foster community.
2. BELONG: We are moving into a digital Belong - helping to take the next steps of faith. (i.e. care, baptism, membership) (<https://onthejourney.ca/belong>). Participants can watch the video and fill out a form online.
3. NEWCOMERS: Gathering for newcomers will happen every 2-3 months (including those who watched *Belong*). They will be invited for coffee and donuts to have a followup discussion.
4. JOY: These letters stand for Just Older Youth. This group is for older adults 55+, and they meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the Riverview Campus. There are devotionals and fun activities.
5. MEN'S MINISTRY: This men's group is for all men of the church. The purpose is to have a breakfast and a devotional on the third Sunday of every month at the Riverview Campus.

Scatter

There are two crucial areas of care that we should focus on when we scatter:
Community Care, and Global Partners

1) **Community Care**

We are committed to caring for the local community. One way we care is with finances. By contributing financially to our Community Care, we can address everyday needs in the community (i.e. food, gas).

During designated months (see below), we will highlight community organizations that we can support financially through our Community Care (designate “Community Care”). Additionally, during the designated months, the organizations we have chosen will have the opportunity to provide us with promotional materials to our church family.

Designated Months...

July: **Naomi & Ruth**

September: **Local High Schools (BMHS/RHS)**

November: **Food Banks (Peter Makee/Albert County)**

January: **Teen Challenge**

March: **Harvest House Atlantic**

May: **Pregnancy Health and Wellness Center**

TJC VISION:

- Currently, we take various groups to serve at these organizations, but I envision expanding these efforts. I propose having a ministry representative from our church for each organization where they coordinate groups (i.e. BBQ's for the homeless).
- Imagine us connecting with newcomers/immigrant community in the Greater Moncton area. Considering the influx of 10, 000 new immigrants since 2020, it is crucial that we reach out to them. Hospitality holds great significance in their lives, and it is important that we extend hospitality to them. For instance, I encourage our church family to invite immigrants to their homes after

Sunday morning services, and I see us creating a welcoming environment. Additionally, once a month, I imagine us inviting the immigrant community to the Brentwood Campus for a time of connection, featuring activities (i.e. information sessions about Canada, games, and coffee).

2) Global Partners

We are also committed to global outreach. We have a Partners of Hope team. Our mission is to sponsor/ but mostly co-sponsor refugee families. Moreover, we have a unique partnership with CMB, and World Vision. We have creative ways to support these two groups throughout the year.

TJC VISION

- Let our church family continue our World Vision partnership.
- Let us interview missionaries on the podcast: *Voices on the Journey*.

Equipping Plan

Here is a plan for equipping: As I work within my role as PCC my intention is to always be inviting others to share in the care of TJC. Here are some of the ways this may happen. This is an ongoing process, so we can effectively meet diverse needs.

- 1) Access what the needs are in the church family and community (i.e. online survey). Some of those needs might be pastoral care, small groups etc.
- 2) Invite gifted people to be part of the care team (relationship with Christ, team player, teachable, compassionate, good listener). If individuals are hesitant, we can ask them to give it a test drive to determine if the role is a good fit for them.
- 3) Promote opportunities on all communication channels (i.e. social media, website, weekly email).
- 4) Define roles for each care person (written responsibilities, time commitments, training requirements).
- 5) After individuals start serving, it is crucial to continue with a culture of encouraging and equipping.

- 6) Communicate any care needs on all our communication channels.

Thank you for providing care as we gather and scatter!

Pastor of Care and Community

Jarvis Lepper