



Brief Church Profile

St. John United Church of Christ
409 Park St/PO Box 156
Bolivar, OH 44612

1. WHO ARE WE TODAY – *description of who you are as a church, and your vision and mission statement*

St. John UCC of Bolivar is a small church in membership, but BIG in heart. We have a welcoming presence and have a culture of acceptance and friendship. We treat each member as part of our family. We want to show our presence in the community through faith.

Our vision- At St. John we want to see many more people come and share their love of God and for Christ, worship together and learn more of what is needed in our community and in the world. Our mission is to offer a learning, loving, and giving environment and we want to share the joy of Christ with anyone!

2. WE LIVE OUT OUR VISION AND MISSION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING – *worship, faith formation, care and fellowship, mission and outreach opportunities:*

St. John UCC offers Sunday morning worship services at 10:45am, Sunday school for children, and adults before worship services. We have not had the leadership in recent years that helped us to expand more in faith foundations, ie: Bible Study, Teen classes, Confirmation.

We have coffee hour after services nearly every Sunday which brings people together and helps foster our church culture. We also host events for the Church such as a Spring hike, Fall gathering, participation in the Annual Strawberry festival parade, sponsorship of youth athletic teams.

We have a Mission committee that we recently condensed to empower those volunteers to do more, with the goal focusing our efforts in three areas.

1. Church events to continue to foster togetherness.

2. Community Mission with the goal of doing local community work both monetarily and physically.

We want our youth to understand that serving others through kindness and service are small acts with big impact.

3. Fundraising with the goal of raising money to support missions of all kinds.

We offer a community clothes closet twice a month, selling clothes for \$.50 to \$1.00. All proceeds go to community programs in need. We have a monthly community breakfast from June to October inviting the public.

3. STATISTICAL DATA

- Active Membership: 31
- Total Reported Membership: 216
- Sunday Worship average attendance: 31
- Average Church School Attendance 17

- Members serving on Boards and Committees (DO NOT include small groups): 26
 - Building and Grounds
 - Mission
 - Kitchen
 - Christian Education
- Mission outreach giving, annual: approximately 5 % of the budget
- Our church's annual plan for resourcing the ministry (budget): 30,000-40,000
- Number of staff persons serving the church: 2
List staff positions: Secretary and Custodian

4. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS IN THE CHURCH FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS?

We have not had a stable spiritual leader throughout recent years, which lead to having a very low attendance rate (15-20) in 2018, with very few children or young people. However, in the past two years we have grown to about 30-35 people attending. Several new families with children have joined us bringing new ideas and excitement to the church. We have started bringing back some of the get-togethers such as Ladies Banquet, Men's Banquet, and an annual bowling outing. We are actively seeking ways to involve our youth in programs.

5. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS in the larger community/town in which the church is located?

Bolivar and the adjacent Wilkshire Hills area has been and continues to be a desired location to live. It is ideally located just 10 miles south of Canton and 10 miles north of Dover. There recently was a newer development adding new homes in Wilkshire Hills and there is another development that is adding even more new homes bringing more people to the area. The Tusky Valley School system continues to excel statewide and will have a new campus beginning the 2023-2024 school year. The local community is investing in adding new businesses and parks. The Massarelli baseball fields have opened bringing in families from far and wide for tournaments each weekend.

6. THE SPECIFIC MINISTRIES/ISSUES YOU EXPECT YOUR NEXT PASTOR to address during their tenure -including the gifts, talents, and skills and leadership style you are looking for in your next pastor

What we'd like to have a spiritual leader that has the skill and will to lead our church towards is greater mission. We would like a Pastor with a welcoming personality, who has excitement and enthusiasm for his role.

- Lead worship, preach
- Conduct funerals and weddings as needed
- Help with administration of church business alongside church leadership
- Visit members who are in need
- Interact with local clergy association
- Assist with monthly newsletter content
- Provide guidance to the church members to grow in learning through bible study, confirmation, stewardship etc.
- Involve youth and encourage their faith journey

7. **PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED COMPENSATION RANGE you are offering in dollar amounts. If less than full-time, specify the hours of work.**

Do you follow Conference Compensation guidelines _____

We anticipate this role requiring no more than 20 hours per week. Compensation will be negotiated based on job requirements and what the Pastor will be able to provide.

_____Joclyn Kocher_____
Council/Search Committee Chairperson

_____7/14/2023_____
Date

8. COMMENTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

__________
Signature of Association Staff

_____7/20/2023_____
Date

Association Staff member assisting:

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, General Minister

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