

CHEMISTRY ✝ STAFFING

CHURCH & CANDIDATE PROFILE

We're hiring a

HEAD PASTOR

Cedar Run Community Church · Cedar Run, PA

● AT A GLANCE

A FAITHFUL RURAL CHURCH WITH DEEP ROOTS AND A MISSION HEART.



DENOMINATION

Baptist

Independent

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

125

ANNUAL BUDGET

125K

DEBT

0

CHURCH WEBSITE

<https://www.facebook.com/cedarrunc/>

Cedar Run Community Church is a close-knit, independent Baptist congregation of 125 people worshipping in the beautiful Pine Creek Valley of central Pennsylvania. For more than 175 years, this church has maintained a faithful Christian witness in a remarkably small rural community, carrying forward a tradition of biblical preaching, relational care, and gospel-centered ministry. Today, Cedar Run is looking for a Head Pastor who will shepherd this multigenerational congregation with genuine love, preach God's Word faithfully, and lead this historic church into its next season of ministry with patience, trust, and a heart for the community God has placed around it.

 LOCATION

QUIET BEAUTY IN THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS.

CITY POPULATION

41

COUNTY POPULATION

112,590

Lycoming County

Cedar Run sits in the rolling hills and valleys of Brown Township, Lycoming County, in south-central Pennsylvania. This is genuinely rural living: a peaceful, tight-knit mountain community surrounded by Pennsylvania's most beautiful natural scenery. Located along Pine Creek in the Pine Creek Gorge, Cedar Run offers an uncommon combination of privacy, natural beauty, and immediate access to some of the best outdoor recreation in the state.

Outdoor recreation is one of Cedar Run's greatest attractions. The Pine Creek Rail Trail runs directly through the community, providing opportunities for biking, walking, and running. Pine Creek and Cedar Run offer excellent fishing, swimming, canoeing, and kayaking, while the surrounding state forest provides extensive opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, and exploring the Pennsylvania Wilds. Cedar Run itself is recognized for exceptional trout fishing, with seven miles of Cedar Run designated as Trophy Trout water. Nearby Chimney Rock Overlook provides sweeping views of Cedar Run and the Pine Creek Gorge.

Despite its small size, Cedar Run retains some of the character of an old-fashioned mountain community. The historic Cedar Run General Store remains a local gathering place, and camping and lodging bring visitors into the area throughout the recreation season. Families considering Cedar Run should also understand that this is genuinely rural living. Everyday shopping, schools, health care, and many services require driving to surrounding communities. That distance is part of the tradeoff for living in an exceptionally peaceful and uncrowded setting rather than a suburban environment.

For someone who values natural beauty, outdoor recreation, peace and quiet, room to breathe, and small-community relationships, Cedar Run offers a distinctive quality of life. It is the kind of community where the mountains, forests, trails, and streams are not weekend destinations; they are part of everyday life. Cedar Run is located in central Pennsylvania, 120 miles northwest of Harrisburg and 65 miles east of State College.

● OUR STORY & TODAY

MORE THAN 175 YEARS OF FAITHFUL WITNESS.

Cedar Run Community Church, historically known as the First Baptist Church and Society of Brown Township, has deep roots in the Pine Creek Valley. Christian worship in the area dates to at least 1805, when circuit riders served early settlers, including worship reportedly held in Jacob Lamb's home. A Baptist presence became firmly established in the nineteenth century, with a Baptist church constructed at Cedar Run in 1849–1850. The congregation grew alongside the community and served families connected to the lumber industry, farms, mills, railroad, and surrounding mountain communities.

The church's present sanctuary dates to 1868, with a supporting beam bearing that date discovered during later renovations. The sanctuary pews are also reportedly constructed from trees harvested in 1867 and transported by horse and wagon to be milled. As the lumber era ended and the local population declined, the congregation experienced significant change. A renewed chapter began in 1960, when ten members of a newly forming congregation were baptized in Pine Creek. The church subsequently developed relationships with the Northumberland Baptist Association and American Baptist Churches, while moving from primarily itinerant or visiting ministers toward more consistent pastoral leadership beginning in the 1970s.

Generations of members have worked to preserve the historic building while adapting it for ministry. In 1997, the congregation completed extensive renovations and dedicated an approximately 800-square-foot addition. Improvements included structural reinforcement, a new roof, accessibility upgrades, windows, carpeting, air conditioning, insulation, electrical work, and, significantly, indoor plumbing and restroom facilities. Another addition was completed in 2008, continuing the congregation's investment in its historic property.

Today, Cedar Run Community Church continues its Christian witness in the Pine Creek Valley from its historic setting along Route 414. The church building reflects both the simplicity of a rural congregation and the generations of care invested in preserving its heritage. Through changes in the local economy, population, and community, Cedar Run has maintained a Christian presence in the area, carrying forward a Baptist witness of more than 175 years and a tradition of Christian worship in the Pine Creek Valley extending more than two centuries.

WHAT GUIDES US

VISION

The church's vision is best understood as remaining a faithful, Christ-centered church in a small rural community while reaching beyond its size and location with the gospel.

MISSION

Cedar Run Community Church exists to proclaim Jesus Christ, faithfully teach God's Word, lead people to a saving knowledge of Christ, and nurture believers in a life of faithful Christian discipleship and service.

VALUES

Biblical Faithfulness: Scripture, the gospel, and the saving work of Jesus Christ are central to the church's identity and ministry.

Evangelism: The church desires people to know Christ personally and places importance on Christians sharing their faith with family, friends, and others.

Discipleship: Christian faith is understood as a lived commitment to follow and serve Christ, not simply participation in Sunday worship.

Prayer and Christian Community: As a small rural congregation, relationships, mutual care, and life together are important elements of church life.

Service: Faith is expressed through tangible service to others. Members of Cedar Run Community Church have participated in ministries providing food, clothing, medical supplies, and other necessities internationally, including direct mission.

Missions: The congregation has demonstrated a concern for gospel ministry beyond Cedar Run, including direct support for missionary work and participation in international ministry.

● THE CHURCH

A FAMILY-STYLE CONGREGATION WITH A HISTORY OF FAITHFULNESS.



Cedar Run Community Church is a small, close-knit Baptist congregation in one of Pennsylvania's most beautiful rural settings. The church currently has 125 people in weekly worship, gathering in one Sunday service at its single campus. Worship is traditional Baptist worship with an openness to familiar evangelical praise and worship music. The church's annual budget is \$125,000, and the church carries no debt.

Cedar Run operates under a congregational form of governance, with the congregation holding ultimate authority as established in the church's governing documents. The church is an autonomous Baptist congregation with historic ties to the Northumberland Baptist Association and American Baptist Churches.

The church's historic 1868 building can seat 250 people and combines the character of a country church with practical improvements made across generations. Its setting along Route 414 in the Pine Creek Valley reinforces the church's identity as a longstanding rural congregation.

● WORSHIP STYLE

TRADITIONAL BAPTIST WORSHIP, ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE.

Cedar Run Community Church gathers for traditional Baptist worship with an openness to familiar evangelical praise and worship music. Worship is Christ-centered, biblically grounded, and designed to encourage meaningful congregational participation. The church values the heritage of traditional Baptist worship while remaining open to expressions of worship that connect across generations and help the congregation engage with God's Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

● MINISTRY & IMPACT

RELATIONAL MINISTRY IN A RECREATION DESTINATION.

Cedar Run Community Church's ministries reflect the relational character of a small rural congregation. Sunday worship and biblical teaching form the center of church life, complemented by Christian education, discipleship, fellowship, congregational care, missions, and outreach. The church has demonstrated a particular commitment to missions through financial support, hands-on service projects, and members personally participating in mission work. Cedar Run gives 10% of its budget to missions, along with 20% of its investments and designated giving.

Cedar Run's unique location provides a natural opportunity for outreach. Much of Brown Township is wilderness, with extensive hiking and biking trails that draw significant numbers of weekend visitors to the Pine Creek Valley. As a result, Cedar Run regularly welcomes people who are visiting the area, giving the church a ministry reach that extends well beyond its relatively small local population. The church intentionally uses these encounters as opportunities to share God's Word, providing Scripture cards to visitors and distributing more than 6,000 over the past ten years.

One of Cedar Run's greatest wins has been the **faithfulness and tenacity of its core congregation**, which remained committed to the church through a difficult pastoral season. That perseverance is now producing encouraging signs of renewed health: worship attendance is gradually rebounding, interest and participation in Adult Sunday School are growing, and attendance at Men's Breakfast and Women's Fellowship is increasing. The church has also been greatly encouraged by continued strong and generous giving, demonstrating the congregation's ongoing commitment to Cedar Run and its future.

Cedar Run's greatest opportunity is to **strengthen its gospel presence within the local community while intentionally reaching the many visitors and vacationers** who come to the Pine Creek Valley. Building on its natural connection with weekend visitors, the church has an opportunity to develop simple, relational outreach efforts that welcome people, share Christ, and create meaningful connections with both year-round residents and those God brings through the community each season.

Cedar Run Community Church's greatest challenge will be building upon its faithful history while adapting to a changing community and developing a sustainable ministry for the future. As longtime residents age, some are relocating to be closer to medical care and other services, while many of their homes are being purchased as weekend or vacation properties. This creates a unique ministry environment where the year-round population is increasingly limited, but the community can swell significantly on weekends with vacation homeowners and visitors. At the same time, Cedar Run is beginning to see some retirees and empty nesters choose the area as their permanent home.

The next pastor will need to help the church navigate these changing demographics by **strengthening discipleship and developing leaders** among its core congregation while finding meaningful ways to reach both year-round residents and the growing population of weekenders and visitors. Cedar Run's challenge is not to become a different kind of church, but to remain faithful to who it is while adapting its ministry to the changing community God has placed around it.

● THEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS

BIBLICAL FAITH, PERSONAL COMMITMENT, ETERNAL HOPE.



Cedar Run Community Church is an autonomous Baptist congregation that holds to essential Christian convictions. The church believes that **Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord**, and membership requires a personal confession of Jesus Christ as Savior. The church is committed to personal conversion: church membership is tied to an individual's personal confession of faith in Christ rather than simply family, community, or denominational affiliation.

Cedar Run practices believer's baptism, and those joining the church are baptized as believers to demonstrate their commitment through baptism by either immersion or sprinkling. Christian discipleship is central to the church's understanding of the Christian life, with an expectation of living a Christian life and actively supporting the ministry of the church through attendance, financial support, time, and talents.

Cedar Run Community Church holds to several theological convictions as essential to its identity. The church is not universalist and believes that Jesus is the only way to salvation. The congregation holds to eternal security. Cedar Run also holds orthodox views on marriage and gender.

Local-church accountability is important to Cedar Run's congregational life, and membership requires the consent of a majority of members present at a properly constituted church meeting.

● THE POSITION

PREACHING, SHEPHERDING, AND PATIENT LEADERSHIP.



The Head Pastor will provide biblical, pastoral, and relational leadership to Cedar Run Community Church, serving as the primary preacher and teacher while shepherding the congregation with genuine care. In this small, family-style rural church, ministry is deeply relational; the pastor should seek to know the congregation, understand its history and culture, become part of the surrounding community, and provide steady, patient leadership rooted in Scripture and prayer.

The pastor will preach and teach faithfully, keeping Scripture and the gospel of Jesus Christ central while encouraging spiritual maturity, discipleship, prayer, and Christian obedience. As a shepherd, the pastor will develop meaningful relationships with individuals and families, provide prayer, visitation, biblical counsel, encouragement, and pastoral care during significant life circumstances, and participate in weddings, funerals, baptisms, the Lord's Supper, and other appropriate occasions. The pastor will also identify and develop emerging leaders and equip members to use their gifts and take ownership of the church's ministry.

Working within Cedar Run's congregational form of governance, the Head Pastor will provide spiritual leadership while collaborating respectfully with elected lay leaders and church members. The pastor will offer biblical and pastoral guidance in decisions about the church's ministry and future, communicate openly, evaluate ministries, encourage healthy stewardship, and approach significant change with patience and an understanding of the congregation's history and context. Given the church's lean ministry structure, the pastor will also coordinate appropriately, recruit and encourage volunteers, and promote shared responsibility for ministry.

The Head Pastor will encourage Cedar Run to look beyond itself by modeling and supporting evangelism, missions, and practical service throughout the Pine Creek Valley and surrounding communities. The pastor will build relationships within the community and help the congregation recognize its responsibility to share the gospel and demonstrate the love of Christ. The pastor is accountable to the congregation and serves as its primary spiritual and pastoral leader, consistent with the church's governing documents and congregational form of governance.

● THE CANDIDATE

RELATIONAL SHEPHERDS WHO LOVE RURAL MINISTRY.

Cedar Run Community Church is looking for a Head Pastor who genuinely loves people, preaches God's Word faithfully, and possesses the relational intelligence and patience necessary to shepherd a small rural congregation well. The ideal pastor will understand that effective ministry in Cedar Run is deeply relational. He will desire to know the people he serves, understand the history and culture of the congregation, become part of the surrounding community, and provide steady, patient leadership rooted in Scripture and prayer.

Cedar Run's next pastor should appreciate the church's history and the faithful ministry that has preceded him while helping the congregation discern and pursue God's direction for its next season. He should view Cedar Run not simply as a position to fill, but as a people and community to know, love, shepherd, and serve.

The ideal candidate will bring strong interpersonal communication skills, listening carefully, communicating clearly, and relating naturally across generations. He will demonstrate competence in conflict and relationship management, handling disagreement, sensitive situations, and longstanding relationships with wisdom, discretion, and grace. He will possess the ability to develop volunteers, identifying people's gifts, inviting participation, and equipping others to share responsibility for ministry. Because Cedar Run has no extensive staff support, the pastor will need strong personal organization and self-management skills, managing preaching, pastoral care, administration, and competing ministry demands reliably.

The ideal pastor will be an equipper who builds and leads teams of volunteers who carry out the ministry. He will embrace a missional approach, focusing on equipping and sending people out into the community rather than simply attracting people to programs. He should be patient, allowing relationships, trust, and progress to develop over time without forcing outcomes. He should demonstrate emotional maturity, possessing self-awareness, handling disagreement and disappointment appropriately, and remaining steady through challenging seasons.

Biblical preacher

Relational shepherd

Collaborative leader

Volunteer equipper

Contextually intelligent

Patient

Emotionally mature

Loves rural ministry

● NON-STARTERS

PROTECTING BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS AND CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH.

Cedar Run is looking for a pastor who affirms that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, holds to eternal security, and maintains orthodox biblical views on marriage and gender. The church also needs a pastor who understands that effective ministry in Cedar Run requires relational intelligence, the ability to work collaboratively with lay leaders and volunteers, and the patience to lead a small congregation well rather than attempting to carry the ministry alone.

Universalism

Denies eternal security

Unorthodox views on marriage

Unorthodox views on gender

Poor relational skills

Cannot work with volunteers

Impatient with small churches

● FIRST-YEAR GOALS

BUILDING TRUST, DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS, FAITHFUL MINISTRY.

In the first year, Cedar Run Community Church would like its new Head Pastor to focus first on knowing and loving the people, earning their trust, and becoming genuinely connected to life in the Cedar Run community. Rather than arriving with an immediate agenda for change, the pastor should listen well, learn the church's history and culture, understand its strengths and challenges, and build meaningful relationships across the congregation.

As he learns the church and its people, he should establish a consistent rhythm of faithful biblical preaching and teaching while demonstrating the heart of a shepherd through prayer, visitation, personal care, and presence in the everyday lives of the congregation.

Working collaboratively with the church's lay leaders, the pastor should take time to understand how ministry currently functions and where opportunities exist for greater spiritual health and effectiveness. As relationships and trust develop, he can begin helping the congregation strengthen discipleship, encourage greater member involvement, and identify practical ways to reach families and individuals in Cedar Run and the surrounding Pine Creek Valley. His leadership should be patient and relational, honoring the church's history while helping its people discern together where God may be leading them.

By the end of the first year, success would look less like launching numerous new programs and more like a pastor who has become part of the church and community, has earned the trust of the congregation through consistent biblical ministry and genuine pastoral care, and has developed a meaningful understanding of the people and context he has been called to serve. The hope is for a congregation that is spiritually encouraged and increasingly engaged, along with an emerging shared sense of how Cedar Run can faithfully pursue its mission in the years ahead.

● THE TEAM

A COMMITTED CONGREGATION AND ELECTED LAY LEADERS.

Cedar Run Community Church's Head Pastor will work collaboratively with the congregation and its elected lay leaders. Cedar Run operates under a congregational form of governance, with the congregation holding ultimate authority as established in the church's governing documents. The pastor will be accountable to the congregation while serving as its primary spiritual and pastoral leader.

Because Cedar Run has limited staff, the pastor will work closely with volunteers who carry out the church's ministry. Additionally, part-time staff include a secretary, treasurer, grounds person, pianist, and AV tech.

The congregation has demonstrated faithfulness and commitment through challenging seasons, and the pastor will have the opportunity to equip, encourage, and develop these members as they share responsibility for the church's mission.

● PUBLIC JOB POSTING

HEAD PASTOR

Cedar Run Community Church is seeking a Head Pastor to provide biblical, pastoral, and relational leadership to its close-knit, independent Baptist congregation of approximately 125 people. Located in the beautiful Pine Creek Valley of central Pennsylvania, Cedar Run has maintained a faithful Christian presence in this rural community for more than 175 years.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Head Pastor will:

- Preach and teach God's Word with biblical faithfulness, keeping Scripture and the gospel of Jesus Christ central to worship and discipleship.
- Shepherd the congregation relationally through prayer, visitation, encouragement, biblical counsel, and pastoral care during both joyful and difficult seasons of life.
- Develop and disciple people by mentoring members, identifying emerging leaders, equipping volunteers, and encouraging members to use their gifts in ministry.
- Lead collaboratively with elected lay leaders and the congregation, respecting Cedar Run's congregational form of governance while providing spiritual and pastoral guidance.
- Strengthen the church's mission by encouraging evangelism, missions, Christian fellowship, and practical service throughout the Pine Creek Valley and surrounding communities.
- Provide steady leadership for a small church, bringing organization, communication, resourcefulness, and a willingness to work alongside volunteers in a lean ministry environment.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will be a mature Christian leader who:

- Demonstrates a strong commitment to Scripture, prayer, and Christ-centered ministry.
- Builds genuine relationships and enjoys knowing and caring for people.
- Communicates effectively and demonstrates wisdom in relationships and conflict.
- Equips and encourages others rather than carrying ministry alone.
- Understands and embraces the opportunities and challenges of small-community life.
- Is patient, versatile, organized, and able to lead effectively with limited staff and resources.
- Brings a missional perspective and a desire to become meaningfully connected to the surrounding community.

COMPENSATION

Annual Compensation: \$60,000–\$65,000

A small additional budget is available for continuing education and conferences. Additionally, a parsonage is provided (2,300 sq. ft. home w/ 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms, including utilities, snow removal, lawn mowing, phone, internet, etc.).

Cedar Run Community Church is seeking a pastor who will faithfully serve Christ through biblical preaching, relational shepherding, discipleship, and shared ministry while becoming a meaningful part of the congregation and the Pine Creek Valley community.

Cedar Run Community Church asks that interested candidates work directly with Chemistry Staffing at this time. Please do not contact the church directly. Thank you!

APPLY NOW