

## **First United Church of Christ**

Worship-170 East Center St., Marion, OH 43302

Offices-130 N State Street, Marion, OH 43302

### **1. Who are we today-**

Mission Statement-We are First United Church of Christ, an open and welcoming congregation striving to explore, grow, serve and celebrate Christian faith.

The word welcoming is huge in our congregation. We are close knit, but want our church family to grow! We enjoy worshipping through music, occasional interactive services, and through mission based projects.

Currently, most of our attending members are in the 50+ category.

A number of years ago, we voted to become O & A. We lost a few members, and took some ridicule from others in town, but we did not change our minds about this very important decision.

### **2. Living out our vision and mission-**

Sunday morning worship is very important to us, and we are committed to not cancelling our services, weather permitting. Over the last few years we have had Bible studies, book studies, a monthly Chat 'N Chew lunch group, coffee and treats before church, and an after church lunch group as well.

We are just beginning to reestablish ourselves in the downtown area of Marion. We began working with Luke 3:11 Missions on their PB&J Project, as well as their Lumpy Loads of Laundry project. We created a Little Free Pantry and Little Library at our new site, and have just begun a birthday cake kit mission with our local Children's Services organization. Every 5th Sunday of the year, we have a shortened worship followed by two or three mission projects-ex. Hygiene kits, items for our shut ins, cleaning kits, etc. For many, many years, we have had a strong card ministry, sending thoughts and prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, etc. A second mission we have had for a number of years, is our Noisy Offering. This is where each month we designate a charity or event for our 'loose change'.

### **3. Statistical Data**

Active membership-less than 50

Total Reported Membership-less than 150

Sunday Worship Average attendance-20

Average Church School Attendance-0

Members on boards and committees-11

Mission and Outreach giving, annual-about 10% of the budget

Our church's annual plan for resourcing the ministry (budget)-salary is based on denomination guidelines

Number of staff serving the church-2

List staff positions-Office admin., Organist/Chime Director

Include 10 year stats-see attached

#### **4. Trends in the church over the past 5 years**

In the past five years we have made our way through COVID, had our minister of 18 years retire, worked with an interim, ran on our own for several months, brought in a new minister, found out the Lutheran church (whose building we were sharing) was folding, moved over to the United Church Homes Building, had our last minister decide she needed to leave, and here we are, still going strong.

#### **5. Trends in our local community-**

Within our local community there has been a concentrated effort to revitalize our downtown. There is new loft housing, and many new businesses and restaurants. We have an active theater/musical program in our downtown historic theater.

A couple of years ago, businesses were encouraged to participate in a cardinal program, where they took a cardinal statue, had it painted, and placed it in front of their establishment. A 'Love Your City' program was started recently, and this year downtown businesses held scarecrow and tree decorating competitions, among others. Third Thursday and Second Saturday activities, tree lightings, carriage rides, the Popcorn Festival...the list goes on.

Crime rates in Marion have dropped significantly over the last several years

#### **6. The specific ministries/issues the next pastor is expected to address-**

Our congregation has expressed an interest in someone who has good leadership skills and is willing to 'get to know' our community to help us see where we can be God's hands and feet here in Marion and beyond. We are interested in a minister who enables us to examine our spiritual lives through worship/book studies/Bible studies, so that we may grow in faith. As with most congregations, we would like to see our church family grow. We realize it is up to us to extend invitations to friends and family, and we believe as we once again get connected within the local community, this will happen.

#### **7. Compensation range or are we willing to negotiate-**

We are willing to negotiate within the conference guidelines, and are also willing to discuss  $\frac{3}{4}$  or halftime ministry.