

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!

Rachel Hackenberg

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE



St. John's UCC of Tylersville
3782 Narrows Road
Loganton, Pennsylvania

Pastor

[Penn Central Conference, Northern Association]

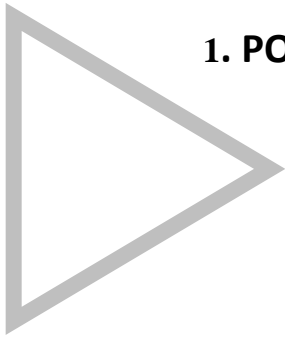
1/15/2025

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

- Position Posting
- Who Is God Calling Us To Become?
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- 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 of Tylersville**

Street address: **3782 Narrows Road, Loganton, PA 17747**

Conference: **Penn Central Conference, UCC**

Association: **Northern Association**

UCC Conference Contact Person:

Dr. Nora Driver Foust

Associate Conference Minister

717-652-1560 x3

nfoust@pccucc.org

Summary Ministry Description: See **[Tylersville Leadership Expectations.pdf](#)** Form

Photographs:



What we value about living in our area:

Our area provides an excellent opportunity for rural living at its best. Picturesque, quiet, and caring community. We are within 30 minutes of the closest Walmart, and 45 minutes away from 4 colleges, 5 hospitals, many state parks, and cities with arts and recreation. Our area also provides cool breezes from the gap, green mountains and fields, beautiful views of the stars at night, and fresh produce stands within the Amish community.

Current size of membership: **73**

Languages used in ministry: **English**

Position Title: **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:

Full Time-Negotiable

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

As budgeted, please see Annual Report and Proposed Budget

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Core Competencies:

- **Is a person of Faith**
- **Is an effective Preacher/Speaker**
- **Makes pastoral calls on people in hospitals and nursing homes and those confined to their homes**
- **Are effective with working with children**
- **Promotes communication within the church**
- **Is self-motivated for the wellbeing of the Church**

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: **Please see [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#)**

Benefits:

- **Medical & Social Security offsets**
- **Mileage Reimbursement**
- **Term Life & Disability Insurance**

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?

Parsonage provided with basic appliances, and utilities paid. Pastor is responsible for parsonage grounds keeping.

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

- **Parsonage is right across the street from the church.**
- **Participates in valley ministerium and other valley services.**
- **Visits community members at hospitals and homes.**

State any incentives:

Professional and Educational Development Opportunities - reimbursed as budgeted.
[Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#)

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

Local Ministerium, Northern Association Ministerium, retired local pastors, and pastoral relationship committee

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

Negotiable: discussion would have to occur at a later time.

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.

- **Coordinate with choir director for selecting Sunday hymns and special music.**
- **Encourage evangelistic activities beyond Sunday worship.**
- **Plan their own Sunday worship services.**

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

Active in community outreach through Valley Vacation Bible School, Sugar Valley Ministerium for joint services which include Lenten services, Easter sunrise service,

community picnic, Thanksgiving Eve service, Christmas Eve service, local school events, and sporting events.

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 in Sacred Stories and Traditions and Participating in Theological Praxis as demonstrated through a Solid understanding and ability to teach the Scriptures



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?

To study the past, to guide us in the present, and to build our future with GOD for our Church and Community.

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

- **Upcoming trips to Sight & Sound**
- **Gifts to nonprofits (Please see detailed information in [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#))**
- **Valley wide Lenten services**
- **Local benevolence**
- **Valley wide Bible School**
- **Valley wide community picnic**



3. WHO ARE WE NOW?

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

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation's life of faith.

Please see attached [Tylersville Constitution and Bylaws.pdf](#)

How is GOD most often described in worship liturgy?

God is most often described in liturgy as "HE".

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

A present entity that is guiding, leading, and comforting.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

- **Emotional Support**
- **Giving**
- **Caring**
- **Family**
- **Taking on responsibility**

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

- **Fellowship before & after**
- **Using hymnals for songs in the church sanctuary**
- **Bible based worship**
- **Spiritual with the love of music**

What was a recent baptism like?

Very joyful and supportive infant baptism

What are some words to describe good preaching?

Bible based on our level of understanding.

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

**Educational - Sunday School from the Bible and David C. Cook curriculum.
Interested in Bible studies with a pastor-led curriculum.**

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.
When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month?

Varies; at least one consistory meeting a month approximately lasting an hour to an hour and a half. Others as needed.

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

Through the organization of the church members, council president, and the pastor.

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

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

[Tylersville 11 Year Report.pdf](#)

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	73	
Number of active non-members:	18	Yes

Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	94	Yes
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Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	80 %	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	5 %	Yes
Less than 5 years:	15 %	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	6	5	0	4	9	6	23	17	Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	7 %	Yes
Households with minors:	24 %	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	9 %	Yes
Joint households with no minors:	35 %	Yes
Single adults over 65:	24 %	Yes

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

Labor– White and Blue Collar

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial make-up. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?

Mono-cultural as a rural community

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

No conversation.

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	12	pastor and lay leaders
Baptisms (<i>number last year</i>)	0	pastor and Family
Children's Groups or Classes	2 classes	various lay leaders
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	85 people	pastor
Church-wide Meals	6 meals	volunteers (potlucks)
Choirs and Music Groups	4 groups	volunteers
Church-based Bible Study	1	pastor
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	6	pastor
Community Meals	3 meals	volunteers
Confirmation (<i>number confirmed last year</i>)	0	pastor
Drama or Dance Program	0	
Funerals (<i>number last year</i>)	1	pastor and volunteers
Intergenerational Groups	0	
Outdoor Worship	0	
Prayer or Meditation Groups	0	

Public Advocacy Work	0	
Retreats	0	
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community	4 programs	Sugar Valley Ministerium and volunteers (Joint Services)
Weddings (<i>number last year</i>)	0	
Worship (time slot: 8:30 AM)	52 services	pastor
Worship (time slot: 7:00 PM)	3 services	pastor
Young Adult Groups or Classes	1 class	volunteers
Youth Groups or Classes	0	
Other		

Additional comments:

With strong pastoral leadership, church gatherings would increase in quantity

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:

None

REFLECTION

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

Church members are willing to volunteer when asked and encouraged to participate.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income:

Please see [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#)

Current annual expenses:

Please see [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#)

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

Please see [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#)

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?

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?

Donations

What is the church's current indebtedness?

\$0.00

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.

No planned projects

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

None

Does your church have an endowment?

No

Other Assets

Reserves: [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#)

Investments: [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#)

Does your church have a parsonage? **Yes**

How is the parsonage used? **Residential Pastor**

Street / City / State / Zip: **3791 Narrows Road, Loganton, PA 17747**

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: **4 Bedrooms & 2½ Baths**

Assessed real estate value: **\$122,000.00**

Available for minister residence: **Yes**

Expected minister residence: **Yes**

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: **Good**

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs:

pastor communicates repair needs to trustees / consistory

Describe all buildings owned by the church:

Parsonage, church, shed and pavilion

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

Logan Township Building & Booneville Campground

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs?

Worship space & pavilion

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

Owning our own parsonage enables our pastor to become embedded in the community and also benefits the pastor from searching for housing & paying rent.

How is the budgeting process done?

- **Deacons prepare the budget**
- **Council move to present it to the congregation**
- **Congregation approves at the Annual Meeting**

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.

- **Becoming a single point charge church.**
- **Purchasing the parsonage.**
- **Our local benevolence has identified us as a caring & giving congregation to those in need.**

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

With our recent change in pastor, our congregation has managed and is still continuing to thrive and grow.

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.

With Unity, Faith, & Prayer- Allowing God to lead the way with open and honest communication.

Does your Church have policies, protocols, or structures for dealing with conflict?

Yes, the Scriptures, St. John’s Constitution, & By-Laws

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

Staff member’s name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Rev. Daniel Blake Gulley	2	No
Rev. John Granchie	1.5	No
Rev. Rodger Snyder	7.5	Yes
Ed Fisher	1	Yes
Rev. Nancy Kuhns	20	Yes

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

Ministerial leadership needs to be a part of us, not over us.

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

Ask us

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)

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

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

Please see [Tylersville 2024 Reports.pdf](#) (Designated Funds)

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

- **Pay our dues and participate in our association meetings**
- **Support our conference**
- **The pastor is expected to participate in Northern Association, Penn Central Conference, church meetings, and committees.**

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 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 |

Describe your congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities:

- **Nine senior meals with Brethren Church**
- **Lenten services**
- **Community picnic**
- **Community Bible school**
- **Weekly Bible study**
- **RISE against hunger**
- **Salvation Army food collection**

- **Local food bank**

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities?

Please see [Tylersville Constitution and Bylaws.pdf](#)

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?

Community ministry is expected by our full-time pastor.

4b. MISSION InSite

Comment on your congregation's Mission Insite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area.

Please keep in mind that we have many Amish families in our community. This definitely is reflected in many of the graphs such as education, etc. It is also our understanding that in the 2010 Census the Amish were coded as "Catholics".

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?

Same

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

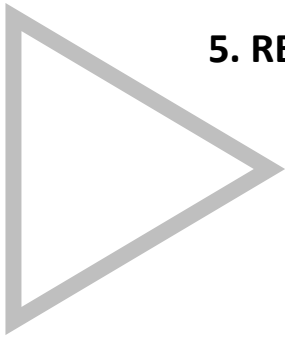
Rapidly increasing Amish population is changing the community's demographics.

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

- **Giving & Generosity**
- **Choir & Music**
- **Dynamic messages from the Bible**

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

- **The Pastor's Bible based messages.**
- **A worship service at their comfort level.**
- **The church choir and special music programs.**



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

Carol Washburn
727 Villiage Ave
Collegeville, PA 19426
610-489-4650
Relationship to the Congregation – past member
[Tylersville Reference Washburn.pdf](#)

REFERENCE 2

Rev. Wayne Wagner
1274 E Winter Road
Loganton, PA 17747
570-768-7414
Relationship to the Congregation – supply Pastor, Loganton resident and local retired minister
[Tylersville Ref Wagner.pdf](#)

REFERENCE 3

Donna Mills
436 Summer Mtn. RD
Loganton PA 17747
570-725-3665

Relationship to the Congregation – Active and supportive participant in the church, attends special meals and events throughout the year.

[Tylersville Reference Mills.pdf](#)

REFERENCE 4

Brenda Mitchell

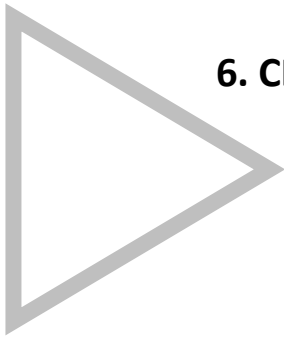
47 E Main St

Loganton, PA 17747

(570) 725-2322

Relationship to the Congregation – supply Pastor, Loganton resident, local retired minister

[Tylersville Reference Mitchell.pdf](#)



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:

Our minister and participants supporting each other to grow in God's ministry.

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.*)

Diversified Search Committee – volunteers from the members

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Please see extra documents below as referenced throughout the profile.

Signed: Noah Conway

Noah R. Conway

Search Committee Chairperson

January 15, 2025

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

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

Staff Comment: St. John's in Tylersville is active in association and conference life.

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: the linked 2024 reports are accurate to my knowledge.

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature: *Nora D. Foust*

Name / Title: Rev. Dr. Nora D. Foust, Associate Conference Minister

Email: nfoust@pccucc.org

Phone: 717-652-1560

Date: 01/28/2025

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