

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Community UCC
St. Germain, WI

Minister

Wisconsin Conference

April 3, 2020

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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*“God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that
having all sufficiency in all things at all times,
you may abound in every good work.”
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

1. POSITION POSTING

a. LISTING INFORMATION

- b. SCOPE OF WORK
- c. COMPENSATION & SUPPORT
- d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: **Community UCC**

Street address: **1315 Highway 155, St. Germain, WI 54558**

Supplemental web links: **www.uccstgermain.org**

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Germain-United-Church-of-Christ-101703956577045/>

Conference: Wisconsin

Association:

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person (Name, Title, Phone, Email):

Rev Rob MacDougall

Wisconsin Conference ACM

715-308-6120

rmacdougall@wcucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

Community UCC is a small, friendly church in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. We're seeking a pastor who will lead us each Sunday in worship, actively participate in our community and help us grow with families and young adults.

Photographs: *See also:* **www.uccstgermain.org**

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Germain-United-Church-of-Christ-101703956577045/>



What we value about living in our area:

Life in the Northwoods of Wisconsin includes all outdoor activities all year long (e.g., swimming, kayaking, hunting, fishing, canoeing, snowmobiling, etc.) associated with the many lakes, bike trails, state/federal forests, ski trails and services in the area. St. Germain is a small, friendly community with strong family values and significant seasonal residents. Community wide activities (Lions club, Women’s Service club, craft shows, weekly Flea Market) bring the community together. One of UCC’s premier family camps, Moon Beach, is located just 5 miles from our sanctuary. There are highly rated schools and medical facilities in the area.

Current size of membership: **122 members**

Languages used in ministry: **English**

Position Title: **Minister**

Position Duration: **Settled – a called position intended for long-term ministry**

Compensation Level: **Full Time**

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? **Yes**

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Core Competencies:

An effective speaker who generally follows traditional worship that relates to people of all ages, inspiring the congregation to develop their spiritual life through effective leadership. Our pastor needs to be outgoing in the community, willing to make hospital and home visits, developing active participation in the church school, youth groups, confirmation and community projects. Our pastor must be compassionate, approachable and caring.

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis:

Our pastor's salary and benefit package follows the Conference guidelines according to the size of our church and the experience of the pastor.

Benefits:

Salary plus Benefits

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Living nearby with a housing allowance.

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.

Homes for sale and rent within a 10-mile radius provide many pleasant local opportunities with minimal commute to our church.

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference:

Weekly breakfast with local ministers from multiple denominations is a tradition - providing support and guidance from other clergy. We have always supported professional development opportunities/training for our pastors.

If applicable, describe how your church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment:

Consideration will be given to reasonable requests.

1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

Our pastor should attend committee and Consistory meetings in an advisory capacity to, working cooperatively with lay leaders to guide them toward decisions that are best for our congregation and community. Our minister should show a strong commitment to the educational ministry of the church through active participation in the church school, youth groups, confirmation, and adult Bible studies.

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

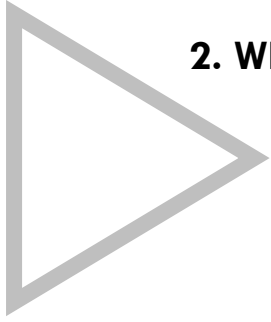
- 1. Sunday messages will help us make conscious choices in our relationships at home, work, and community that reflect our understanding that all people are children of God.**
- 2. Involvement in community outreach is important; representing Community UCC as an integral piece of our community.**

Specify language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in a next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation's sense of calling.

N/A

Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas.

- 1. Lead Sunday worship, based on scripture, relating message to all ages, including anecdotes, humor and bringing relevance to daily life.**
- 2. Grow congregation through development of family ministry.**
- 3. Provide cohesive leadership and direction through advisory capacity, working cooperatively with lay leaders of committees, Thrift Shop and Consistory.**
- 4. Demonstrate community involvement through local activities and active participation in hospital and home visits.**



2. WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

Our congregation strives each day to be open and welcoming to anyone who would like to share our belief in Jesus Christ as our savior.

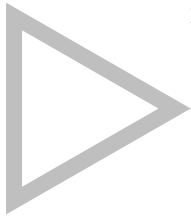
Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

As in many smaller, rural communities, one of the challenges is finding ways to keep young people in the community and engaged in the church and community service. Community UCC provides Wednesday church school and middle-and high-school youth group programs to ANY youth in the community. Youth participation in worship services, community projects, and outreach/mission projects is encouraged and wholly supported by the congregation.

The area supports a thriving tourism-based industry as well as a large retired population, but we have our share of unemployed and/or low-income residents as well. CUCC provides assistance to low income families through the Thrift Store (which is staffed by volunteers six days per week), Sharing our Joys (a weekly collection for local families in need), and through other local volunteer efforts.

With an aging population, we find an increasing need for ministry to the elderly, including visits to hospitalized individuals, shut-ins and long-term care residents.

Community service is a hallmark for Community UCC, sharing our faith and support to all.



3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

We believe that the scripture is God's word given to us through the grace of our lord Jesus Christ. We believe in an open and welcoming environment that will provide spiritual growth to anyone who cares to share their faith journey with us. We believe that Christ's spirit is with us every day and our goal as Christians is to share it with others each day.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- 1. Friendly and welcoming, enjoying fellowship and being social**
- 2. Active and engaged in the community through volunteering**
- 3. Close knit family environment**
- 4. Strong commitment to Christ**

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

Our worship services generally follow a traditional structure. Scripture passages are given context and meaning, followed by anecdotes, stories, and current examples (all designed to give scripture meaning in our lives, events and environment). We celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month- an important part of our congregation’s journey. A children’s message is always offered prior to optional child care.

Describe the educational program/faith formation vision of your church.

Learning about Christ's journey and how it impacts us daily is a critical aspect throughout our congregation. Church school, Youth Fellowship, Bible Study, Men's Fellowship and Thrift Store activities all involve active and strong participation from everyone in our congregation. Lay leadership is critical to our congregation. Growth as Christians is a lifelong passage which our active members embrace. We encourage our youth to be involved in the daily life of our church, our outreach (both local and mission) and our worship services.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

Everyone in the congregation has the opportunity to take an active part in our day-to-day activities. While the minister is our spiritual leader and is expected to be involved in all our church activities, the leadership of our congregation is shared by all. Growth is a critical aspect in our continued development as an active member in our local community.

- When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month?

Consistory meets at least monthly, most committees meet at least quarterly (or as needed) and Men's fellowship and Thrift Store Board meet monthly.

- Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished?

The home of a congregation member was destroyed in a fire last winter. The congregation supported her with prayers, food, financial support and temporary housing during the stressful ensuing days.

Our church has consistently supported disaster victims throughout the nation.

- Can you provide the next minister with a copy of an organization structure, bylaws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church's activity and governance? **Yes**

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

Available on request

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	106	X
Number of active non-members:	30	X
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	136	X

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	75	X
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	25	X
Less than 5 years:	24	X

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
8%	8%	5%	10%	10%	10%	20%	20%	5%	X

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	10%	X
Households with minors:	25%	X
Single adults age 35-65:	10%	X
Joint households with no minors:	30%	X
Single adults over 65:	20%	X

Education level of adult participants by percentage: (Estimates)

		<i>Is this number an estimate? X</i>
High school:	91%	X
College:	53%	X
Graduate School:	17%	X
Specialty Training:	82%	X
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? X</i>
Adults who are employed:	35%	X
Adults who are retired:	65%	X
Adults who are not fully employed:	41%	X

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

Our congregation is employed by a variety of occupations:

- 1. Tourism related industry such as restaurants and resorts**
- 2. Professional; careers in health care, education and natural resources**
- 3. Construction and caretaking**

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?

We are with a primarily northern European heritage with a small percentage of native Americans.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)?

Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:

Although our congregation has not had a formal discussion on welcoming diversity, everyone is welcome at Community UCC.

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation.

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? <i>(list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff)</i>
Adult Groups or Classes	17	Lay leaders/pastor
Baptisms <i>(number last year)</i>	0	
Children's Groups or Classes	12	Lay leaders/pastor
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	90C / 85 E	Pastor/ worship committee
Church-wide Meals	85	Lay leaders/pastor
Choirs and Music Groups	13	Organist, choir
Church-based Bible Study	2-5	Lay leaders/pastor
Communion <i>(served how often?)</i>	98% (monthly)	Lay leaders/pastor
Community Meals	100	
Confirmation <i>(number last year)</i>	0	
Drama or Dance Program	n/a	
Funerals <i>(number last year)</i>	8	
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship	n/a	
Prayer or Meditation Groups	3	Lay leaders/pastor
Public Advocacy Work		Volunteers
Retreats		
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings <i>(number last year)</i>	3	
Worship (time slot: __ 9:30 __)	40- 85	Pastor/ worship committee
Worship (time slot: _____)		
Young Adult Groups or Classes		
Youth Groups or Classes	8	Lay leaders/pastor
Other		

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. N/A

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staff person serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Administrative Assistant		Part Time	Consistory	20
Cleaning Service		Part Time	Consistory	20
Youth Director		Part Time	Pastor	1
Music Director		Part Time	Consistory	Currently not filled

REFLECTION

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation’s overall ministry?

We are a small, active congregation made up primarily of adults.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income and expenses:

See attached Profit & Loss and Budget Reports

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church?

No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year?

Yes Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)

Yes One Great Hour of Sharing

No Strengthen the Church

No Neighbors in Need

Yes Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage?

Our giving is based on the recommendation from the Wisconsin Conference and the current financial situation of the church.

What is the church's current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: **\$128,616**

Reason for debt: **Renovations and updates to sanctuary, Gathering Room, Fellowship Hall and parking lot.**

Are capital and other payments current? **Yes**

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: **N/A**

Does your church have an endowment? **No**

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$31,609

Investments (other than endowment): \$16,316

Does your church have a parsonage? **No, but a housing allowance is provided.**

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

Our charming sanctuary seats 130 people and is highlighted by a lovely stained-glass window. Large side windows allow the splendor of the Northwoods to surround us during our worship services. Our sanctuary includes an organ, a piano, and seating for our choir. Our newly expanded Gathering Room allows a comfortable setting for fellowship and meetings, and has a closed-circuit TV for use during worship services. The addition of our Fellowship Hall 15 years ago is made up of a seating area for 175 people, a fully equipped kitchen and bathroom facilities. Our lower level consists of multiple classrooms used for education and meeting purposes. An elevator allows handicapped accessibility to all levels. Our outside grounds comprise of a Memorial Garden, mature trees, and a paved parking area.

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

The church leases a 16,000 square foot commercial building in downtown St. Germain which houses our Thrift Store business.

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

All facilities are wheelchair accessible.

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry?

Community UCC follows a fairly conservative financial model. While we occasionally borrow for large projects, we faithfully fulfill our obligations and have always paid off our loans before end of term.

3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

The creation and growth of our Thrift Store has significantly enhanced our service to our community, while providing revenue to meet our annual budget.

Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past.

Community UCC recently completed an upgrade and remodel to our sanctuary and parlor area, resulting in a more open, comfortable gathering space, as well as new hardwood flooring on the altar, new carpeting throughout, and all new lighting and state-of the art sound and audio visual systems. During construction, worship services were held in the Fellowship Hall. All phases of the project were coordinated by a committee made up of members of the congregation – once again, showing that leadership from our lay members plays a significant role in the growth and survival of our church.

Every church has conflict, some minor, some larger. “Where two or three are gathered, there will be disagreement....” Describe your congregation’s values and practices when it comes to conflict.

When conflicts arise, one-on-one counseling, group “town hall” meetings and formal conflict resolution discussions have been utilized.

Ministerial History

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Christopher Mehlhoff	2 years/ 9 months	Y
Dan Borchers	4 years/ 1 month	?
Richard Feyhen	3 years/ 9 months	Y
Joel Huenemann	10 years	Y

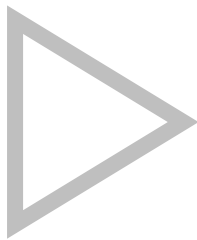
Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

We are a fairly conservative congregation, made up primarily of adults who greatly desire to encourage ourselves and others to join in our faith and live lives centered around the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. We look to our minister to lead us through that journey and help us with expanding our faith throughout our community.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination? **No**

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? **No**

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church? **No**



4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?

Much of our ministry is focused on local activities and services. Ten percent of profits from our Thrift Store is donated to local charities on a monthly basis. Congregation members are active in a number of local service clubs and organizations. Church school and youth group programs are available to ANY CHILD who wishes to participate.

Beyond the borders of our own community, we regularly participate in OGHS , and our youth group, along with adult volunteers have participated in a number of wider missions including the Appalachian Service Project and the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Describe your congregation’s participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ (association / conference / national setting).

Our ministers have attended conference and national UCC meetings as part of their leadership development. A group of us meet with the Association Minister whenever he travels to the Northwoods. Occasionally, UCC churches in the Northwoods have meetings to discuss opportunities, challenges and issues facing our small congregations.

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using language shared with other UCC congregations. (Find more information as desired at ucc.org.)

Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other UCC designations: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Designations from other denominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I’M) | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

Reflect on what the above statement(s) mean(s) to your community. Is your congregation interested in working toward any of the above statements of witness in the near future?

Everyone is welcome to share our vision of Christ as our savior. We live that in our daily lives and through our local ministry.

Describe your congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional).

We meet with the Association Minister as part of his focus on the needs of the Northwoods congregations, as well as with local churches facing many of the same issues. We have participated with other local churches in shared services. The goal is always to become better messengers in our faith.

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out. N/A

Reflect on the scope of work assigned to your pastor(s). How is their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation's expectations on their time?

Our pastor's scope of work varies based on the needs of the congregation and the community.

4b. MISSION InSite

How do your congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to the neighborhoods adjacent to your church, and other neighborhoods with which your church connects?

Community UCC's demographics closely correspond to our local community, which includes a large population of retired persons and seasonal fluctuations in attendance due to the high number of summer residents and visitors.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

We are told we're a very friendly church who is appreciated for our service to the community.

What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

People feel a strong sense of welcome and friendliness.

5. REFERENCES

Name up to three people who have agreed to serve as phone and written references. Advise the three references: “The contact information you provide may be shared publicly. Please use contact information that you feel comfortable giving to candidates so they can reach you with their questions.”

Make sure they are not members of your church but are persons who know your church well enough to be helpful to candidates seeking more information. Request a letter from each reference in answer to the four prompts below. Attach the letters (up to three) as desired.

REFERENCE 1

Joel Huenemann

St. Germain UCC fulltime pastor 1995- 2005

Current interim pastor

218-428-7300

joelhuenemann@gmail.com

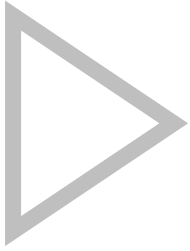
REFERENCE 2

Jan Robbins

Non-member friend of church

920-960-4045

Jan.robbins@robbinsmfg.com



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

- a. CLOSING PRAYER
- b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT
- c. CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Include here any prayer or dream for the minister you imagine journeying toward you... a poem, for example, or a Scripture passage or a piece of music that is meaningful to your Search Committee:

We are a community of Christ's people. Come join us on the journey.

We don't pretend to be perfect, but with God's help we try to be authentic. The door is open, the coffee pot is on, come as you are.

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?

Search Committee, Consistory, Treasurer, Secretary

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed:

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

The congregation is currently in good standing with the association / conference named.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Rob MacDougall". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Name / Title: Rev. Rob MacDougall/Associate Conference Minister

Email: rmacdougall@wcucc.org

Phone: 715-308-6120

Date: April 3, 2020

Jan Robbins

Cell 920-960-4045 call or text

jan.robbins@robbinsmfg.com

Non-member of Community United Church of Christ, but member of another UCC in the state

Areas of strength:

My husband and I have attended this church for 2 decades when we are in this beautiful northwoods town. The church's strengths include a welcoming congregation on arrival to church, many long-term members that care about this church, and a well-kept church in a quiet setting. The ministers that have lead our worship have all brought their style and message to the congregation and each has helped us learn and grow in our faith. There is Bible study, a periodic children and an adult choir, performances by the children, a men's breakfast group (as I understand has some food, of course, a lesson and some group maintenance activities). We have a dedicated group that contribute their time to run the local thrift shop, which gives to charities and helps with the bottom line of the finances of the church. I am not aware of any dissention among the parishioners. I look forward to seeing our friends at church when we are in town.

Areas for improvement:

I would like to attract more families and young people to our church through Sunday attendance, church school and choir. As they spend more time, they will grow to understand the messages of the bible and to be a part of the church. These families add their special energy to the mix.

I want to be able to offer the next minister the full package of income with benefits. This is challenging in a smaller congregation.

We have a time during the service to go and 'pass the peace' by greeting all those in attendance. It is during the service, joyful, but lengthy, and it seems to be interrupting the service. Now that we have opened our entrance area of the church, maybe we could come earlier to greet one another or at the fellowship gathering following the service.

I might like to see a monthly women's group with food like the men have.

Significant experience:

I have enjoyed the services we had at the park, and the one at the local church camp.

3.October.20198

I was the full-time, installed pastor of Community United Church of Christ in St. Germain from 1995-2004. I am now serving as the part-time interim pastor while the church looks for a new pastor. I am pleased to share these reflections on a congregation which I have enjoyed serving.

What has always impressed me about Community UCC in St. Germain is its ability to welcome new people and new ideas. Much of the growth of the church in St. Germain comes when people move to the area, often from Milwaukee and Chicago, and bring with them their ideas of doing church. They bring with them new ideas for worship, for education, for mission and for fellowship. The congregation is able to welcome those new people, and find ways to incorporate the new and different ideas of ministry and mission that they bring into the life of the church.

One risk that churches in the Northwoods, such as Community UCC in St. Germain, run is to seek to be the cozy church in the pines that the many visitors and tourists love to come back to year after year. While it is important to maintain that rustic feel, it is also important to be ever growing, expanding and changing to meet the spiritual needs of the next generation. Community UCC is good at maintaining its rustic charm, but is sometimes challenged to welcome change and a new perspective.

One dramatic change that the congregation has embraced is the thrift store the church runs. What began in a corner of the Fellowship Hall, has now become a major retail space in the strip mall that is downtown St. Germain. It is a wonderful combination of ministry and mission, unique to St. Germain. Like all thrift stores, it give people a place to bring goods to be reused while giving others a chance to purchase needed household items at a reduced price. Several times a year already low prices are reduced by half. Volunteers working in the thrift store at first were just church members, but now also community members are volunteering. They all find it to be an enjoyable experience. The profits of the store support both Community UCC, and each month a donation (often \$500 or more) is made to a charitable organization in the area.

Rev. Joel Huenemann

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



This document is created through support to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

“Jesus answered them, ‘Have faith in God!’” – Mark 11:22