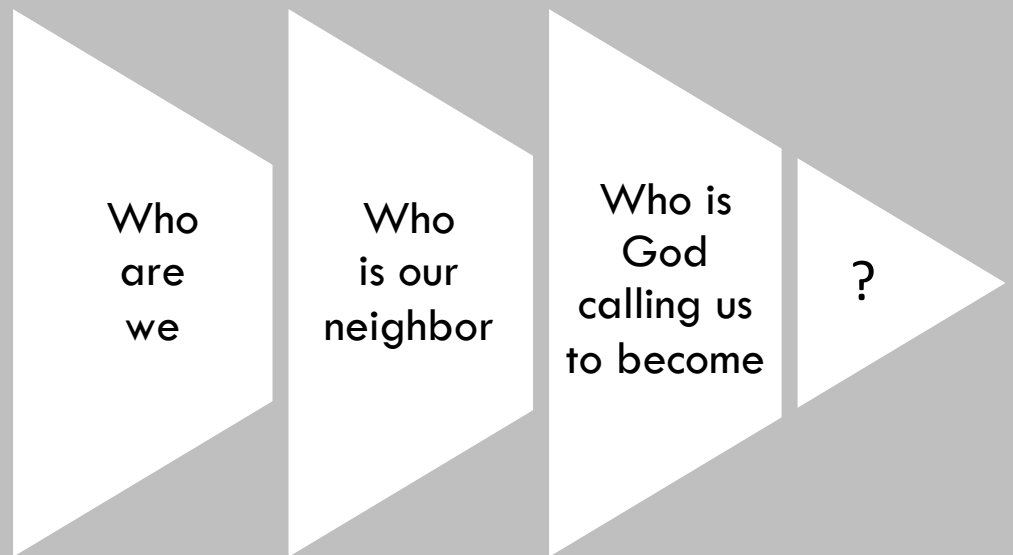


Search and Call Tools for Congregations

Advancing the Spirit's guidance into God's future

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



The new Local Church Profile is not just for congregations in search of a pastor. *All* congregations are encouraged to engage in its process of discovery every 3-5 years. The UCC Local Church Profile reflects valuable data, assesses ministry, clarifies change, and helps advance the calling of the congregation. Not just to be completed by a search committee – the more participation, the better!

MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE,
SUPPORT & AUTHORIZATION

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

St. John's United Church of Christ
Powhatan Point, Ohio

Ordained Minister

Heartland Conference
Living Water Association

[Validation Date]

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
- Who Are We Now?
- Who Is Our Neighbor?
- References
- Consent and Validation

*“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)*

INSTRUCTIONS

The new Local Church Profile supports the calling and discernment of United Church of Christ congregations with their current or future pastoral leadership.

For many congregations, the interim time between ministers is an intentional season that is guided in part by the preparation of a Local Church Profile. Using the Profile, the church can discover its data and express its story for the reliable discernment of a search committee and the beginning of a new pastorate. Searching ministers will want to see this document in its entirety.

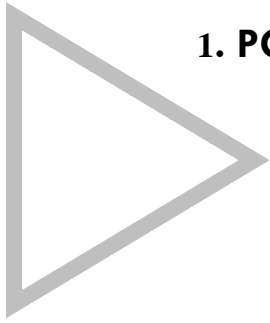
The interim season is not the only time in a church's life when it's valuable to give attention to explore a congregation's vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – **WHO ARE WE NOW**, **WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR**, and **WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME** – are meant to be updated every 3-5 years. Known together as the "Discovery Document," these three sections can be completed by a visioning group, a governing body, a transition team, or other group – not just the search committee – in order to draw forward the gifts and imaginative possibilities of a congregation. The church's engagement with the "Discovery Document" might not have the same sequence as the completed Local Church Profile that is read by candidates.

Some questions are easy to answer. Some are not so easy. Prompts are provided to stimulate narrative response if needed; these italicized prompts are merely examples from which to choose or to inspire your own. Efforts to answer the questions will prompt conversations and explorations and story-telling and many prayers. As the Spirit moves throughout the process, congregations will shape a collective articulation of Christ's leading (**WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME**). This last question to be answered becomes the first section to be read by searching ministers in the Local Church Profile, and it is boldest and most actionable piece for faithful leadership into the future.

Your conference can provide materials referenced in the Local Church Profile, such as the 11-Year Report containing data as reported by your congregation annually to the UCC Data Hub, and Mission Incite reports containing demographic information on your community. More information on types of pastorate in the United Church of Christ can be found in the Call Agreement Workbook. Be sure to use the Call Agreement Workbook's Scope of Work to describe in this Local Church Profile the position being sought.

When it is time for ministerial search, the conference can counsel you on posting the Local Church Profile together with your public listing at UCC Ministry Opportunities (<http://oppsearch.ucc.org>).

The last page of the Local Church Profile contains a statement that parallels the consent statement signed by ministers in the UCC Ministerial Profile. In keeping with the covenantal relationship between a church and those it seeks to call, this statement encourages an open, honest exchange of information. On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and on the basis of the best knowledge available to them, your conference staff will validate your completed Local Church Profile when it is ready to be shared in relationship with prospective new leaders.



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: St. John's UCC

Street address: 51705 German Ridge Rd; Powhatan Pt, OH 43942

Supplemental web links: www.stjohnsgermanridge.com

Conference: Heartland Conference

Association: Living Water Association

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person:

Nayiri Karjian

Living Water Association Minister

330-940-2220

nayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org

Summary Ministry Description and what we value about living in our area:

St. John's is in the heart of a small rural community that value the lifelong relationships formed. Being a unique rural congregation with a unique history we are in a position to not only play a role in the spiritual, but also the economic and quality of life of the residents of this area. Like most areas of the United States, we have our share of dysfunctional families and neglected children. This may be God's calling for someone who would like the opportunity to pastor a rural church and also do private counseling. Come, meet members of the St. John's congregation and community, see the opportunities that exist for personal development and the beautiful sensory that attracted the original Swiss/German settlers to this area of their new land.

Photographs: See Attached

Current size of membership: 186

Languages used in ministry:

Although we are a German Heritage church we have no one in the community of other cultures or language.

Position Title: Ordained Pastor

Position Duration:

Settled – a called position intended for longer-term ministry in which the minister moves church membership to the congregation and moves standing to related association

Compensation Level:

¾ Time - Full Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? Yes

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

- **preparation and leadership of Sunday** worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with musical staff or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers, etc. Strategic planning for current and new directions in ministry.
- **faith formation and vitality** through prayer, Bible study, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them .
- **pastoral care** in collaboration with lay people.
- **community engagement** and leading the way for the church to be an ambassador of God's love and socially engaged.
- **weddings and funerals** for participants in the worshipping community, availability to wider community for funerals, weddings, special worship programs, and as a representative of the church to local organizations.
- **counseling**, listening and/or referral

Core Competencies:

- Compassionate
- Vibrant
- Passionate
- Energetic

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: Conference Guidelines, negotiable

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Parsonage – 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, office, eat in kitchen/dining, living room, basement laundry, 2 car garage w/ electric hook up for electric car.

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

Parsonage is on the Church Campus so commuting is simply a walk but there are pastoral calls and other things within the community to be involved that a car will be needed. There is no public transportation for our immediate area.

State any incentives: Negotiable Bonus

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

The Living Water Association offers a variety of opportunities to Authorized Ministers for support and ministerial development, such as Communities of Practice, small groups for support and development, Healthy Practices for ministry events, as well as life-long learning opportunities. Locally, there are also opportunities with:

- PLP – Pioneer Larger Parish (Parish of the Monroe County UCC Churches)
- SOMA – Switzerland Of Ohio Ministry Action (Multi-denominational pastors in Monroe County)

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

We are open to bi-vocational and willing to negotiate a schedule to suit called Minister and congregation.

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.

Faith Formation Program – A way to keep people involved throughout the week while not in church. A way to get the community involved and raise interest.

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

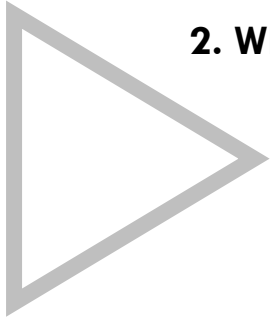
A faith-filled, vibrant, scripture based pastor willing to give a message that will impact the congregation for the week ahead and make them look forward to the next week. Someone willing to add a new dynamic to the service for instance have a contemporary service every so many weeks or spend a service as a Traditional Hymn Sing.

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

Although we are a German Heritage church we have no one in the community of other cultures or language.

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.

- Engaging Sacred Stories and Traditions
- Caring for All Creation
- Nurturing UCC Identity
- Working Together for Justice and Mercy



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?

St. John’s United Church of Christ dedicates itself to be the church for others.

This means our doors are open to provide a safe environment for all God’s children who desire guidance, comfort, leadership and companionship. This means we will focus our energy and risk our resources on serving the needs of our neighbors outside as well as inside the worshipping community.

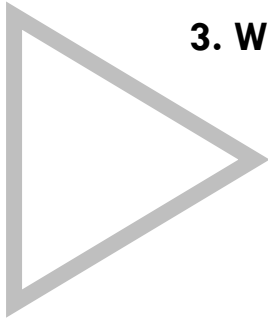
Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

Challenges:

- The declining attendance due to death and families leaving the area.
- A way (ways) to reach beyond our direct community.

Opportunities:

- Use of Fellowship Hall for Public use such Study Center, Group/Family Events.
- Celebration of our Heritage Dinner, Fish Frys, and other Community Activities.



3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

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

- a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- b. 11-YEAR REPORT
- c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
- e. CHURCH FINANCES
- f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith:

From our Constitution

PURPOSE: The purpose of this congregation shall be:

1. The proclamation of the Word of God by word and deed;
2. The witnessing to the redemptive power and work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this community and throughout the world;
3. The administration of sacraments;
4. The advancement of the Kingdom of God at home and abroad;
5. And the maintaining of a public place of worship and Christian Education that children, youth, and adults may be nurtured and comforted in the Christian truth and doctrine.

MEMBERSHIP

6. Any baptized person may become a member of this congregation: by confirmation, by letter of transfer, or by profession or re-profession of the Christian faith and the acceptance and fulfillment of the duties of membership as stated in the Bylaws.

How is God most often described in worship liturgy?

St. John’s is very traditional in this respect. Not that we are not open and welcoming to other descriptions of God but generally we refer to God the Father, Him, His, Male Gender.

In what ways would you describe the Holy Spirit in your midst?

Holy Spirit lives in each of us and is very much alive at St. John’s. We feel Her in music, bible teachings, fellowship and more. We each have our own passion that moves us and we each leave here with a different calling for the week to come.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

Radically Welcome, Generous, Mission Driven, Joyful, Active Prayer List, Faithful, Enjoy Singing and Musical Talents, Active in Community, Quick to give time and talent when help is needed at church.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

We have a Church Sanctuary that seats 150. The congregation is made up of generations of over 190 years. The building itself is 137 years old. We are a very old church and very traditional.

What are some words used to describe good preaching?

Scripture based, Story-Telling, Passionate

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

We have an adult Sunday School Class of 8 and a teen class for 2 boys that come only to Sunday School but regularly.

We do not have a specific Faith Formation Program.

These are areas of concern that we would like to work on.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

How are decisions communicated in your church?

Depending on the size of the decision and what it involves but generally decisions are made at a monthly Council Meeting. For instance, if it involves large amount of money (capital / maintenance expense) or change of Bi-Laws then a congregational meeting is called for approval of Council's recommendation.

How are teams or committees organized?

We mostly form committees and Small Groups through volunteer or sign-up sheets. We recently tried nomination suggestions by dropping names in offering plate and was successful.

Where does your church struggle for vision?

Creativity in new programs or outreach idea.

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

Keeping worship through the COVID Crisis. All decisions we made with conference calls and Zoom Meetings.

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, All are attached

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

See Attached

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ELEVEN YEAR CHURCH PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS



Church#: 524540

Assoc: 566

Schedule: 0

Saint John's UCC

Powhatan Point

OH

43942

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED
2009	203	53	24	5	1	4	4	2	4
2010	200	45	22	0	0	1	4	0	-3
2011	195	44	27	0	0	1	4	2	-5
2012	195	44	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	192	38	20	0	0	0	3	0	-3
2014	194	36	19	5	0	0	3	0	2
2015	194	36	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	186	32	20	0	0	0	4	0	-4
2017	186	32	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	186	32	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	184	30	12	0	0	1	3	0	-2

YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	TOT OTHER UCC GIVING	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2009	\$99,096	\$0	\$4,789	\$1,242	\$6,031	\$2,265	\$8,296	4.83	\$107,392	\$46,169
2010	\$108,471	\$0	\$3,188	\$764	\$3,952	\$901	\$4,853	2.94	\$113,324	\$42,995
2011	\$100,375	\$0	\$3,418	\$1,209	\$4,627	\$2,928	\$7,555	3.41	\$107,930	\$50,483
2012	\$100,375	\$0	\$3,686	\$1,343	\$5,029	\$0	\$5,029	3.67	\$105,404	\$0
2013	\$89,708	\$30,664	\$5,465	\$1,592	\$7,057	\$1,871	\$8,928	6.09	\$129,300	\$56,392
2014	\$120,548	\$0	\$2,723	\$1,342	\$4,065	\$1,977	\$6,042	2.26	\$126,590	\$51,500
2015	\$120,548	\$0	\$6,091	\$1,440	\$7,531	\$0	\$7,531	5.05	\$128,079	\$0
2016	\$92,425	\$0	\$4,994	\$1,444	\$6,438	\$2,684	\$9,122	5.40	\$101,547	\$68,168
2017	\$92,425	\$0	\$2,998	\$1,595	\$4,593	\$0	\$4,593	3.24	\$97,018	\$0
2018	\$92,425	\$0	\$5,167	\$1,548	\$6,715	\$0	\$6,715	5.59	\$99,140	\$0
2019	\$103,387	\$21,425	\$2,290	\$1,342	\$3,632	\$49,621	\$53,253	2.21	\$156,640	\$65,886

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2014-2019	-5.15	-16.67	-36.84	-80.00	0.00	-14.24	-10.65	23.74
2009-2019	-9.36	-43.40	-50.00	-90.00	-50.00	4.33	-39.78	45.86

Please note: Zero values ("0" or "\$0") may reflect missing information in some years. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	25	Yes
Number of active non-members:	4	Yes
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	29	Yes

Number of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	22	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:		Yes
Less than 5 years:	7	Yes

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>
					5	2	10	12	Yes

Number of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	0	Yes
Households with minors:	1	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	1	Yes
Joint households with no minors:	11	Yes
Single adults over 65:	4	Yes

Education level of adult participants by number:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	13	Yes
College:	4	Yes
Graduate School:	7	Yes
Specialty Training:	5	Yes

Number of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	5	Yes
Adults who are retired:	24	Yes
Adults who are not fully employed:	0	Yes

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

Teacher, Counseling, Retail, Manufacturing

What does diversity mean in your context?

We are a mono-cultural church. We are open to diversity and welcome everyone but our community does not offer much diversity.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future?

Before COVID we had started having “Welcome Prayer Breakfast”. The topics would start out with “What does welcome look like for _____?” and we talked about poverty and poor, black community, gas and oil community, people with disabilities.... We had guest speakers from the local community to speak about the different topics. Sadly it had to end with everything else COVID.

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	1 group / 6 student	Lay leaders
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	2	Minister
Children’s Groups or Classes	1 group / 2 students	Lay leader
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	50 - 70	Minister / Worship Committee

Church-wide Meals	30	Women's / Outreach Group
Choirs and Music Groups	10	Choir Director
Church-based Bible Study	10	Minister
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	Monthly	Minister
Community Meals	60 - 80	Women's / Outreach Group
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	0	
Women's Groups	2 Groups / 10 women	The Women
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	5	Minister
Intergenerational Groups	0	
Outdoor Worship	0	
Prayer or Meditation Groups	0	
Outreach Group	5	Lay Leader
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	0	
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	1	Minister
Worship (time slot:10:30)	25 - 30	Minister / Worship Committee
Young Adult Groups or Classes	0	
Youth Groups or Classes	0	
Grief Group	5	Lay Leader

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Terri Reynolds	3 Way Covenant	UCC Church	Licensed Pastor	N

If one or more previous pastors or retired ministers currently hold membership in the church, describe their role(s) in the life of the congregation: No

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
Custodian		Part Time	Council	

REFLECTION

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

We are an aging group but trying to reach out to others within the community.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during most recent fiscal year)

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$65,709.15
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$15,109.58
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	
Fundraising Events	
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose – Memorial Fund	\$15,342.23
Grants	
Rentals of Church Building	
Rentals of Church Parsonage	
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	
Transfers from Special Accounts	
Other (specify): Oil & Gas Royalties	\$4,698.00
Other (specify):	
TOTAL	\$100,850.96

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$129,700.00 (2021 Budget)

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support.

What is the percentage? [2020 – 50%] [2021 - 54%]

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?

(*indicate those included during the most recent fiscal year*)

- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Strengthen the Church
- Neighbors in Need
- Christmas Fund
- SOMA

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? (recommended 10%) 2nd Sunday Freewill Offering

What is the church’s current indebtedness? \$00.00

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe:

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
2020	Parsonage Roof	\$5,400.00	\$4,500.00	83% Complete - \$900.00 GF
2019	Fellowship Hall Roof	\$21,425.00	\$21,425.00	

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe: None at this time

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign.
 Our Congregation sees a need and will fill it generously. We have a Capitol Expense Fund but the last several Capitol needs we have had they have stepped forward almost without asking and filled the need through their own donations.

Does your church have an endowment? Yes

What is the market value of the assets? N/A

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? Dividends only

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? Dividends only

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years: Dividends only

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last?
 Initial Endowment not touched, only Dividends.

Other Assets

Reserves (savings): \$134,994.73 & CD’s
 Investments (other than endowment): \$57,706.56 LPL Financial

Does your church have a parsonage? Yes
 Fair market rental value of the parsonage: \$1200.00 - \$1500.00
 How is the parsonage used? To house the current minister
 German Ridge Rd; Powhatan Pt, OH 43942
 Finished square footage: 1400 SF

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: 3 Bedrooms / 1.5 Bath

Assessed real estate value: \$147,910.00

Available for minister residence: Yes

Expected minister residence: Yes

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: Well Maintained, new remodeled; WiFi,
Electric Car Hook Up in Garage, Electric Heat; New Kitchen Appliances, all electric.

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs:

Property Committee

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

Parsonage: Brick Ranch

Church: Historic Brick Church

Fellowship Hall and Meeting Rooms: Multi-level Structure

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: None

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

Church and Fellowship Hall

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

When was a time the church made a budget change?

We have restructured the Budget to reflect the Association Guidelines

How is the budgeting process done?

By the Council

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.

St John's was founded by happy and hearty Swiss settlers in 1827 who immigrated to the community in the early 1800's, joining a group of Swiss and German families already here. The first church was a log structure. As the congregation grew in spirit and by numbers they built a new brick structure in 1852. Then in 1884 the bricked steeple church we now know as St. John's U.C.C. was built. Through the years the church was referred to as the "Reformed Church" then "St. John's Evangelical Church". Then in 1957 the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged with the Congregational Christian Church to become the "United Church of Christ". We are today St. John's United Church of Christ. While we maintain our tradition and doctrine, we are an open church. We welcome all who will join with us and ask no one to conform narrowly to our thought or practice. We reflect our openness in our Worship Life, Learning Community, and in the way we embrace the larger work of Christ. We are a giving church in the worldwide endeavors of the United Church of Christ and the many worthwhile endeavors of the local area.

For 26 Years, we celebrated our German Heritage starting in 1991 with the German Ridge Jamboree. It was filled with all-day entertainment including music, games, crafts, and our heritage quilt show, not to mention our delicious home cooked German Food! Over the years the face of our festival has changed due to the size and aging of our congregation we now host a Community Heritage Dinner. In 2017 we celebrated 190 Years. It was a day filled with worship, fellowship, music, of course food and memories from previous ministers or their families. While it is natural to think of sleepy churches in beautiful settings, St. John's is not a sleepy church. We hope all Christians and all those searching for meaning will join with us in experiencing and sharing God's great and loving presence.

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.

We try to work through issues within our congregation with the members, council or pastoral relations depending on the conflict.

Ministerial History

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Rev. William Meyer	2019-2021	Y – Interim Minister
Rev Carla Wobschall	2005-2018	Y – Settled Minister
Rev Richard Wilson	2004-2005	N – Fill In Minister
Rev. Alex Tychkin	2004-2004	Y – Settled Minister
Rev. Richard Wilson	2002-2004	N – Fill In Minister
Rev. Joe Hysong	1999-2002	Y – Interim Minister
Rev. Jack Bruce	1997-1999	Y – Interim Minister
Rev. Stephen Shanaman	1995-1997	Y – Settled Minister
Rev. Richard Olsson	1994-1995	Y – Interim Minister
Rev. Jeanne Vetere	1991-1994	Y – Settled Minister

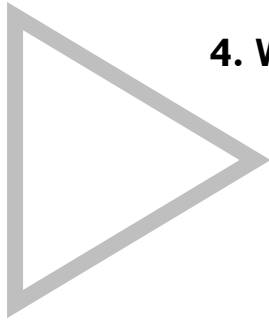
Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

Our Settled Ministers generally have long term tenures and our relationship with all our ministers is one of family. However, due to our rural area, although very beautiful, and the economics of our area, although we have always been able to pay our bills and minister, tends to create issues in us finding a Settled Minister, leaving us long spans of Fill-in and Interim Ministers.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination? Yes

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)

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION INCITE

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

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

St. John’s does participate in various programs from locally to globally: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Shoe Box Ministries, God is Still Speaking. Members of the congregation support local charities as part of the church. We publish a Monthly Newsletter for members of the congregation and friends of the church across the country. We have been streaming Sunday Morning Worship since January 2019 on Facebook and are currently upgrading with new (better quality) camera and recording system along with creating Website to reach more people. Currently our Facebook feed reaches people both locally and nationally.

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

Several Members of St. John’s have participated in meetings and /or workshops in conjunction with the Association. We currently have 2 members attending the NEOSOM License in Ministry Course Program. On the Conference level we participate in the Faith Formation Workshops.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Just Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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?

The larger community of St. John's has a loving, welcoming, place to go which is especially important at this time in our community and world. We wish to remain a welcoming, accessible church to all.

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

During the last two years our church was part of a local group, Ohio Valley Consortium, which was a group of pastors from several denominations looking to work positive changes in the Ohio Valley with the Oil and Gas Industry.

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.

Our church is still working on putting a mission statement in place. Bringing God to those around us will be what the statement will be based on. Activities with this goal in mind include Sunday Morning Worship, Bible Studies, Prayer Breakfasts, Fish Fries during Lent, German Heritage Dinner, outings with church members and other various other community outreach activities.

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 Ministry responsibilities are to lead worship, visitation (hospital & home), perform weddings, funeral services, and lead Bible Studies. He/she will also attend meetings of SOMA, PLP and any others that may be beneficial to our church.

4b. MISSION INSITE

Comment on your congregation's Mission Incite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown?

See Attached

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

We are an older congregation. Many members have attended since childhood and grew up within our church. Our children have had to move outside of the community for work and affordable housing which has hindered our growth. The general area has been hit with the same manner throughout.

How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not?

We are a church for others. A place where ministry can reach out to the community to shape and grow young minds and grow individuals into strong Christian beliefs. It is more of the ministry being able to shape the community, building on a strong tradition of God, Family, and Community.

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

We are known as Foundation. A place where ideas are turned into projects which become positive realities. Such as a community public water system, a growing internet service, a community working with local food pantries and clothing providers; a church willing to reach out beyond the boundaries of our neighborhood. We are known for reaching out to those who have become ill or shut-in, willing to drive them to appointments, delivering food and always praying for God's assistance.

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

(A more personal message from a newer member and member of Search Committee)

I am a recent member of our church. For me, I was drawn to St. John's because of the people I knew who were members. Good people who are leaders, teachers and people who unknowingly helped to shape my character. This church was where my wife's whole family grew up in church; a place where neighbors came together to help those in need. A place we can all be proud to call home.

The QuickInsite Report

Prepared for: Heartland Conference UCC
Study area: Geography: Zip Codes - 43942 (OH)

Base State: OH
Current Year Estimate: 2020
5 Year Projection: 2025
10 Year Forecast: 2030
Date: 4/19/2021
Semi-Annual Projection: Fall

About the QuickInsite Report

The QuickInsite report is designed to provide a quick look at a geography defined by a user. It provides an initial impression of a study area through a set of 12 demographic variables, the top 10 Mosaic Segments and 5 Religious Beliefs and Practices derived from the Simmons National Consumer research data.

NOTE: Not all of the demographic variables available in the MI System are found in this report. The FullInsite or ExecutiveInsite Reports will give a more comprehensive view of an area's demographics and ViewPoint a fuller view of its beliefs and practices.

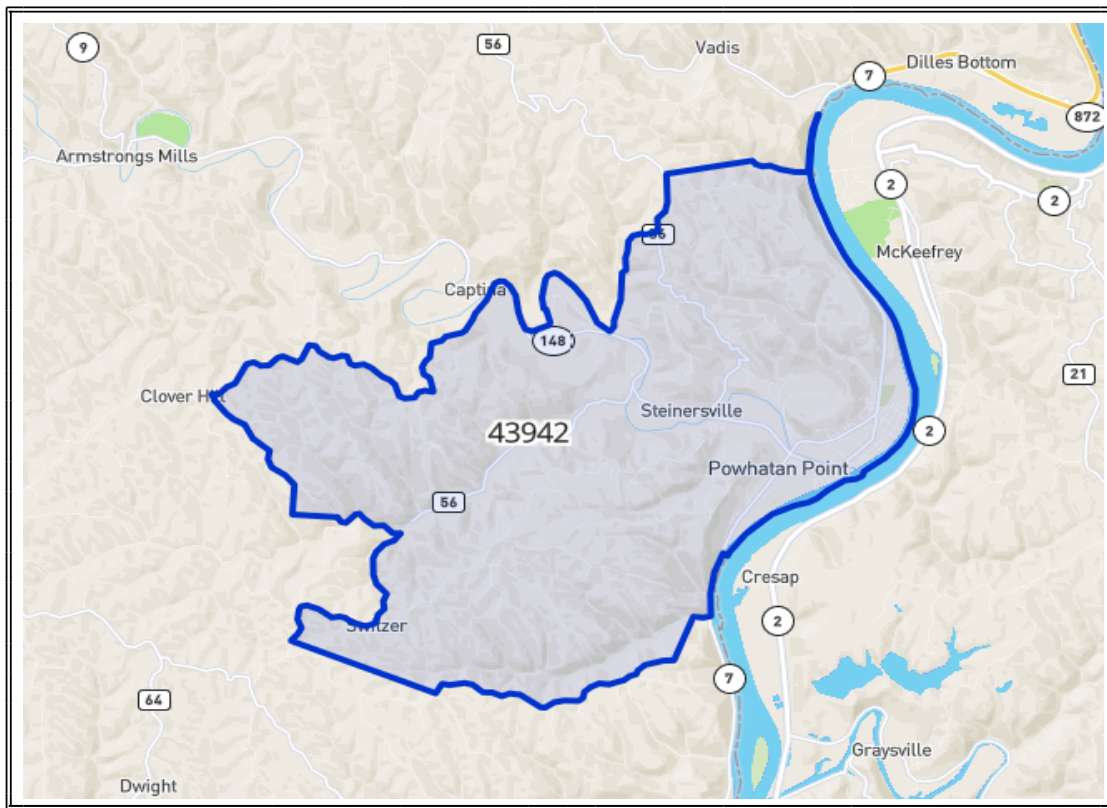
Two Sections

Two reports are provided on the following pages.

- The StoryView Report presents 9 demographic indicators of your study area.
- The ThemeView Report presents greater detail about those 10 indicators but organized around themes.

For more information on interpreting the various data on this report, please refer to the Supporting Information on the final page.

THE STUDY AREA



More Information

Please refer to the last page of the report for additional notes and interpretation aides in reading the report.

StoryView

Significant Demographic Indicators of the Study Area's Story

1	Population Change In the 10 year future, how is this area expected to change? <small>(See Population and Families Theme)</small>	Significant Decline	Moderate Decline	Little Change	Moderate Growth	Significant Growth
2	School Age Change In the 10 year future, how is the population of school age children in this area expected to change? <small>(See Age Theme)</small>	Significant Decline	Moderate Decline	Little Change	Moderate Increase	Significant Increase
3	Families with Children Compared to the state, are families with children more or less likely to live in two parent households? <small>(See Population and Families Theme)</small>	Significantly Less	Somewhat Less	About the Same	Somewhat More	Significantly More
4	Adult Educational Attainment For this area, what is the general level of education of the adults 25 and older? <small>(See Education and Career Status Theme)</small>	Very Low	Low	Mixed	High	Very High
5	Community Diversity Index How diverse is the racial/ethnic mix of this area? <small>(See Community Diversity Theme)</small>	Very Homogeneous	Homogeneous	Moderately Diverse	Very Diverse	Extremely Diverse
6	Median Family Income How does the median family income compare to the state for this area? <small>(See Financial Resources Theme)</small>	Significantly Less	Somewhat Less	About the Same	Somewhat Greater	Significantly Greater
7	Poverty Compared to the state, is the number of families in poverty above or below the state average? <small>(See Financial Resources Theme)</small>	Significantly Below	Somewhat Below	About the Same	Somewhat Above	Significantly Above
8	Blue to White Collar Occupations On a continuum between blue collar and white collar occupations, where does this area fall? <small>(See Education and Career Status Theme)</small>	Very Blue Collar	Somewhat Blue	Closely Split	Somewhat White	Very White Collar
9	Largest Racial/Ethnic Group In this area, which racial/ethnic group is the largest percentage of the population? <small>(See Community Diversity Theme)</small>	Asian (NH)	Black/Afri American (NH)	White (NH)	Hispanic or Latino	Pac Is/Amer Ind/Other

ThemeView

Demographic Descriptions of the Study Area

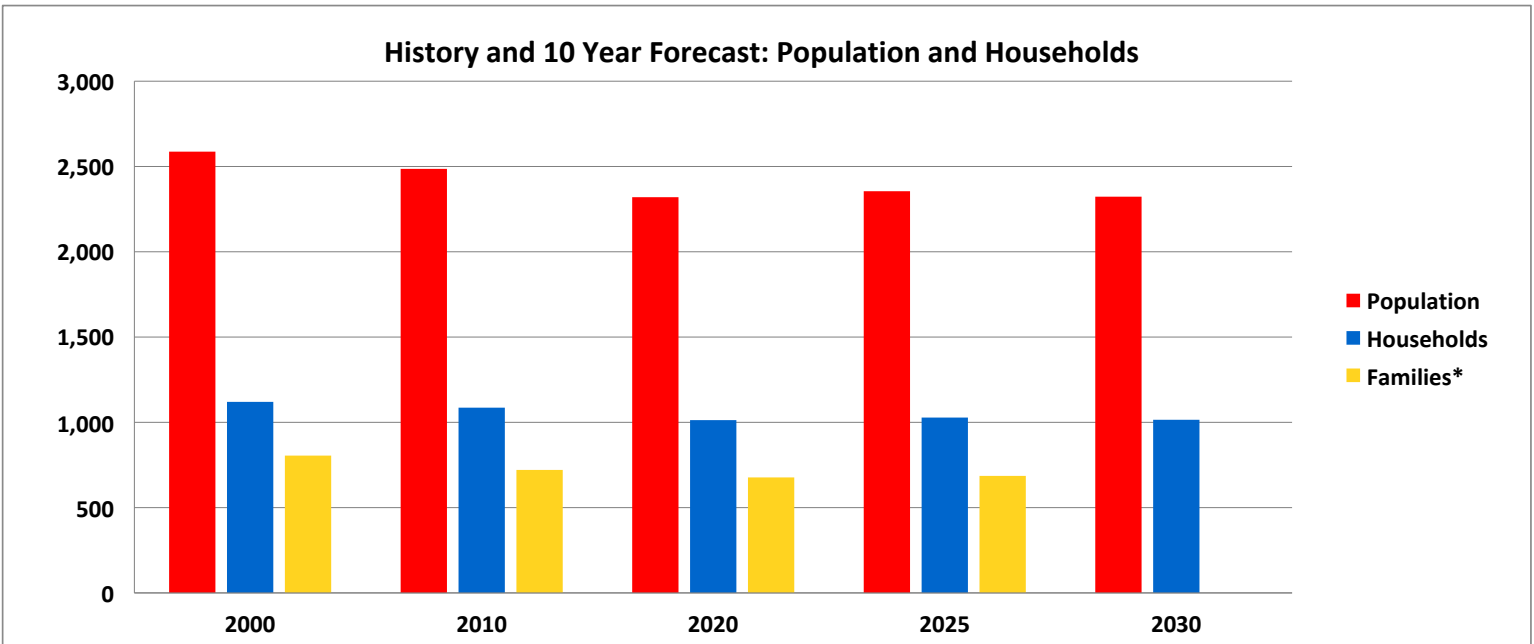
Study area: Geography: Zip Codes - 43942 (OH)

Date: 4/19/2021

Population and Households Theme

Population is the most basic demographic characteristic. It indicates how many persons reside within an area and how that total changes over time. In addition, future population is forecasted looking out 10 years.

Population and Household History with 5 and 10 Year Projected Change



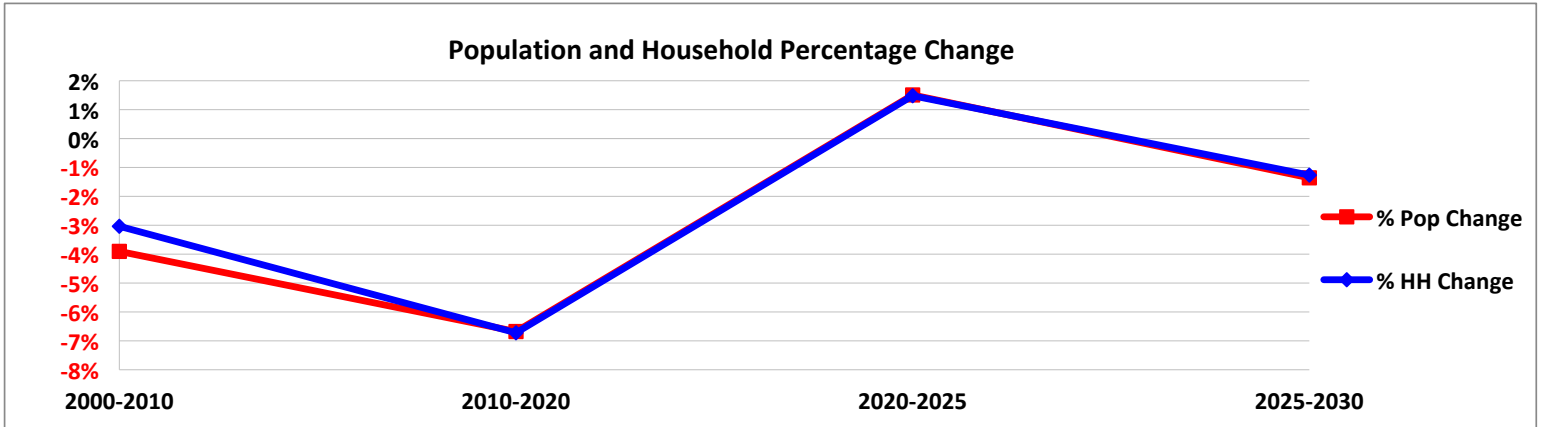
NOTE: Family Household data is not projected out 10 years.

Population, Households & Families

	2000	2010	2020	2025	2030
Population	2,587	2,486	2,320	2,355	2,323
Population Change		-101	-166	35	-32
Percent Change		-3.9%	-6.7%	1.5%	-1.4%
Households	1,120	1,086	1,013	1,028	1,015
Households Change		-34	-73	15	-0
Percent Change		-3.0%	-6.7%	1.5%	0.0%
Population / Households	2.31	2.29	2.29	2.29	2.29
Population / Households Change		-0.02	0.00	0.00	-0.00
Percent Change		-0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.1%
Family Households	805	721	677	686	
Family Households Change		-84	-44	9	
Percent Change		-10.4%	-6.1%	1.3%	

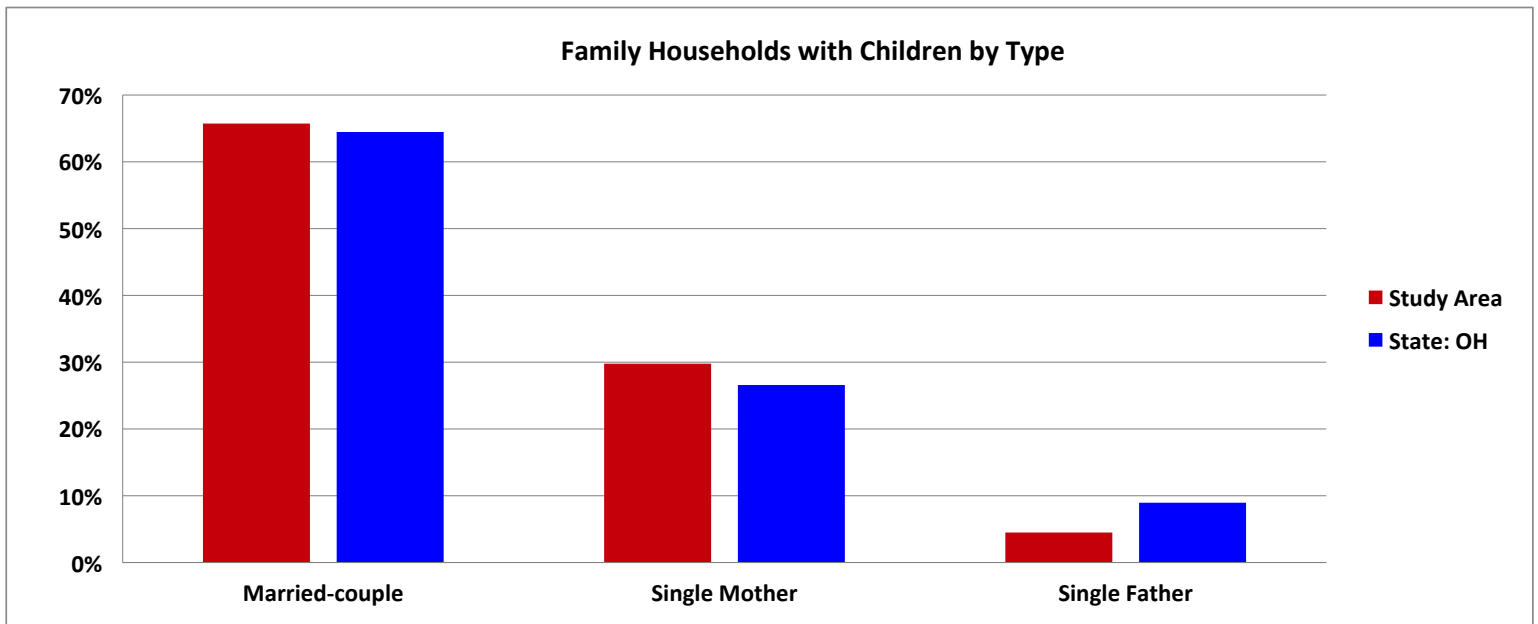
Population and Households Theme

Population and Household History with 5 and 10 Year Projected Percentage Change



Family Households

Family households with children are changing. The traditional married couple structure is evolving into many different family expressions in which children are being raised. These data provide an insight into the family structures within the study area and then compares them to the state.



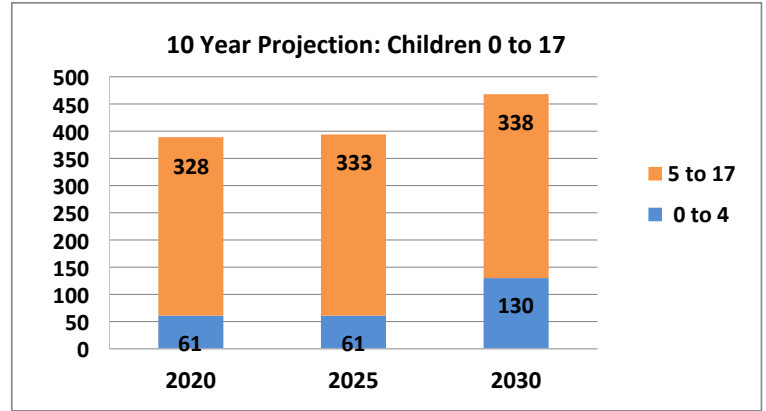
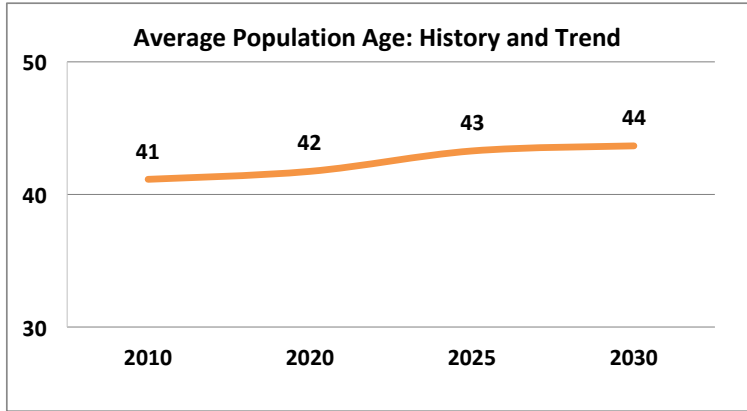
This table presents both the history and projections for family structures in the study area. Take note of the change column to discern how these family structures have changed and are projected to change in the future.

Households with Children	Actual Hhlds by Year			2010 to 2025 Change	Percent of all Hhlds by Year			2010 to 2025 % Change
	2010	2020	2025		2010%	2020%	2025%	
Family: Married-couple	217	117	97	-120	70.2%	65.7%	63.4%	-6.8%
Family: Single Mother	65	53	49	-16	21.0%	29.8%	32.0%	11.0%
Family: Single Father	27	8	7	-20	8.7%	4.5%	4.6%	-4.2%
Total:	309	178	153	-156	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Age Theme

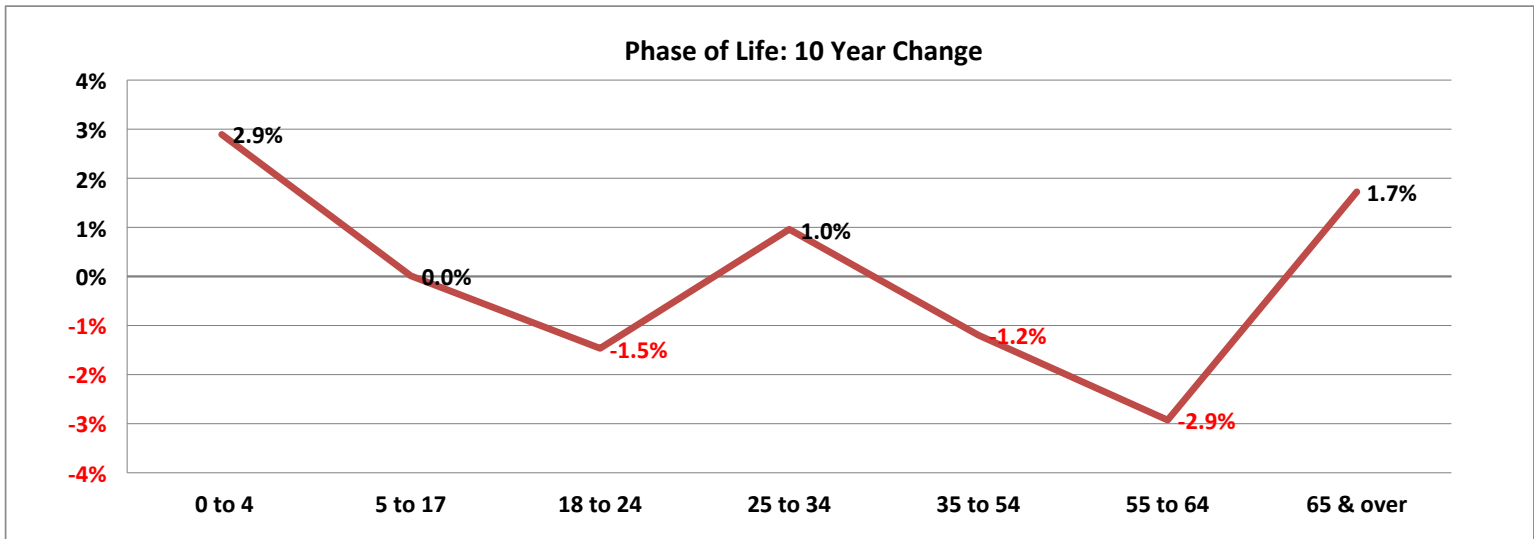
10 Year Average Age and Children 0 to 17 Trends

The age history and forecast reflect changes in a community. For example, two demographic trends currently in play are the aging of the Baby Boom generation and the decline in live births in the late 20th and 21st centuries.



Phase of Life

The Phase of Life 10 Year Change graph highlights life phases that will increase or decrease as a percentage of the total population in the forecasted 10 year future.



Phase of Life presents how a community changes and people age through their various life phases.

Phase of Life	Actual Population by Year & Phase				Percent of Pop by Year & Phase			
	2010	2020	2025	2030	2010%	2020%	2025%	2030%
Before Formal Schooling: 0 to 4	127	61	61	130	5.1%	2.7%	2.7%	5.6%
Required Formal Schooling: 5 to 17	385	328	333	338	15.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.6%
College/Career Starts: 18 to 24	186	203	191	175	7.5%	9.0%	8.3%	7.5%
Singles & Young Families: 25 to 34	267	259	277	289	10.7%	11.5%	12.1%	12.4%
Families & Empty Nesters: 35 to 54	673	532	546	520	27.1%	23.6%	23.8%	22.4%
Enrichment Yrs Singles/Cpls: 55 to 64	401	336	294	278	16.1%	14.9%	12.8%	12.0%
Retirement Opportunities: 65 & over	447	537	588	593	18.0%	23.8%	25.7%	25.5%
Total:	2,486	2,256	2,290	2,323	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

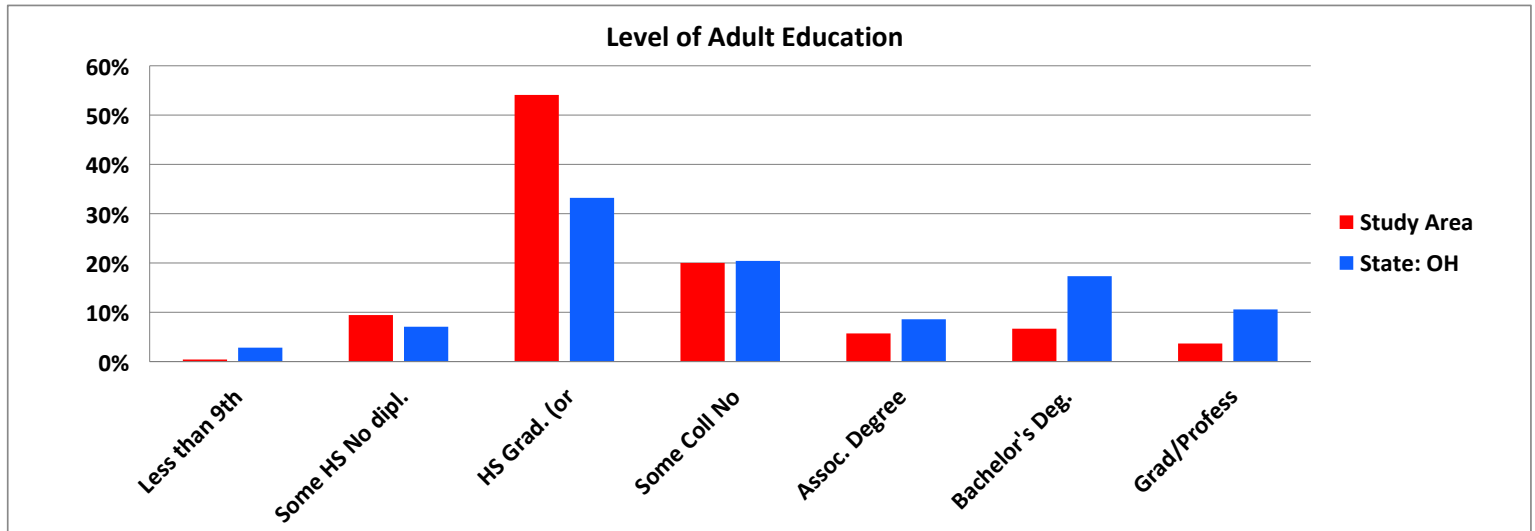
Education and Career Status Theme

The Education/Career Status theme portrays the level of education and the career types by the categories of Blue Collar and White Collar in the study area.

Adult Educational Attainment

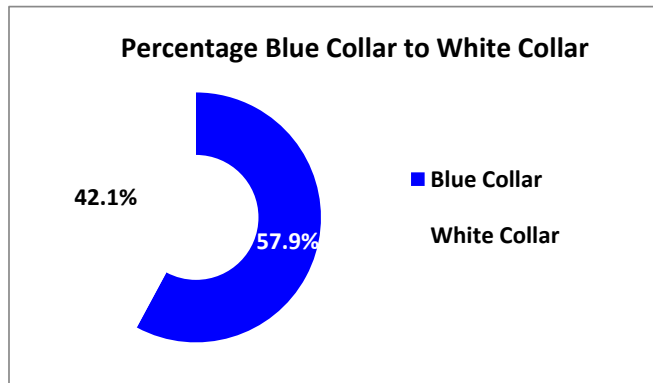
The following graphs array the adult population 25 years of age and older within the study area by their level of education completed.

Adult Educational Attainment Compared to the State of OH



Education Level of Adults 18 Years and Older	Actual Hhlds by Year		2020 to 2025 Change	Percent of all Hhlds by Year		2020 to 2025 % Change
	2020	2025		2020%	2025%	
Less than 9th Grade	7	8	1	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%
Some High School, No diploma	157	170	13	9.4%	10.0%	0.5%
High School Graduate (or GED)	900	873	-27	54.1%	51.2%	-2.9%
Some College, No degree	333	373	40	20.0%	21.9%	1.9%
Associate Degree	95	96	1	5.7%	5.6%	-0.1%
Bachelor's Degree	111	122	11	6.7%	7.2%	0.5%
Graduate or Professional school degree	61	64	3	3.7%	3.8%	0.1%
Total:	1,664	1,706	42	100.0%	100.0%	

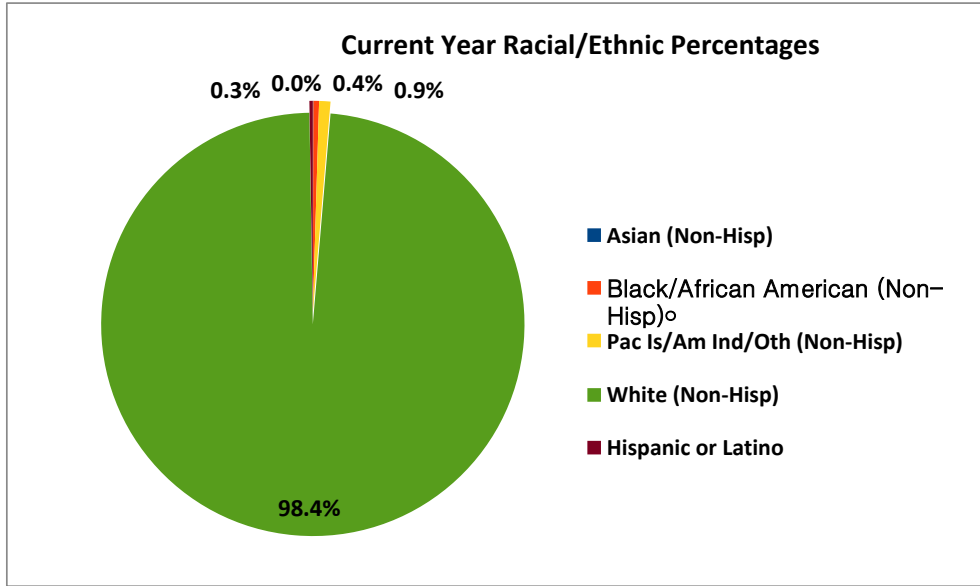
Career Types: Blue Collar and White Collar



Community Diversity Theme

The diversity of a community is shaped by the racial/ethnicity of the people who reside in it as well as people's age, income and education.

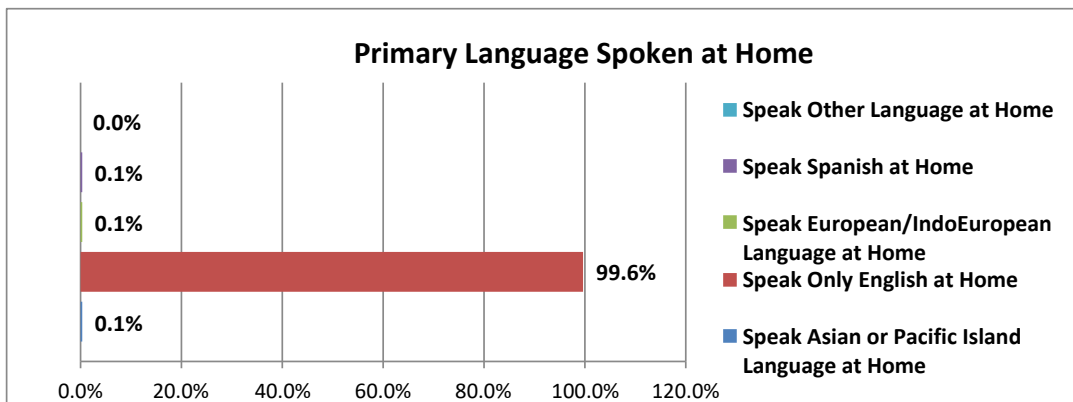
Study Area Racial and Ethnic Diversity



NOTE: Race and ethnicity breakouts are based upon Census Bureau categories. Only those groups for which the Bureau provides extended detail can be reported.

Race and Ethnic History and Trends

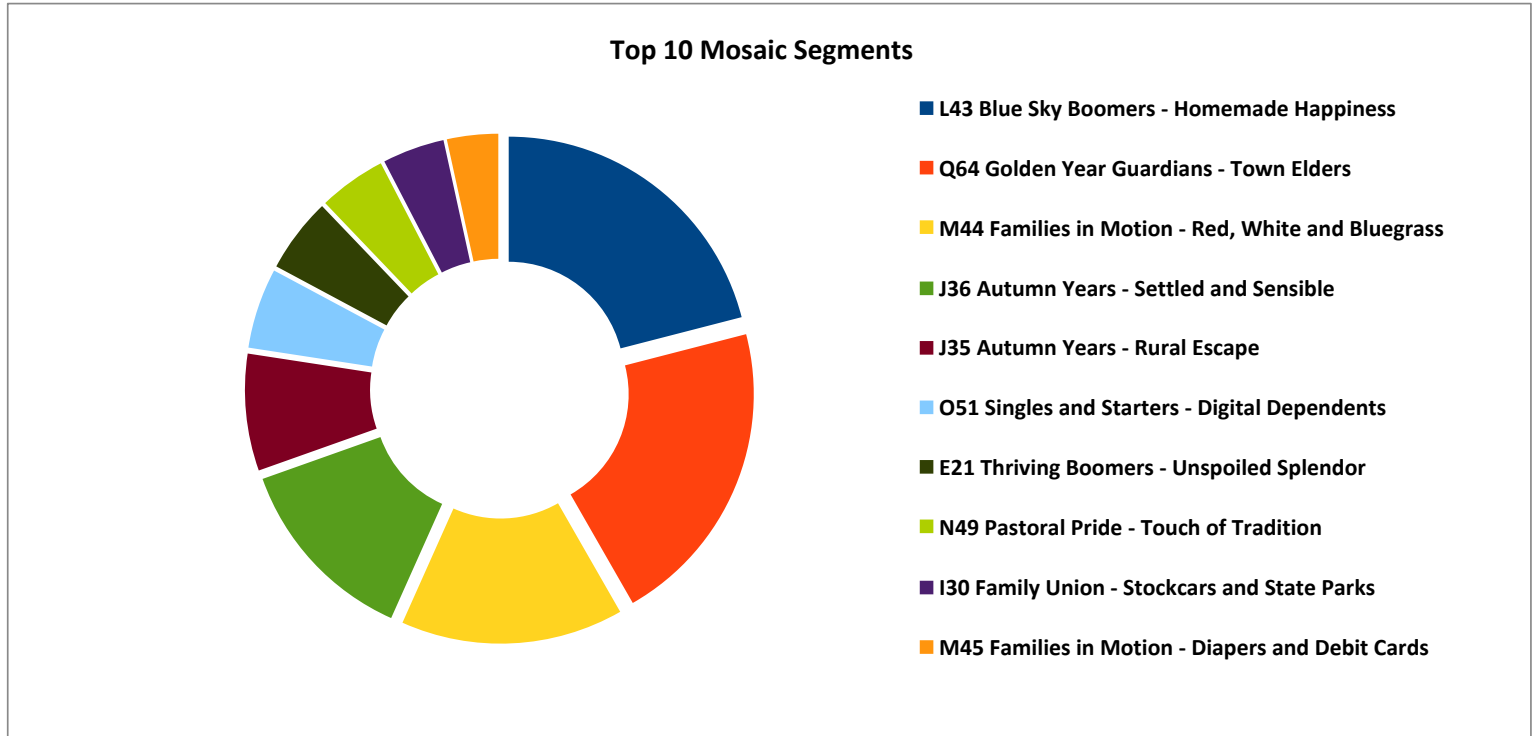
Racial/Ethnicity by Year	Actual Population by Year			2010 to 2025 Change	Percent of all Pop by Year			2010 to 2025 % Change
	2010	2020	2025		2010%	2020%	2025%	
Asian (Non-Hisp)	1	1	1	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Black/African American (Non-Hisp)	8	10	10	2	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%
White (Non-Hisp)	2,446	2,284	2,319	-127	98.4%	98.4%	98.4%	0.0%
Hispanic or Latino	7	6	6	-1	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Pac Is/Am Ind/Oth (Non-Hisp)	24	20	20	-4	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	-0.1%
Total:	2,486	2,321	2,356	-130	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	



Community Diversity Theme

Mosaic Lifestyle Segmentation Types

Mosaic Lifestyle Types provides insight into the behaviors, attitudes and preferences of the households within the Study Area. The result is a fuller multidimensional understanding of a community, neighborhood, zip code or other geography.



Mosaic	Study Area	State	Comparative Index		
L43 Blue Sky Boomers - Homemade Happiness	171	16.8%	68,771	1.5%	1152
Q64 Golden Year Guardians - Town Elders	169	16.6%	201,082	4.3%	389
M44 Families in Motion - Red, White and Bluegrass	122	12.0%	115,351	2.5%	490
J36 Autumn Years - Settled and Sensible	105	10.3%	186,697	4.0%	261
J35 Autumn Years - Rural Escape	64	6.3%	86,961	1.8%	341
O51 Singles and Starters - Digital Dependents	44	4.3%	169,092	3.6%	121
E21 Thriving Boomers - Unspoiled Splendor	41	4.0%	155,328	3.3%	122
N49 Pastoral Pride - Touch of Tradition	37	3.6%	16,252	0.3%	1055
I30 Family Union - Stockcars and State Parks	34	3.3%	209,486	4.5%	75
M45 Families in Motion - Diapers and Debit Cards	28	2.8%	151,529	3.2%	86
	815		1,360,549		

Learn about your Mosaic Households

To access Mosaic Portrait data click on:

[Mosaic USA E-Handbook by Experian \(To open in a new Tab hold Control key when you click on the link\)](#)

Handbook includes Mosaic Overview and two graphic pages for each of the 19 Groups and 71 Segments.

[How to Read and Understand a Mosaic Portrait - Video](#)

[Understanding Mosaic Portraits for Mission Planning - Video](#)

Faith based clients: To access the Mosaic application guide click on:

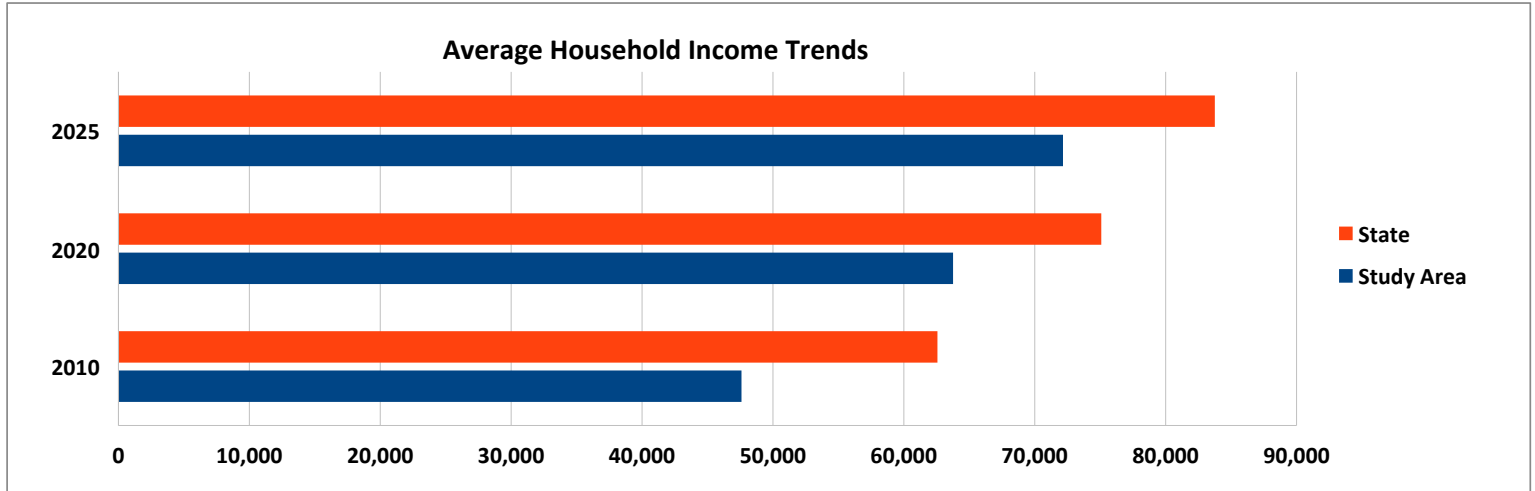
[Mission Impact Mosaic Application Guide by Bandy \(To open in a new Tab hold Control key when you click on the link\)](#)

Sources: US Census Bureau, Synergos Technologies Inc., Experian, DecisionInsite/MissionInsite

Financial Resources Theme

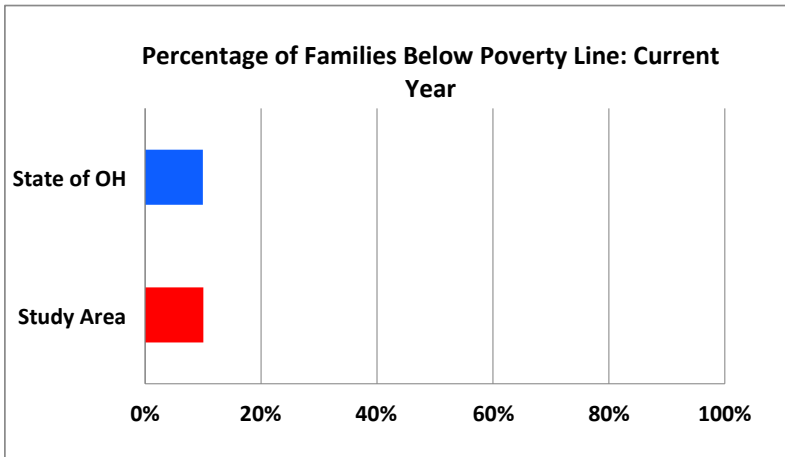
Financial resources available is an indicator of community opportunity or distress. Three variables are presented in this category: 1) Household Income, 2) Family Income and 3) Poverty.

Household Income



Income Trends: Households and Families				2010 to 2025 Change
	2010	2020	2025	
Average Household Income	47,596	63,759	72,157	24,561
Median Household Income	37,852	44,720	47,331	9,479
Per Capita Income	20,792	27,839	31,498	10,706
Median Family Income		60,209	59,090	1,119

Poverty



Poverty Level	Pop	Area % Pop	OH % Pop
Above poverty level	609	90.0%	90.0%
Below poverty level	68	10.0%	10.0%
Total	677	100.0%	100.0%

Supporting Information

Correlating the StoryView and DetailView Reports

The Detail View Report presents the important demographic detail behind the Demographic Indicators found on the QuickView page. It is organized around six themes.

DetailView Themes	StoryView Number	DetailView Themes	StoryView Number
1. Population, Households & Families	1 & 3	4. Community Diversity	5 & 9
2. Age	2	5. Financial Resources	6 & 7
3. Education/Career Status	4 & 8		

Interpreting the Report

The QuickInsight report is formatted to help you interpret data at a glance.

Change over time: Several trend tables have a column indicating a change over time. Generally these tables begin with the last census, include the current year estimate, a five year projection and if available, a 10 year forecast. The data in each cell represents a percentage change up or down.

Color Coding: Both the "Change over Time" and "Comparative Indexes" columns are color coded to easily spot any change and the direction of that change.

Change:	Increasing	Stable	Declining
Index:	Above Ave	Ave	Below Ave.

Variable Definitions

Full variable definitions can be found in the MI Demographic Reference Guide. Download it free from the Help/Documents menu located on the map screen of your study area on the MissionInsight website.

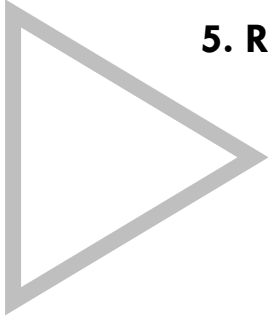
[Download QuickInsight Worksheet \(To open in a new Tab hold Control key when you click on the link\)](#)

Indexes: Some variables will have a column called "Comparative Index." An index is an easy way to compare a study area with a larger area. For this report, all comparisons are with the state or states within which the study area falls. The indexes can be interpreted as follows.

- Indexes of 100 mean the study area variable is the same as its base area.
- Indexes greater than 100 mean the study area variable is above the base area. The higher the number, the greater it is above the base.
- Indexes less than 100 mean the study area variable is below the base area. The lower the number, the greater it is below the base.

Support

If you need support with this report, please email MissionInsight at misupport@missioninsight.com.



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

Jane Stratton / Local Community Librarian
(740-458-1806 / vicnjane@hotmail.com / Community Leader)

REFERENCE 2

Karen Frank / PLP Secretary
(740-213-1529 / frankfo145@gmail.com / Partner in Parish Fellowship)

REFERENCE 3

Rev. Bill Stokes / Pastor at Sister Church and PLP
(304-771-2455 / bstokes@suddenlink.net / Partner in Ministry within our county)

PROMPTS FOR REFERENCES

Describe some areas of strength in this church’s ministry.

Describe some areas for improvement in this church’s ministry.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this church’s ministry.

Anything else you wish to share.

Jane Stratton
51590 Spruce Lane
Clarington, OH 43915
740-458-1806
Email: vicnjane@hotmail.com
Branch Manager/Children's Librarian
Powhatan Point Public Library

St John's United Church of Christ has been a part of the Switzer/Powhatan Point community for many years. Though I am a member of Immanuel United Church of Christ in Clarington, St John's has provided a place for church activities that I have been able to attend and enjoy. These events include Christmas candlelight worships, Lenten fish fries, and German Ridge Jamboree festivities. Due to work commitments, I'm sorry to have been unable to participate in the Lenten Bible studies that have been offered. The Fellowship Hall has been a wonderful place for showers, birthday parties, and other family events that has offered a warm and welcoming environment for members of the Switzer community. In a small rural area, St John's provides a much needed place for local residents seeking worship, fellowship, and learning opportunities. My position at the library has also provided occasions to work with ministers at St John's. It has been a pleasurable experience to help with their reference questions and locate materials that are needed.

A strong love for this church is very present in their membership. Despite declining membership and other struggles, the overwhelming belief that St John's must continue as a church and be a place of worship and community service is evident among its members. So many churches in the area have closed their doors, but St John's continues to remain an important entity for Switzer Township and the surrounding area. An example of their innovative thinking is providing a study/internet access area for students during the pandemic.

My husband and I reside on a neighboring ridge near St John's church. We can hear the church bell ringing across the hills on Sunday morning; a reminder to gather for worship. Perhaps this is something that needs to continue in their growth as a church...to keep that bell ringing. In other words, the church should continue encouraging others to become part of St John's UCC. This may involve a different "look" to the current congregation in terms of being more inclusive and diverse. It cannot be overstated, however, that an outgoing, vibrant, energetic pastor can make all the difference in a church's growth. Part of St John's strength is a willing congregation to keep their church going. Now what is needed is a minister with the right leadership, skills, and energy to help St John's continue to grow and evolve as a church. A church that is rich in a history of fellowship and love.

Reference Letter for St. John's UCC,
Powhatan Point, OH

Provided by Karen Frank, Home 740-472-0282, email frankfo145@gmail.com, friend of St. John's

My background with St. John's began in the 1970's. For over 40 years I have known the church, in both worship life and maintaining friendships with members.

St. John's is a strong church in multiple areas. They had a helpful interim minister most recently and grew through the experience. Their next step is a plan to add a pastor who will be an "agent for change". This is evidence the church wants to reach out, be other-directed.

Other strengths include mission giving. They provide food for the MANNA food pantry for the county. Special contributions involve all of the "5 for 5" offerings in our conference. Setting up a computer Study Center in the Fellowship Hall is a project that is in process.

The dedication of the members is a strength the church has. Yes, the church has less membership, but the regulars are all about being loyal. Also, they were one of the early providers of worship in Facebook plus the parking lot during the Pandemic, handling many of the technological challenges.

What are areas of improvement in ministry? How can St. John's help the community come to the faith? How can persons be part of a vision for ministry? St. John's knows they need to be about strengthening families. The ripple effects can be overall building of respect, lessening of the drug crisis, etc. The recent past includes some members' involvement in lay ministry. Hopefully this will continue to be encouraged.

A significant event happened for me before the start of the Pandemic. In December 2019 the "Dinner for Friends" was held, with my husband and me attending. The food was delicious, plus fun games and crafts at tables after. Most precious was time before serving to visit people, plus after eating at our tables. This was "community" in the best sense of the word and what a blessing!

In my view St. John's UCC is decidedly an above average rural church. I keep up with our group of Pioneer Larger Parish churches. Each one is challenged. Each one is blessed. Over the years I continue to be thankful for St. John's, a special worshipping community!

May 16, 2021

Immanuel United Church of Christ
124 Shepherd Place
Clarington, OH 43915
July 14, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I have served as a part-time pastor in the Pioneer Parish, of which St. John's is a part of, for the past six years. During that time, our congregations have worked together in both ministry and fellowship activities. Like many small churches, our numbers have declined in our children's ministries. We decided to pool our resources and hold a combined VBS program. This resulted in new opportunities for both congregations to work together and share ideas from our past to create new ideas for the future.

Another shared ministry is our local food distribution called MANNA. Several churches in the area contribute both time and money to this program, and it is a primary ministry of St. John's UCC. We have also joined together for celebrations and ministry opportunities such as World Communion Sunday.

All of this is to show that this body is very involved in and committed to its community. Like most churches, they went "online only" during the Covid-19 pandemic, responding quickly to the need to continue their connection to the community while helping to keep everyone safe. I know that they hope to continue and improve the online portion of their outreach.

They are also proud of their local heritage and are involved with many activities that celebrate it, making their buildings and facilities available to the community.

They also demonstrate a strong commitment to Bible study and teaching, which is reflected in the number of persons pursuing ministry training in the church.

Under the right leadership, this church has virtually unlimited potential.

William Stokes
Pastor – Immanuel UCC
304-771-2455

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 formed of members of Church Council, Discernment Committee, Members of the Congregation.

Christy Thomas
Larry Darrah
Amy Tucker
Alexa Bigler
Rick Yoho

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed 5/10/2021: Name / Title

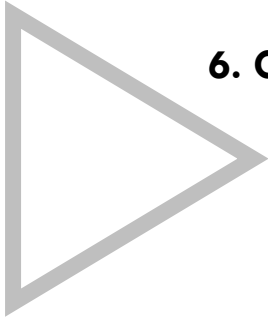
Christy Thomas Christy Thomas

Larry Darrah Larry Darrah

Amy Tucker Amy Tucker

Alexa Bigler Alexa Bigler

Rick Yoho Rick Yoho



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

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

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, As we prepare to review the prospective resumes/profiles of candidates to become our settled pastor, our thoughts and prayers are with them as they prepare for their new journey. May their choice be suitable to our needs and especially a blessing in your eyes. Amen

The Holy Spirit and St. John's

Our Church is there for community. Our Church is home for a family of believers. Our Church is not a building but a space where two or more are gathered. It is a place of Mission and Ministry. People gather to share love, to grieve, and to celebrate. Brothers and Sisters in Christ gather to pray, worship and celebrate sacraments. God's Children gather to learn, play and find their own gift from God. We gather to eat, fellowship and sing. We work together, play together, and pray together. We invite, we sanctuary, and we outreach our arms to those who need / want it. We seek justice for humankind, join in the Kingdom of God, and rejoice in the Kingdom of God. In the middle of all of that, St. John's is the people, the family of God, and they are empowered by the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit is at the heart of our church. The Spirit is what moves our Church to be bigger than the people. The Spirit is what makes our Church laugh and cry. The Spirit is what shines when everything looks dark. Our Church is all things Spirit led for all People Spirit filled. Our Church is led by the Minister in partnership with the people and the gifts given to them by the Spirit. We are all Ministers of Christ, whether it be through teaching, music, art, preaching, even accounting, carpentry, electrical and plumbing.

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

St John UCC, Powhatan Point, is a congregation in good standing in the Living Water Association, members actively involved in the life of the Association. St John boasts a living ministry inside and outside its walls, in worship and service. St John is one of 5 churches in that geographical area that comprise the larger Pioneer Parish. The 5 churches collaborate in a variety of ways to build community, worship, and to serve.

The congregation seeks a pastor who will connect with them and guide them to deepen their spiritual lives and serve the larger community with impact.

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

Staff Comment: Yes

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

Staff Comment: Yes

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature: 

Name / Title: Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister

Email: nayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org

Phone: c. 203.722.9174; o. 330.940.2220 x102

Date: July 16, 2021

**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

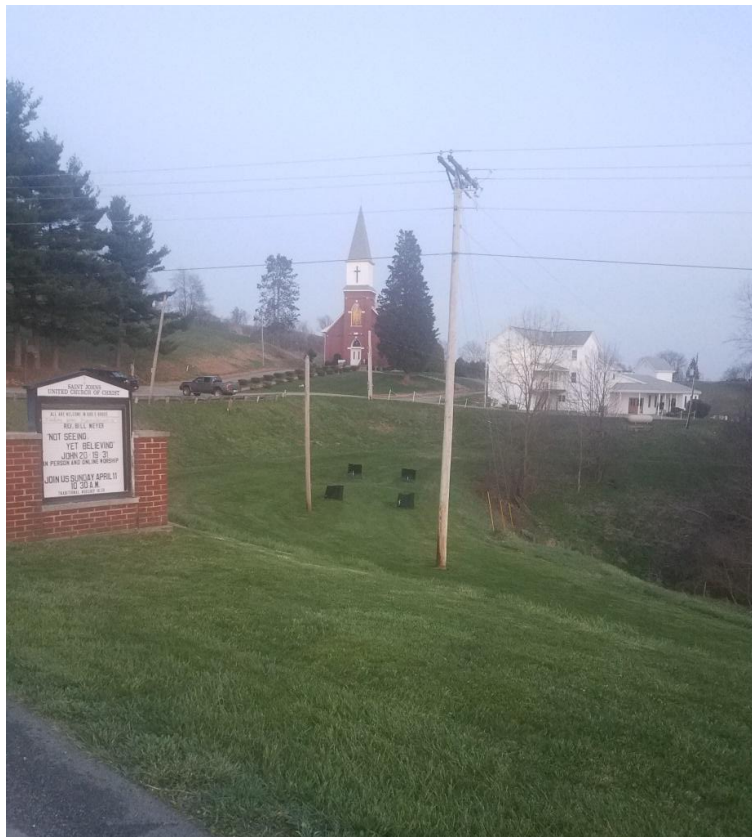
Aerial Shots of Campus



Sanctuary



Church Park



Fellowship Hall
& Kitchen



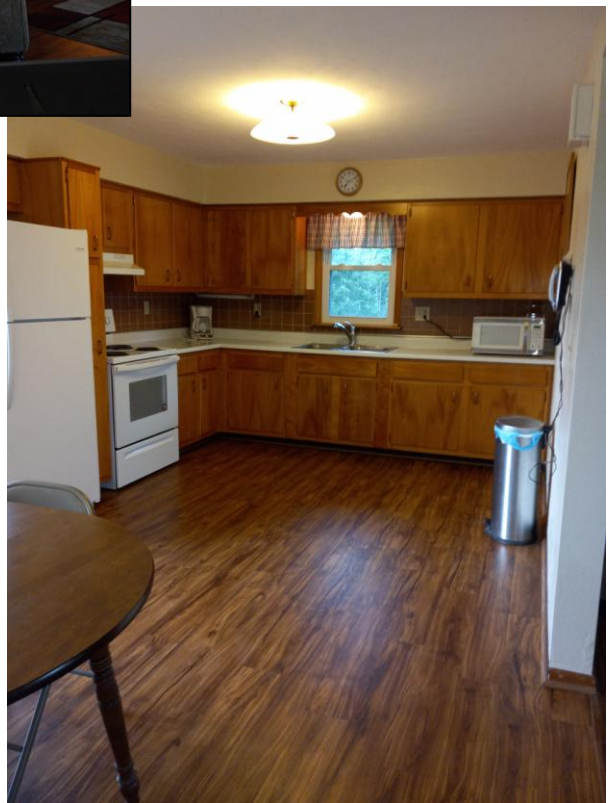
Parsonage



Living Room



Kitchen w/ Dining Room



Master w/ 1/2 Bath



1 of 2 Extra Bedrooms



Main Bath



Office

