

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
Newark, Ohio

Senior Pastor

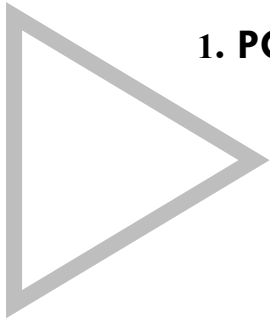
[Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference]

10-21-2023

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)*



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 United Church of Christ

Street address: 285 W National Dr., Newark Ohio 43055

Supplemental web links: <https://www.stjohnsnewark.org>

Church Phone Number: 740-323-2407

Church Email: stjohnsunited@windstream.net

Contact Information:

Search Committee Chairman:

- Tim Powers
- tapowers@windstream.net
- 740-403-1408

Additional ecumenical affiliations (*e.g. denominations, communions, fellowships*):

Conference: **Heartland**

Association: **Central Southeast Ohio**

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

Rev. Melodie Rezac

Administrative Minister/Registrar

Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference UCC

740-503-4803

melodie.cseoa@heartlanducc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

St. John's United Church of Christ is looking to hire a full-time pastor following the 2022 retirement of our pastor who served with us for nearly 14 years. We are looking for a pastor who has a clear profession of personal faith, love for the church and is committed to modeling spiritual disciplines. The right candidate would have good leadership skills with the ability to patiently learn about the church and its people before making changes. Our called pastor would be a leader who can earn trust through humility and interdependence with an innovative spirit and a down to earth, approachable demeanor. The pastor we are looking for would be able to give Christ-centered, inspiring sermons that focus on the teaching of the Bible as the word of God. The congregation is looking for a pastor to celebrate with us through the rituals and ceremony of our faith. In addition to weekly sermons, our pastor would also need to visit sick and homebound members, support Christian education, support fellowship events of the congregation, and be a fellow traveler with us as we turn our hearts toward our creator with greater faith.

We are a small congregation with a big heart led by an elected council and supported through committees. We are looking for a pastor who appreciates our heritage and can link that with our desired future. We are financially secure and have a number of mission and outreach connections already in place. Our strengths include our music ministry with an established organist/pianist/leader, who creates opportunities for sharing talents during worship. We currently offer a traditional service that is in person and live-streamed, a well-attended drive-in service that has been in place since 1978 and a Thursday evening prayer service. We are open to refreshing and updating our services to encourage new church participants. We also have Sunday school opportunities for all ages and a Youth group. We have accomplished much in our 182 years, but we know that we have much more work to do to bring God to the unchurched and the hope of Jesus to those within our reach.

Photographs:



8AM Drive-In Service



What we value about living in our area (2 – 3 sentences):

Newark is the County Seat of Licking County. Our town has a rural feel to it but our area has the benefits of living in a comparably larger community. We are close enough to Columbus, but we are our own community with families who have lived here for generations living alongside transplanted, but long-term residents.

Current size of membership:

- **442 members on our roles, 147 active members**

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): **English**

Position Title: **Senior Pastor**

Position Duration (*choose one, delete the other options listed*):

Settled - Permanent

Compensation Level

Full Time

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

Yes, compensation will meet UCC guidelines for Salary, Housing, Health Care, Pension, Social Security, with reimbursement for mileage for Church business.

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Core Competencies:

- **A Minister who can develop programs to connect with the existing membership of St. John's while developing programs that connect potential new members whether through evangelism, local outreach and/or youth ministry**
- **A Minister who inspires and communicates the Word of God through Scripture.**
- **A Minister that provides the inspiration for the Members of St. John's to live that word throughout the week and every day.**
- **A Minister who is caring and visits our shut-ins and homebound and tends to their spiritual needs**

- 1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: **Per UCC Guidelines**

Benefits (*choose one*):

Salary plus Benefits

What is the expected living situation for your next minister

We own a parsonage and it is available for a new pastor residence. It is located at 34 Prospect St., Newark Ohio.

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

We would prefer that the Minister of St. John's live in the greater Newark community. This has the benefit in both cost of living and being connected to the local community.

State any incentives:

We are open to a one-time compensation for student debt as part of the salary negotiation.

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

Newark Area Ministerial Association

UCC Central Southeast Association

Association Communities of Practice

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 a Minister that is Bi-vocation if that is their preference

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.

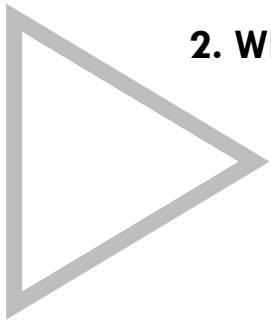
- **Planning and leading a program of connecting with new members**
- **Preparing and leading worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation**
- **Visiting the sick and shut-ins**
- **Advise and support our religious education programs, with emphasis on youth**
- **Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons**
- **We have a full job description on file, we can supply as needed**

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

- **Support both our local and wider missions through our Mission and Outreach Committee**
- **Involvement in South Newark Civic Association**
- **Member of Newark Area Ministerial Association**
- **Active in the UCC Central Southeast Association**
- **Actively engage and promote Church community activities.**

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.

- **Loving God, following Jesus Christ, and being guided by the Holy Spirit, living a life of discipleship.**
- **Empowering the Church to be faithful to God's call, reflective of Christ's mission and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit**
- **Strategically creating the future of God's Church**
- **Bringing life to sacred stories and traditions in worship, proclamation and witness.**
- **Leading faith formation effectively across generations**
- **Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching and ecclesial and community leadership**
- **Understanding community context and navigating change with a community**
- **Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community and life experiences**
- **Demonstrating excellent communication skills**



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)

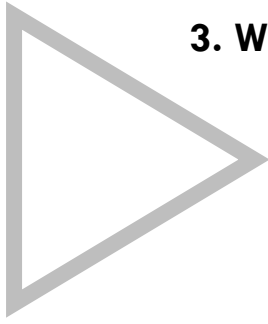
Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

We are a small congregation with a big heart. As with many churches, our membership has declined. While recruitment of new members is a valid goal, caring for the existing membership is key to moving forward, with a focus on programs that establish connections with both the existing membership and programs that reach out to potential new members. These programs would most likely take the form of expanding our community footprint, communicating to our neighbors who we are what we stand for and fellowship opportunities opened up to our Church and our neighbors.

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

For example, describe two experiments your congregation has initiated or engaged in the past year, what were the results and where do you see your next steps? Has your church had a multi-year strategic plan or vision statement; if so, where do you see that plan/vision taking you?

- **Licking County (Ohio) is seeing unprecedented growth. This provides both challenges and opportunities.**
 - **Challenges in that our traditional church and our traditional beliefs may or may not position our church for growth.**
 - **Clearly communicating who we are is key to sharing our Faith journey with new the greater community.**
- **Pre-recorded worship included Scripture and Hymns words projected as part of the service with positive feedback. How can we enhance our Worship service while not losing our existing order of Worship that has served us for many years?**



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.

Faith – This Church acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of Humanity. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to proper its creative redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two Sacraments: Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- **Very active and engaged core of volunteers.**
- **Highly valued and inspirational music program**
- **Beautiful Church and Sanctuary.**
- **Our Drive-In Service which has been in place for almost 40 years and carried us through the challenges of COVID.**

We have three weekly services:

- **8AM Drive-In Service (Apr-Nov) and Morning Sanctuary Service (Nov-Mar)**
- **11AM – Sanctuary Service**
- **7PM, Thursday Prayer Service, Facebook Broadcast.**
- **From our Congregational Survey, these attributes were the most important parts of a worship service:**
- **Worship that is intellectually stimulating.**
- **Attention is given to sacraments.**
- **Is biblically based and illustrated, reflecting Christ’s teachings,**
- **Sets forth a clear faith position as a guide for making decisions and living a faithful life**
- **Is spiritually moving and inspirational.**

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

Adult Sunday School Class – Book used, “Forensic Faith” by Wallace

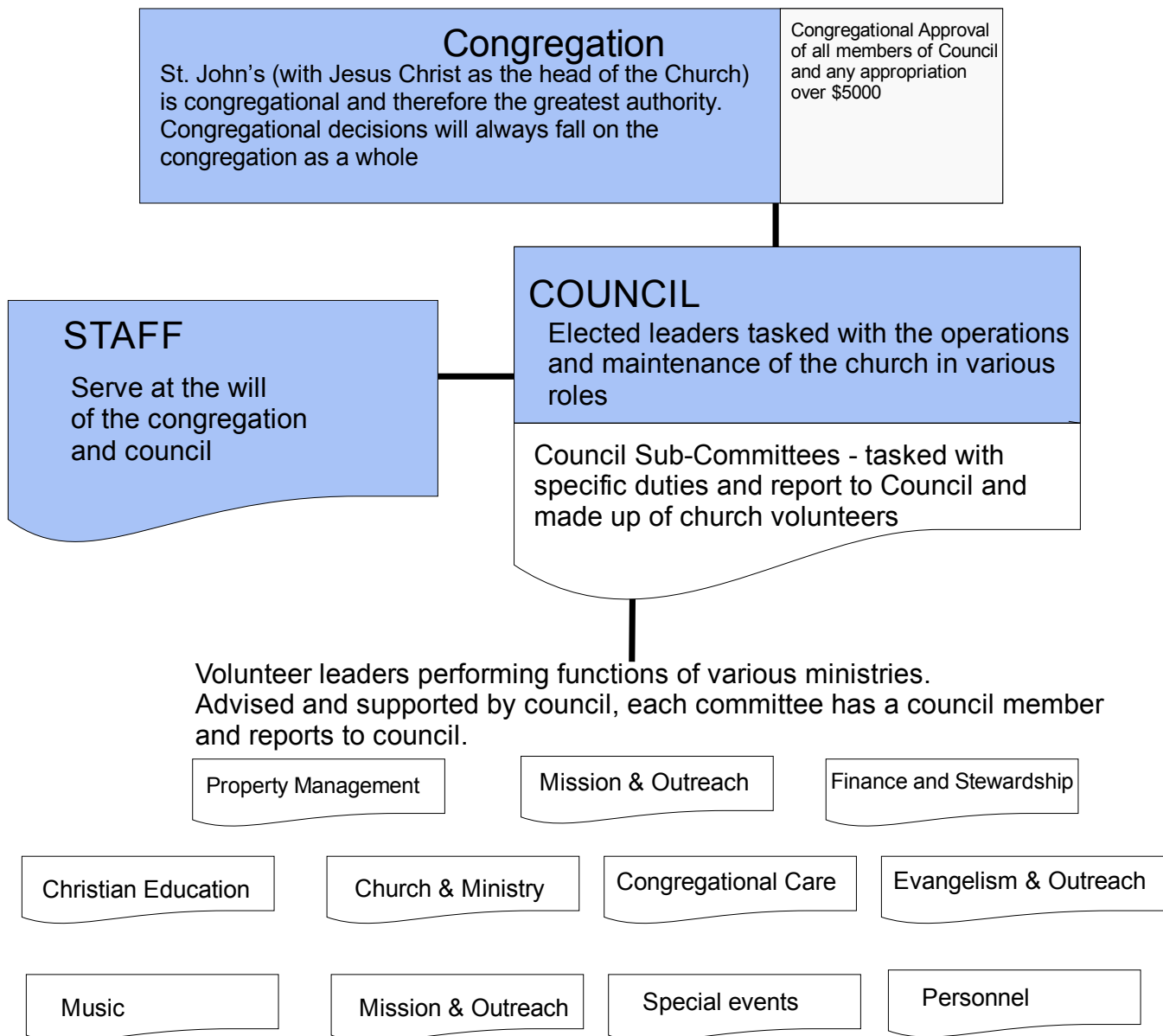
Thursday Morning Adult Coffee and Book Study – Book is “If God is Love”, by Gulley and Mulholland

Afternoon Circle

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

For example, how are decisions communicated in your church? How are teams or committees organized? Where does your church struggle for vision?

• **St. John’s Organization**



- 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?

Annual report is available on request. I have submitted to Melodie, and she can forward our 2022 Annual Report.

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

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



Church#:	524060	Schedule:	0	Saint John's UCC	Newark	OH	43055
Assoc:	560						

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED
2012	459	112	47	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	459	112	47	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	459	112	47	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	459	112	47	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	444	101	30	4	2	6	5	1	6
2017	438	98	30	0	0	3	7	2	-6
2018	438	89	28	0	0	8	8	0	0
2019	428	95	32	0	0	0	10	0	-10
2020	425	35	19	4	0	2	9	0	-3
2021	423	80	20	0	0	5	7	0	-2
2022	422	72	21	1	0	5	7	0	-1

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
2012	\$159,448	\$0	\$4,080	\$2,210	\$6,290	2.56	\$165,738	\$0
2013	\$159,448	\$0	\$4,125	\$2,344	\$6,469	2.59	\$165,917	\$0
2014	\$159,448	\$0	\$3,800	\$623	\$4,423	2.38	\$163,871	\$0
2015	\$159,448	\$0	\$4,000	\$1,464	\$5,464	2.51	\$164,912	\$0
2016	\$205,984	\$0	\$4,000	\$1,916	\$5,916	1.94	\$222,674	\$113,885
2017	\$221,629	\$0	\$3,000	\$1,881	\$4,881	1.35	\$250,698	\$119,248
2018	\$221,966	\$0	\$2,490	\$1,474	\$3,964	1.12	\$239,084	\$111,600
2019	\$225,209	\$39,561	\$2,000	\$1,014	\$3,014	0.89	\$236,227	\$111,966
2020	\$219,878	\$34,340	\$2,275	\$1,076	\$3,351	1.03	\$229,696	\$118,762
2021	\$238,758	\$130,099	\$2,000	\$2,135	\$4,135	0.84	\$249,940	\$126,431
2022	\$237,151	\$6,219	\$1,500	\$4,060	\$5,560	0.63	\$248,722	\$114,046

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2017-2022	-3.65	-26.53	-30.00	100.00	-22.22	7.00	13.91	-0.79
2012-2022	-8.06	-35.71	-55.32	0.00	0.00	48.73	-11.61	50.07

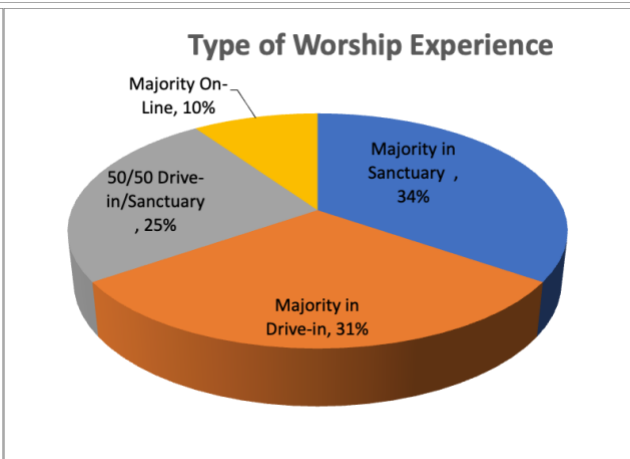
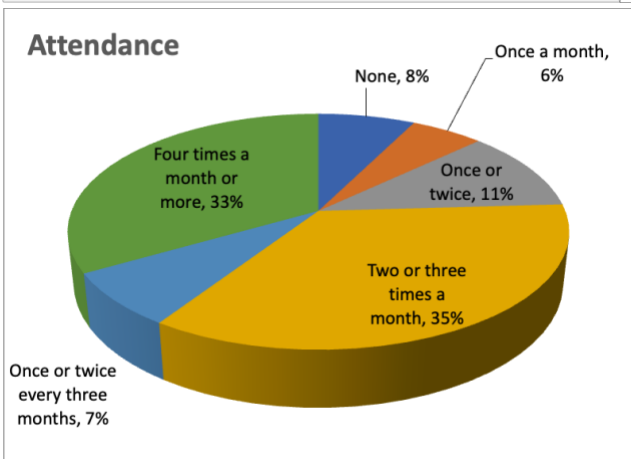
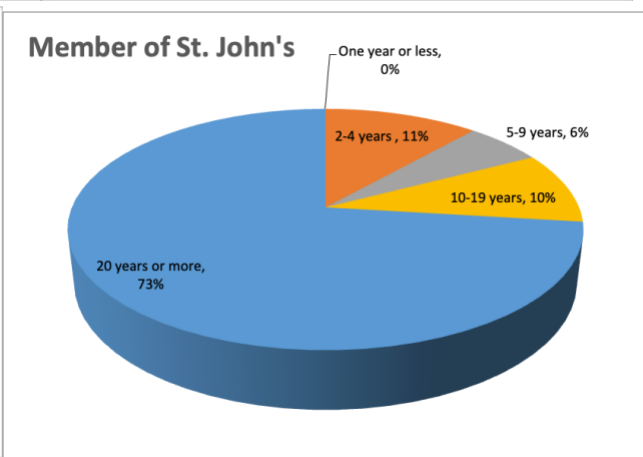
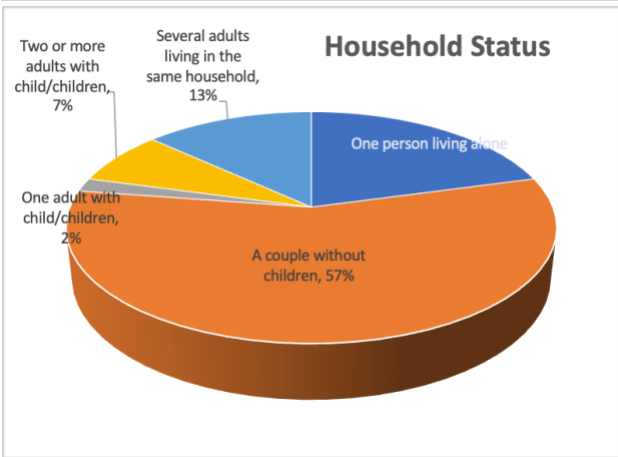
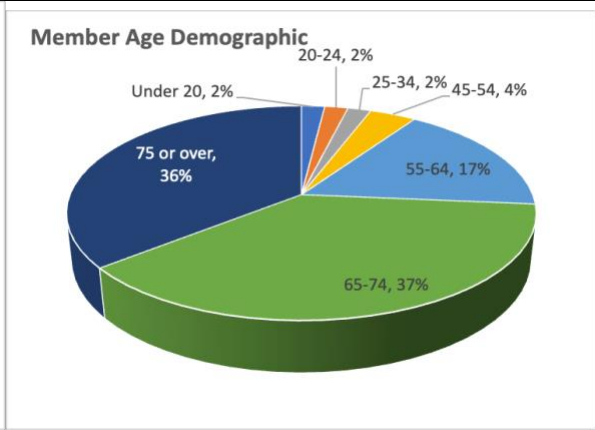
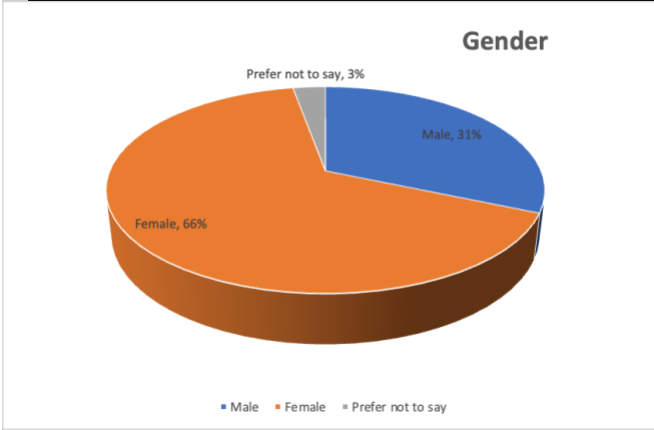
Please note: Zero values ("0" or "\$0") may reflect missing information in some years. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

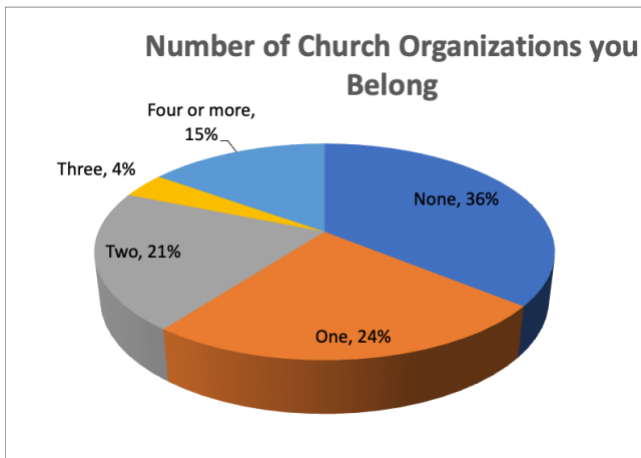
3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
--	--	---

Number of active members:	422/147	Roles/active
Number of active non-members:	0	
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	422/147	





3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation. (2022)

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	3 groups	Weekly or monthly
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	-	
Children's Groups or Classes	2 classes	Weekly or bi-monthly
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	4 Services	2 Easter, 2 Christmas Eve
Church-wide Meals	5 Meals	
Choirs and Music Groups	3 groups	
Church-based Bible Study	-	Part of Adult Class
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	12 times	Also served to Homebound
Community Meals	2 meals	Trunk or Treat and SNCA
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	1	
Drama or Dance Program	-	
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	6	

Intergenerational Groups	1	Afternoon Circle
Outdoor Worship	26 weeks	Drive in Service Apr-Nov
Prayer or Meditation Groups	52 weeks	Weekly Thursday Prayer Service
Public Advocacy Work	5+ persons	Members are involved with: Coalition of Care, Meals on Wheels, Licking County Coalition for Housing, Turban Project, Local Home Improvement Mission
Retreats	2 retreats	10 members attended Big Creek Missions: Ladies Mini Retreat
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	-	
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	2	
Worship (time slot: _8AM__)	52 weeks	
Worship (time slot: _11AM__)	52 weeks	
Young Adult Groups or Classes		
Youth Groups or Classes	1	Bi-Weekly
Other		

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)
Rev. Mark Katrick	Retired	Serving local Congregation Part Time	-	Y

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:

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
Administrator		Part	Council	20
Dir Christian Ed		Part	Council	11
Sexton		Part	Council	9
Dir Music		Part	Council	25+
Assistant Admin		Part	Council	8
Assistant Music		Part	Council	25+

REFLECTION

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

St. John's is an aging church membership with a vibrant active core of volunteers and staff that serve on committees and actively participate in the day-to-day operation of the Church. The Church financially supports and provides space for local charities and groups.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (2023)

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$92,000
Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$110,000
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	3%
Fundraising Events	none scheduled
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	rolled into endowments
Grants	\$
Rentals of Church Building	\$
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$19,200
Support from Related Organizations (<i>e.g. Women's Group</i>)	\$
Transfers from Special Accounts	\$
Other (specify):	\$
Other (specify):	\$
TOTAL	\$276,000

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$

Attach most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer’s report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget – list current budgeted expenses here.

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? **\$92,600 = 33% of total budget**

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

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? (recommended 10%). **\$2,000**

What is the church’s current indebtedness?

Total amount of loan debt: **\$0**

Reason for debt:

Are capital and other payments current?

If a building program is projected or underway, describe it, including the projected start/end date of the building project and the total project budget.

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

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
2021	New AV System for Live Streaming	\$30,000	\$30,000	Reaching out to wider audience, previously service broadcast on local radio station
2022	Parking Lot Paving Project	\$115,000	\$115,000	Paid for by Maintenance Fund

2020	Bell Tower	\$50,000	\$50,000	Through donations
------	------------	----------	----------	-------------------

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
2023	Replace 2 boilers	\$110,000	\$110,000	Miller Estate Fund
		\$	\$	

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign.

The Bell Tower Restoration was raised through donations and restored our 135 year old bells and associated mechanical system to like new condition.

Does your church have an endowment?

What is the market value of the assets? \$3,000,000 approx.

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? **For Operating Expenses. Some funds have specific requirements, one fund specified for Maintenance of the Church.**

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? **3%**

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

2023	2022	2021	2019
\$110,000	\$100,800	\$90,000.	\$90,000

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? **20+ years**

Other Assets

Does your church have a parsonage?

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: **\$240,000**

How is the parsonage used? **Rented, available for pastor**

Street / City / State / Zip: 34 Prospect Street, Newark, OH 43055

Finished square footage: **1981**

Number of Bedrooms = **3**, Number of Bathrooms= **2**:

Assessed real estate value: **\$224,000**

Available for minister residence: Y

Expected minister residence: Y/N

Description: **The property is located directly adjacent to the church. The two-story, 1981 square foot, brick parsonage was built in 1961. It has a wood burning fireplace, full basement and attached two-car garage.**

Condition of structure, systems and appliances – **Excellent**

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs – **Property and Maintenance Committee**

Describe all buildings owned by the church: **Church, Garage/storage adjacent to church and Parsonage.**

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

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? (*worship space, pulpit, fellowship space, facilities, etc.*). **The Church was built in 1957. It has an elevator that is accessible to the basement and the main floor of the church. The Elevator was installed in the 1990's.**

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

Our financial condition is sound and we have no debts. While we have a healthy endowment that provides operating funds, new membership is imperative to ongoing fiscal continuity.

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.

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.

**Bethlehem Marketplace
Last Supper Portrayal
Outdoor Services started in June 1978**

MOST IMPORTANT - 175th Celebration of founding of St. John's

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

Adapting church services and church life to COVID pandemic. We had a long-established outdoor service. There was no interruption in services during the pandemic.

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.

Generally, congregational meetings are conducted to air out everyone's concerns. Then Church Council follows up by coming up with solutions or developing a committee to deal with stated concerns. Both individuals and committees can give their input.

Ministerial History (include all previous ministerial staff for the past 30 years)

Staff Member's Name	Years of Service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
*Donald Yaekle	1991-1991	Y
Edward E. Lopeman	1991-1998	Y
*Pamela J. Webb	1999-2000	Y
Winfield E. Strout	2000-2006	Y
*Nancy E. Millwater	2007-2008	Y
Mark A. Katrick	2009-2022	Y
*Joyce Wealand	2022-2023	Y

*Interim

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

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

Yes

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation?

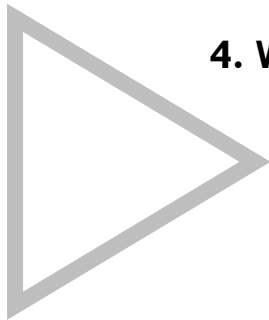
Yes

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church?

No

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

These were both very delicate concerns that were resolved per our Constitution. The Situational Consultation was done in coordination with the Central Southeast Ohio Association Minister and Administrative Minister.



4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

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

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

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

- **We provide space for Fostering Further, a non-profit that assists Foster Youth that are aging out with necessities.**
- **We have had a long history with Licking County Food Pantry (LCFP), specifically all proceeds from Bethlehem Marketplace were earmarked for LCFP**
- **We have ongoing relationships with Coalition of Care and the Salvation Army**

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

Our Pastor has participated in the Greater Newark Ministerial Association, active in many local missions and non-profits to further the mission of St. John’s in the name of Jesus Christ. We send delegates each year to the Ohio Conference of the UCC annual meetings. A complete listing of organizations that we physically and monetarily support is listed below.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input checked="" 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?

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

Listed are the local and National groups that we have physically supported or financially supported:

Salvation Army

St. Vincent de Paul

Youth Mission Trip

Newark Homeless Outreach

Community Health Clinic

Ukraine donation through UCC

Vacation Bible School

Pastor's discretionary fund

Look-up Center

Kentucky Flood Victims through UCC

YMCA Christian Emphasis Program

Florida Hurricane Relief

Center for New Beginnings

Vertical 196

Food Pantry of Licking County

National Child Safety Program

Coalition of Care

Village Network Foster Care

UCC One Great Hour of Sharing

UCC OCWM

UCC Neighbors in Need

UCC Christmas Fund

UCC Strengthen the Church

This year Mission and Outreach gave donations to disasters in Florida, Kentucky and Ukraine in addition to continuing the support for the needs of our community.

Our support for the Village Network Foster Care for Christmas gifts was also supported by the congregation's offerings. We continue to promote the Food Pantry year round with monthly donations of food and money for the needs of the Licking County residents. We recently donated and assembled 250 "period packs" that are distributed through the UCC to 3rd world countries.

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.

From our Constitution:

The purpose of this Congregation shall be: Mutual edification and advancement in Godliness and in the knowledge of the Word of God.

As a committee-based organization directed by Council, our efforts are regularly reviewed and resources continually assessed as to how it is meeting our Mission Statement.

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?

Extending our reach into the greater community is an important priority to further our outreach and mission.

4b. MISSION InSite

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

- **With Intel and numerous other companies building in Licking County, it is expected that this area will have high growth for the next 10 years**

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?

St. John's membership reflect both the historical German Heritage church and the general demographics of central Licking County.

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

Same

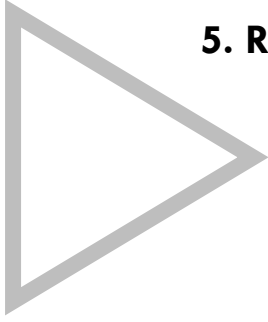
What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

A traditional church that is well established

- **Bethlehem Marketplace**
- **Support of local Foster Care Agencies and Food Pantry**

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

We have not had new members since the Pandemic.



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

Name / Position / Setting

Kevin Cox

Edward Jones – Church’s Financial Advisor

711 W Church St.

Newark, Ohio 43055

740-349-9171

REFERENCE

Valerie Smith

Fostering Further – Church supports this non-profit with space for storage and distribution to foster children

P.O. Box 365

Pastaskala, OH 43062

740-777-8053

REFERENCE 3

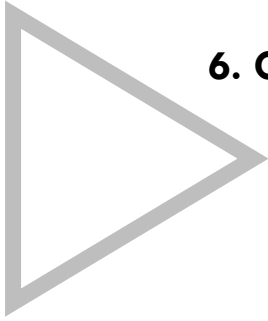
Rev. Scott Schieber

Interim Pastor, Northwest Christian Church, Columbus, OH (through November), Senior Pastor, First Christian Church, Wilson, NC (beginning January 2024)

614.226.1314 / schieber@columbus.rr.com, through December 2023) / Community ministry partner, UCC colleague for over 10 years. Scott’s Email will change starting Jan 2024.

schieber@columbus.rr.com

Scott is in the process of relocating to North Carolina with his family. He was a student pastor at St. John's for 1 year.



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:

Dear Lord, as we pray to you in this time of transition, please allow us the privilege to call a new pastor that will make connections with our existing membership and connections to the wider community as well. As we seek to call a new leader for our congregation, may you give us the wisdom, the understanding and the patience to listen to your spirit. God, we put our committee and our congregation in your hands as only you know who will guide us as our new pastor in the future. Allow both our future minister, our search committee and our congregation to see what you have in store for us, as we follow our risen Christ in faith, love and fellowship. Amen

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? *(for example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.)*
St. John's Search Committee developed and assembled this profile.
2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Signed:

Name / Title / Date:

Tim Powers

Chairman, St. John's United Church of Christ Search Committee

October 18, 2023

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment:

YES

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: Rev. Melodie Rezac, Administrative Minister/Registrar

Email: melodie.cseo@heartlanducc.org

Phone: 740-503-4803

Date: 10.20.2023

**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