**Church in the Wildwood, Green Mt. Falls, Colorado**

[**http://www.church-in-the-wildwood.org/**](http://www.church-in-the-wildwood.org/)

**Preliminary Profile for Designated Pastor Search**

***Over the past several years the Church in the Wildwood has experienced pastoral transitions concurrent with the shifts and changes taking place across the wider religious landscape. We also are experiencing a static membership that cannot now support a full-time pastor. We are seeking a designated pastor to provide a healing, nurturing presence within our community, one who will help us assess our current ministry to move it into a sustainable, life-giving, ministry. With this background in mind,*** we are searching for a **Designated Pastor who has the following qualities**:

* Competent public speaker, delivers uplifting sermons that inspire, draw on personal experience
* Personable and outgoing, easy to talk to, engaged with the congregation
* Provides support, encouragement, and direction for members and friends to find their own missions and roles
* Understands the historical context of the Bible, and can help us relate it to our daily lives
* High-energy, with new ideas and ways to grow the congregation of our church
* Understanding and accepting of a wide variety of people with a broad base of backgrounds and personal views, including religious, political, socio-economic, sexual orientation, and gender identity
* Willingness to be interactive with the local community (i.e. outside the church walls)
* Good with children; brings new ideas for both adult and children’s religious education and exploration

**Pastoral Call:** Designated Pastor

**Duration:** Minimum - 1 year **Start Date:** ASAP

**Compensation:**   Range: $30K (total compensation)

**Five priorities for the designated pastor:**

* Support our small congregation - keep our spirituality and spirits intact
* Vibrant Sermons/Worship, including new worship opportunities
* Assist in developing and executing a plan to increase membership and attendance
* Continued involvement in existing outside relationships (Greenbox Festival, Sallie Bush Community Center, Westside CARES, Scouts, etc.)
* Pastoral Care

**Church Narrative:**

Church in the Wildwood is one of the centers of the small community of Green Mountain Falls, located in the Ute Pass area near Colorado Springs, Colorado.  Typical attendance for our 10:30 a.m. Sunday service in the winter is about 30-50 and expands in the summer with both visitors and summer residents to 60-80. Other common worship experiences and events include two Christmas Eve services, a Good Friday service, and various types of observances of Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. The church has offered well-received weeknight services in the past. There are two weekly lay-led bible study sessions, one on a weekday morning and one on Sunday evenings. There is not currently a Sunday School program.

Church in the Wildwood was founded in 1889 and celebrated its 125th anniversary in the summer of 2014. The history of the church and its central role in the community is extremely important to the members and the community. The church has recently upgraded its AV system and begun livestreaming our services. We have also received a grant and begun preparations for a major remodel to improve Access to All areas of the building. Once this work is completed the church will be eligible for the UCC’s A2A listing.

We have a ministry-based organization with a small administration/finance team at the core; active ministries coordinated by various church members have replaced traditional “committees”. Church Staff includes a Music Director, Accompanist, Office Administrator(s), Custodian(s) and Nursery Care Assistant.

There is a non-profit associated with CWW that manages the historic Sallie Bush Community Center, to which the Church holds the title. The building is now renovated after many years of being vacant and unused and the center is frequently used for events and community programs.

For its size, the church is very active in the community, and most of the members are very engaged. We coordinate and host a Food Pantry and open dinner two or three Tuesday nights per month. We are actively involved in a community summer arts festival during the first week of July, The Greenbox Arts Festival, and host many programs (music, teen and adult workshops) for this event. The church hosted a Veteran’s Breakfast in 2018. Church in the Wildwood is a member of the Chambers of Commerce in both Green Mountain Falls and Woodland Park, which is 5 miles away and is the commercial center of the Ute Pass region.

Existing members are open to experiencing new things like changes in the makeup of worship and a variety of points of view.  "Acceptance" is a key value. We appreciate exploring what it means to truly live as a Christian.   We are an open-minded congregation in a conservative region – we are often described as a “purple church”. In 2017, the congregation voted to become an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ.

Like many mainline churches, CWW's congregation is aging and shrinking, so growth has been a top, but elusive, priority - current membership handles such a variety of responsibilities that further shrinkage will reduce our ability to offer all the missions and activities we have in place.  At the same time, as a ministry-based church, we encourage and support members who feel called to provide new ways of ministering to each other, the community, and the world. Each of the Ministries described here – the food pantry, the veterans’ dinner, the bible study groups, the arts festival, the AV and accessibility improvements, etc. – have resulted from the vision and commitment of a member or friend of the church.

**Thumbnail of our local community:**

The Ute Pass area is part vacation destination, part small working-class town, and part bedroom community for Colorado Springs.  There are approximately 600 year-round residents, but it is estimated that this population more than doubles during the summer. There are people in the area who are quite affluent, but many others who are struggling. Like any small community, the town has more than its share of political intrigue and conflict, but this rarely, if ever, touches the church. The community hosts the Greenbox Arts festival, car shows, and our annual Bronc Day parade and celebration. Physically, we are in the center of a beautiful and pristine mountain environment. There are waterfalls, incredible hiking trails, bike paths and a fishing pond with a historic gazebo. There is a community swimming pool, tennis courts and playpark.