

Bethel United Presbyterian Church
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Search Committee Contact: Barbara Haughney, Clerk of Session,
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Desired Position:

Temporary Pastor—yearly contract
Hours per week: Approximately 19
Pay/Package: ½ Presbytery Minimum

About Us

Bethel Presbyterian Church is located in Monroeville, 10 miles east of Pittsburgh with mixed residential and commercial developments. It is easily accessed via the PA Turnpike, I-376 and Business Route 22.

Founded in 1801, Bethel is the oldest church in Monroeville, yet it is housed in an attractive modern facility. We share a rich tradition that has been passed down to many of the multi-generational families who have been the cornerstones of our congregational life.

During the year, special services are held for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve. Additionally there are multiple fellowship events held through the year to celebrate Lent, Trinity Sunday, Pentecost, Fall Harvest and Christmas Eve to name a few.

Six years ago, we welcomed St. Martin's Anglican Church to share our space. They needed a home and we welcomed new friends who have become family. Although we are separate congregations each committed to retaining our denominational distinctiveness, we share a common goal of

worshipping and glorifying the Lord. Their presence continues to be a blessing of good stewardship of our facility and a witness that we can reach 'across the table' to create new partnerships.

St Martin's Service	9:00 am Sunday
Bethel Sunday School	10:00 am Sunday
Bethel Service	11:00 am Sunday

Over the past few years we have updated some of our facilities to make them handicap accessible, to create an upstairs and downstairs fellowship hall, a youth room, and to preserve our sanctuary. As funds permit and needs arise, updates have enhanced our facility ensuring it is attractive and welcoming.

Current membership is at 74 with 3 affiliate members. Average attendance is between 25-40. We do have several younger families with preschoolers and some school age and older kids. Our Sunday School Christian Education program has adapted to the needs of our youth. Although we are small, we have a devoted membership and a desire to reach out and serve.

Mission

Our simple Mission Statement concisely reflects what we feel called to do:

Live for Christ
Love Our Neighbor
Celebrate Grace

We believe that "*Live, Love, and Celebrate!*" captures the spirit of our faith community.

Vision

Bethel sees itself as a welcoming presence with no pretense. Former members who have moved away often visit to maintain their roots, partake of the hospitality, and to have an ongoing sense of belonging. There is always a sense of comfort in knowing Bethel is our home. We are truly united as a group in worship and celebration of the Lord with prayer, praise, and outreach.

Community Outreach and Mission

Bethel is a suburban church with some youth and young adults, but primarily has an older membership. The heritage we honor helps us strive to be good neighbors with the local residents and adjoining businesses.

We maintain the property to fit into the neighborhood and patronize or partner with some of the businesses. To help support the community we have a monthly food collection for the food bank and toiletries collection for the VA. Our facility is also home to an AA group and a literacy group.

This past year we partnered with the Christian Counseling Collaborative to maintain an office in our building for a counselor. We are able to refer clients to them and utilize our counselor as a resource.

The church youth are supported with Camp Crestfield scholarships and college students involved with the church are eligible to apply for the P K Titus Scholarship, which provides funds for higher education and training.

Our Deacons work with our pastor to provide care to shut-ins and identify families in need and donate money for groceries, gas, or other essentials.

In addition to the above mentioned missions we participate in Operation Christmas Child and we have active involvement in supporting a missionary couple through Heaven's Family.

Our resources may be limited and our numbers may be small, but our faith is not!

Desired Candidate Characteristics

The ideal candidate will display warmth, candor, and compassion in interactions with all members and employees. We are looking for a Christ-centered individual who is committed to upholding the authority of Scripture, while encouraging open and honest conversation about difficult or controversial topics.

Individuals should willingly embrace the challenges of a small church by evidencing sensitivity and flexibility. The Session and congregation have historically been eager and open to creative new ideas to further our outreach into our community. We do not expect our pastor to 'do it all,' but to equip and enable us to use our gifts and talents in innovative ways to share Christ's love in concrete ways.

Our pastor should have a loving heart, a soul that sings praises to the joy of life, and a laughing spirit to become fully engaged with our church community. He/she should be comfortable with visitation, pastoral care, and spiritual leadership. We see our pastor, our Session, and our congregation as a collaboration of love and Spirit, firmly grounded in the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Specific Tasks/Skills

Engaging and leading members in all types of worship

Adapting worship and mission as the congregation evolves

Work with the Deacons to provide spiritual care

Establish a good working relationship with the leadership of St Martin's and our Christian Counselor

Coordinate work of part-time staff: secretary, organist, custodians

Pastoral care

Normal day to day responsibilities involved in shepherding a congregation

Financial awareness

Qualities Needed

Grace

Humor

Collaborator

Adaptable

Empathetic

Engaging personality

Forward Thinking

We need someone to love our family of faith by celebrating the good times and to help us pray and cope when difficulties arise.

We want to move from a vision to active participation and application.

We want someone dedicated to helping our small but dedicated members in knowing the Lord and growing in faith and service.

We want an individual with strength but not a super human, just a human.

We would like someone who is forward thinking to facilitate growth in both numbers and faith.

Gustav Mahler said, "Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire."

We want someone to help us 'preserve the fire of faith' by creating a passion for the truth, a servant spirit, and a community that is united by the love of Jesus Christ.