

Profile for the
United Congregational Christian Church of Lodi, 2018

Listing Information

The United Congregational Christian Church of Lodi (UCC/DOC)
701 S. Hutchins Street, Lodi, California 95240

lodiunitedchurch@att.net

lodiunitedchurch.org (website)

Duly aligned with the: United Church of Christ & Christian Church Disciples of Christ, which we financially support.

Member of the Sacramento Valley Association (UCC)

See Annual Report (See attached)





Summary Ministry Description

The United Church is seeking to continue our mission in the community and attend to the needs of our congregation, as well as grow our congregation with the help of a strong, caring “preacher” who can inspire us through the worship experience.

Who Are We Now?

This Church holds that living in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ is the true test of discipleship. All members shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of their own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

Although this congregation is predominantly older, with many personal as well as spiritual needs, there is also present a spirit of compassion, of sharing, and a deep desire to be God’s people. Since 1872 we have had a presence in the Lodi community. In 1987 the First Congregational Church and the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ merged to form the United Congregational Christian Church. In 2014, the congregation adopted the Open and Affirming designation. The United Church is financially stable, and able to call and support a one-half time English speaking pastor.

We have three outside preschool groups and one home schooling group that use our facility. This blessing brings over \$10,000.00 per month of income. We currently have around 85 active members with approximately 40 members in attendance on Sundays. Approximately half of the congregation is over 75 years of age. We have very few children under 13.

What we value about living in our area

Because we have been in the community for 146 years, some of our church families can trace back participation in our church life for many years. Lodi is an agricultural community of @65,000 people. We encourage you to go to the City of Lodi website to find out more details about the community. www.Lodi.gov



Position Title: Pastor

Scope of Work

1. The United Congregational Christian Church is searching for a strong “preacher” who can inspire our worship experience.
2. We need a person interested in calling on visitors and member of the congregation needing pastoral care. A pastor who is caring, sensitive and sociable.
3. The role of the pastor is to lead by example; to provide vision, organization, theological expertise, spiritual guidance, and moral courage; and to empower the laity in their leadership roles.
4. The person must have strong leadership skills who will assist and motivate the congregation to carry out its mission: “to love God, to nurture ourselves and others in love and spiritual growth, and to live God’s love in service to the community and the world.”

This is a “contracted, half-time position (1040 hours per year, 20 hours per week) that exceeds the conference’s “minimum baseline salary (\$27 per hour).

Yearly Salary \$29,000

Social Security Offset @ \$ 2,219*

Pension Annuity \$4,060*

Total **\$35,279* approximation**

Who is God Calling to Minister With Us?

We need a person who can work with our exceptional staff which consists of a part-time pastor, part-time associate pastor, office manager, music leader, pianist, organist and two custodians and the congregation to continue the United Church’s focus of tithing 10% of total giving to M.O.R.E. – an acronym for Missions, Out-Reach and Evangelism.

We have several ongoing missions in which we participate:

Hope Harbor Shelter Meal Preparation - @23 years

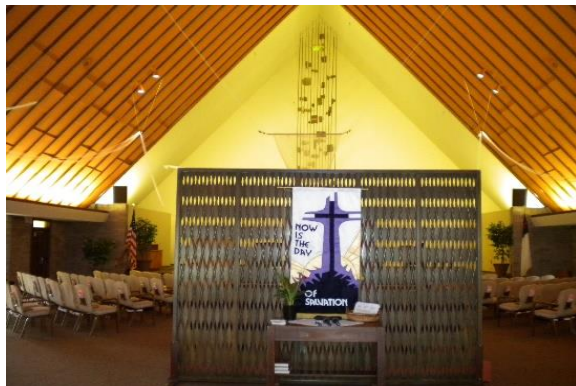
Once a month United Church provides, prepares, and serves dinner to @120 homeless people at the Lodi Salvation Army Shelter.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - @ 10 years

Once a month some members of the congregation meet to knit and crochet shawls. The shawls are blessed and distributed to those in need of comfort.

Mission Garden - @ 9 years

Thousands of pounds of produce are planted, picked and delivered to various food banks in the area. In 2018, focus was shifted to fruit trees.

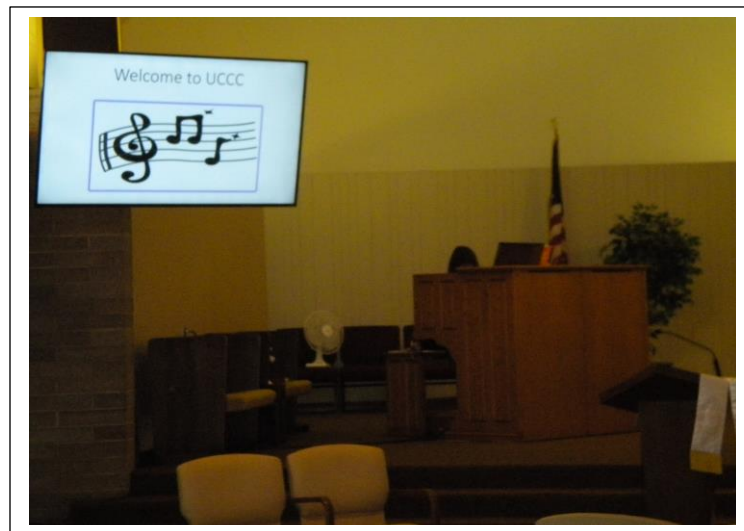


Describe what worship is like when the United church gathers:

United has an energized choir with an organist (on a Rogers organ) and pianist (on a baby grand piano) who enhance the worship experience.

The parishioners' worship experience begins the moment they walk into the open and expansive lobby and sanctuary. A large sign of welcoming greets them in the sanctuary. There is "gathering music" with overhead TV's displaying the lyrics led by our organist, pianist and music leader. After a moment for joys, announcements and welcomes, the congregation settles into the traditional call to worship and an uplifting opening hymn. Then, because of its importance, the community of faith brings forth "matters of concern" for pastoral and congregational prayer.

The Chancel Choir prepares the worshippers for prayer. Special choral music, offerings, holy scripture and a liturgical pulpit reflection by the Pastor is followed by a celebrative closing hymn, benediction and a time of food and fellowship. We share Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month.



Lay Leadership of the Church

The congregation has a "General Board" of elected members who faithfully meet after worship on the second Sunday of every month. The Board handles the major decisions of the church. There is a printed agenda each month. Currently there are eight voting members on the General Board, with duly elected officers. The church has a congregationally approved set of by-laws, and annual report which explain the patterns of the activity of the church. Last year's annual report is presented every year. A copy of the annual report for 2017 follows.