

Name of Church
Saint John's UCC
Address
117 N Eighth St Shamokin, PA 17872
Conference:
Penn Central
Association:
Central (Penn Central)
Title
Pastor
Start Date
Sep 1, 2024
Description
pastor

Church Contact Information

No contact information has been added to this profile.

Listing Information

Web Presences

<https://www.facebook.com/p/St-Johns-UCC-Shamokin-> *Type: Other*

Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations

Shamokin Area Ministerium

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

Name:

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

Title:

Associate Conference Minister for Congregational and Ministerial Excellence

Phone:

(717) 652-1560; (717) 433-2587

Email:

nfoust@pccucc.org

What we value about living in our area.

In many ways, the Shamokin vicinity seems to be in the middle of nowhere, but it is centrally located for easy access to the many opportunities in the Harrisburg, Wilkes Barre-Scranton, and Williamsport areas. Offering the best of small-town experience (i.e., knowing your neighbors, minimal street traffic, live music and restaurants, annual community-wide festivals, and a world class amusement park), it is unique in terms of the presence of multiple ethnic groups and is proud of its heritage as part of the "Coal Region" of Pennsylvania. There are many signs here of a community that is re-emerging from hard times (e.g., the recent opening of a new recreation center and the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area--a 8,000 acre tract providing an extensive off-road trail system for ATVs and dirt bikes), poised to develop and grow.

Current size of membership

187

Average in person attendance

35

Does your church hold virtual worship services?

Yes

Choose platform type(s) and number for virtual worship.**Video Hosting Platform**

On average, how many views are received per service?

110

Languages used in ministry

English

Position Title

Pastor

Position Duration

Settled

Compensation Level

1/2 Time (approximately 20-22 hours/week)

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?

No

Scope of Work

Select the expectations of the church's next pastor using the list below and following the [Call Agreement Workbook](#).

Some additional goals for the pastor may also be included here. Expectations should be reasonable based upon the compensation level selected above; for example, a ¼ time pastor likely has time for Worship Leadership, preaching, service preparation, and possibly emergency on-call pastoral care.

Expectations:

Worship Leadership, Preaching, Service Preparation.
Church Administration, Newsletter, Communications, Staff Supervision.
Leadership with Church governing body and committees.
Pastoral care, visitation of hospitalized, homebound, and members in care facilities.
Special services (weddings, funerals, liturgical year services).
Teaching – Bible Studies, adult education, confirmation, other (please provide a list of any other teaching items).
Maintain collegial and denominational relationships.
Mission and service involvements.

Compensation and Support

The salary basis comes from the [Call Agreement Workbook](#), equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/ Housing Allowance. The Conference can assist in determining these amounts or provide a worksheet to be used to calculate these values.

SALARY AND BENEFITS OFFERED: SALARY BASIS: ITEM OFFERED	AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE(IF DETERMINED)	IS THIS NEGOTIABLE	PASTORAL CANDIDATE DETERMINES
Salary (Cash basis determined from Conference/ Association Guidelines)	32500	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Housing Allowance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary Basis: 32500			
Pension/Annuity	4374	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Social Security and Medicare Offset	2486	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical/Dental Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability Insurance	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If needed, please comment further on your church's salary and benefits for the minister.

St. John's is very much in the intentional rebuilding mode with regard to the pastoral package. The foregoing figures are to be seen against a 2021 Budget line-item of \$20,900 earmarked for salary and housing. Beyond a travel allowance of \$5,000 (and the Social Security offset), there were no additional benefits provided in 2021, including health insurance or pension. In recent years, the leadership have been very diligent about making strides in the direction of a more attractive package to offer to pastoral candidates. The 2025 Budget numbers above set aside a total of \$36,874, which can be divided according to the preferences of the pastor (in addition to a travel allowance of \$3,500 and the Social Security offset).

The expected living situation for our next minister.

St. John's owns a 3-story parsonage situated adjacent to the church. It has been reasonably well-maintained over the years, including a recent interior repainting. Our next Settled Pastor can choose either to occupy this parsonage or to opt instead for a housing allowance.

If a parsonage is provided, will the church offer a home equity allowance to the pastor? (The recommended guidelines for a home equity allowance is equal to 1.5% of the average home value in the community; this is considered taxable to the minister. The Housing Equity Offset should not be calculated into the Salary Basis upon which other Benefits are determined. Churches should consult a tax advisor prior to establishing any account for an equity allowance to ensure compliance with IRS rules on nonqualified deferred compensation plans.)

No

No response

How our church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment.

In calling a parttime pastor, we understand that hours spent in church-related matters will be limited to 20-25 per week. A bi-vocational pastor will have the remaining hours available to apply to his or her other employment. Adjustments will need to be made at times of crisis (emergencies, hospitalizations, deaths, etc.), when the pastor may not be available immediately. The Elders can be expected to pick up some of the slack here.

Additional reimbursements the next Pastor can expect to receive as part of their employment:

reimbursement for use of personal vehicle.

Other meeting registrations (or educational requirement registrations).

Peer and professional supports available for ministers in our association/conferences.

Both the Central Association and Penn Central Conference place high value on collegial relationships, as an expression of the covenantal connection among clergy. The Association typically schedules annual meetings each year for all congregations and the clergy serving them. The Conference offers multiple opportunities as well—from its Annual Meeting in June to small group experience (continuing education, boundary training, communities of practice, etc.).

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 God is calling us to become as a congregation.

In striving to be Christlike, we feel called to be faithful followers at work in our surrounding community. We seek to relate and evidence the faith within our walls to the needs and interests beyond them. We aspire to be creative and innovative, as we value and support one another and as we work cooperatively towards common goals.

How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.

We have a respectable understanding of what the challenges and opportunities are in our community and congregation but, given our relatively small active membership size and the financial base deriving from it, we have limited resources with which to respond too broadly. We manage this predicament by focusing on a few areas and doing the best we can with them. Community-wise, this has taken the form of our regular rummage sales (renamed "Assorted Treasures"), our "Little Angels" ministry to families in the area who are celebrating a new baby (in partnership with the local "Pregnancy Care Center"), and our continuing partnerships with "Manna for the Many" (a food pantry that is located in our facility) and the Cub Scout and Boy Scout packs which meet in our building. Congregation-wise, this has most notably taken the form of an emerging children's program (where the kids figure prominently in our weekly worship followed by a further educational time), as well as a recently revitalized Women's Guild (and its "Talitha Project," providing feminine hygiene products that are available to the needy through the Manna for the Many Food Pantry). In all these efforts, we are motivated by that "still small voice" of the still-speaking God, which calls us in love to serve our own as well as the community beyond.

11-Year Report

Download a copy of the 11-Year Report developed with the help of our conference staff and UCC Data Hub.

[!\[\]\(626ce8ac21792b9405bfddfea8e0c96a_img.jpg\) Download 11-Year Report](#)

Congregation Demographics

Describe those who participate in your church.

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:	187
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	0
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	187

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Describe the total participation of the church:

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
MEMBERSHIP 5 YEARS AGO:	327
MEMBERSHIP 10 YEARS AGO:	365
WEEKLY ADULT EDUCATION ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	0
YOUTH MINISTRY ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	0

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	30
12-17	3
18-24	5
25-34	17
35-44	20
45-54	16
55-64	23
65-74	55
75+	47

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

No

Staff and Volunteer Leadership

List of all current staff:

STAFF OR VOLUNTEER POSITION	WHO GUIDES THE WORK OF THIS POSITION?	COMPENSATION	LENGTH OF TENURE FOR CURRENT PERSON IN THIS POSITION
Church Secretary	Pastor & Consistory	part	46 years
Interim Pastor	Consistory	part	5 years

Reflection: What this information reflect about our congregation's overall ministry:

While St. John's has had its most glorious days in past decades, there is still a core of committed volunteers who resolutely carry on with the congregation's efforts. With the disappearance of numerous Working Committees in the past who cared for the ministry and outreach, the most important of their

performed functions have been written into the portfolio of responsibilities for the six Elders and six Deacons, per our recently redeveloped Constitution. That said, this church is very much pastor-centered, taking its cues and sensitive to the direction provided by its ordained leadership.

Church Finances

Current Annual Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	78502
Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)	45431
Fundraising Events	13964
Memorials, Honoraria	2545
Rentals	7200
Support from Related Organizations	573
Interest, Dividends	3772
Miscellaneous	878
Total	152865

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

151835

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.

[Download church budget](#)

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church?

No

Total amount of loan debt:

No response

Reason for debt:

No response

Are capital and other payments current?

Yes

Does the church currently have any endowments? If so, what are the values of those endowments?

Endowment:

674335

Endowment:

No response

Endowment:

No response

Capital Campaigns

Capital campaign or building project file

No Response

Pictures



Does the church have a parsonage?

Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

No response

How is the parsonage used?

No response

Street

131 North 8th Street

City

Shamokin

State

PA

Zip

17872

Finished square footage:

2100

Number of Bedrooms:

4

Number of Bathrooms:

2

Assessed real estate value:

50000

Available for minister residence?

Yes

Expected minister residence?

No

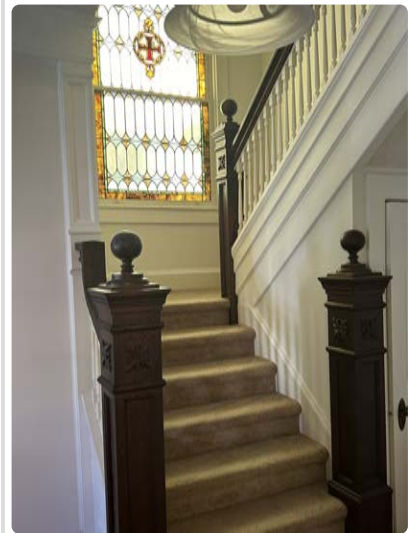
Condition of structure, systems and appliances

Basic, functional (the parsonage has been unoccupied for 5 years)

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs

Property Committee

Parsonage pictures



Describe all buildings owned by the church and include pictures:

St. John's owns both the church and a parsonage. The church is a two-story brick structure, originally built in 1865 and rebuilt in 1893, whose front door faces Eighth Street. While the Church Office is located on the main floor, access to the upper-level sanctuary is by way of a staircase on either side of the structure. For accessibility reasons, in recent years, the Grant Street (rear) doors have been widely used by most persons as the principal entrance. In 1962, the Lark Memorial Chapel was added to the rear of the main church structure. The parsonage is a three-story building that is situated next door to the church facility. Marked by a number of unique architectural features, it is a large structure which provides ample living and office space. Since the departure of the last Settled Pastor, it has remained empty.

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

None.

Accessibility features of our building(s):

Exterior access such as ramps for wheelchair users or people requiring other mobility assistance
Accessible parking spaces

Access to child care spaces for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids
Large print bulletins
Handrails on all stairs

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, through [Just World Covenants](#) or affiliations with other groups. Check any of the following partnerships which your congregation has formally adopted, or movements which otherwise apply to your congregation.

None.

References



Betsy Bruaw

Completed: Monday, Sep 15, 2025

My family joined St. John's in 1972 when I was 7. Confirmed there, summer intern. Supported as a Student in Care, and ordained there on July 1, 1990.

Primary Email Address: betsy.bruaw@peaceunitedchurch.org

Church Primary Phone: 717-484-4400

Reference Response

St. John's has a rich heritage of honoring covenant with members, community and the wider church. In the 35 years since my ordination I have maintained meaningful connections with the congregation that nurtured me, visiting, preaching, and offering support to leaders. I have prayed for them, they for me. I know that they have been faithful to their mission even in the harsh realities of these last decades. I know that they have sought to be Christ's hands and feet in the struggling community around them. I know that they have earnestly kept the faith, participating in the wider church, availing themselves of strategies and programs of renewal and vitality. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the congregation in its search for a pastor and teacher. I pray that the heritage and legacy of St. John's as a community that nurtures and supports disciples and leaders will inform the process.



Kathleen Kinney

Completed: Thursday, Sep 18, 2025

Bridge pastor St. John's shamokin, PA

Primary Email Address: kthlnkinney@gmail.com

Personal Cell: 4708478757

Reference Response

I was honored to have served as a "bridge pastor" for St. John's UCC in Shamokin, PA.

Despite being there during Covid lockdown the church continued to serve her members and share the gospel as much as was possible.

St. John's is a dedicated congregation who continues their legacy as a church alive in the Spirit and devoted to Christ Jesus.

Despite many socio-economic changes in Shamokin St. John's maintains traditions of the Coal Region through regional-specific food and holiday celebrations.

I do recommend St. John's for any pastor open to learning more about the rich history of Central Pennsylvania and the faith, strength and perseverance of its people.



Jason Kramer

Completed: Monday, Sep 15, 2025

Scoutmaster, Scouting America Troop 254, chartered through St John's UCC

Primary Email Address: kramer17801@yahoo.com

Personal: 5702745996

Reference Response

St John's provides our Pack and Troop with a dedicated meeting space on the second floor of the church, allowing us ample space to provide a successful program to our youth. I have had the pleasure of visiting many other Troops and their meeting spaces over the years that I have been involved with scouts. I can truthfully say that our facilities are second to none. Beyond Troop and Pack meetings, the church also makes the kitchen and social hall available for occasional banquets, Eagle ceremony dinners, and other events.

The Troop and Pack look forward to many more years of partnership with the church, and are always open to additional ways to give back and partner with the church on service opportunities. We couldn't be more thankful for St Johns and its community outreach efforts that allow us to provide this amazing program to the youth of our town.

Closing Prayer

Our faith is in You, as the old hymn goes, "O God, our help in ages past, our hope in years to come." We recognize You in the many accomplishments of our past as a congregation. We count on You not to abandon us now, but to be active in this process of calling a new Settled Pastor. We look forward to a future where we rediscover who we are and what our mission in the world is. As followers of Your Son in the 21st Century, we know that we cannot be successful in these endeavors without Your abiding presence and guidance. We give thanks for Your walk with us during these days. Amen.

Statement of Consent

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.

The Consistory, the Church Secretary, and the Interim Pastor.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

OUR VISION: We envision a pastor who is both champion and challenger. As champion, he or she would provide the primary leadership that grounds and enthusiastically drives our ministry and outreach, and who would be comfortable in groups as well as in one-to-one situations. As challenger, she or he would be a source of continuing motivation to assist in our "staying the course" and in our follow-through with plans, especially when challenges or disappointments come our way.