



# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH ON MORGAN HILL

A Non-Denominational Church Associated with the Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches



2720 Morgan Hill Road, Easton, PA 18042



18042forChrist@GMail.com



[www.stjohnsmorganhill.org](http://www.stjohnsmorganhill.org)



May 5, 2021

Dear Prospective Pastor,

The congregation of St. John's Church on Morgan Hill is prayerfully searching for a full-time ordained minister to become our next Pastor. After 36 years of faithful service to St. John's Church, the Rev. Dr. R. Blake Heffner retired on November 1, 2020. The congregation elected the Search Committee in January, and we met with the National Minister of the Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches (EA) the first Tuesday of February. We are working toward the goal of issuing a call to the man or woman who will lead the congregation into the future at a congregational meeting this fall.

We are inviting you to prayerfully consider this open pastoral position. Please review this information packet, and if the Holy Spirit is leading, send information about yourself, including your calling, theology, and experience, to be considered by the Search Committee.

Thank you.

Pastoral Search Committee

## ABOUT THE CHURCH

We are a friendly congregation who welcome everyone with open arms. Our church may seem small, but we are a community who accomplishes big things in and outside our church walls. Our mission to God is our first priority. Our love for God is guided by Hebrews 10:24, "Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good."

We are located in Williams Township, where we pride ourselves on being a close-knit community who are always there to help out a neighbor. Williams Township is a rural area, next to the small cities of Easton and Bethlehem, in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, about 90 minutes from either Philadelphia or New York City.

Listed below is expanded information about our church, who we are and what we do, as well as congregational and community characteristics.



### Strengths and Positive Attributes:

- We are a congregation who love God, as expressed during Church services, Bible Studies, Sunday School, Youth Groups, Womens' Group, and Prayer Team. That love is also carried forth through missions and sharing the message of God to those outside the church walls.

### Ministry and Missionaries:

- Missionaries we support
  - Elizabeth Miller, a missionary in France
  - Chris and Sarah Ansell, missionaries in Pittsburgh
  - Ed Hardwick, a missionary to Rwanda
  - Pastor Kiran Umesh, a missionary to India
- Local needs that arise throughout the year, including Community Activities that we hold and partake in, such as
  - Cover Your Piggies (sneakers, socks, school supplies & a meal for Easton area school children)
  - Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox Outreach, Samaritan's Purse)
  - Christmas gifts for needy Northampton County residents
  - Milk Boxes for Backpack Pal Kid
  - Walk for Hunger
  - Meals for Safe Harbor Easton, a homeless shelter for single men and women
  - Meals for several other homeless ministries in Easton
  - Vacation Bible School welcoming all children

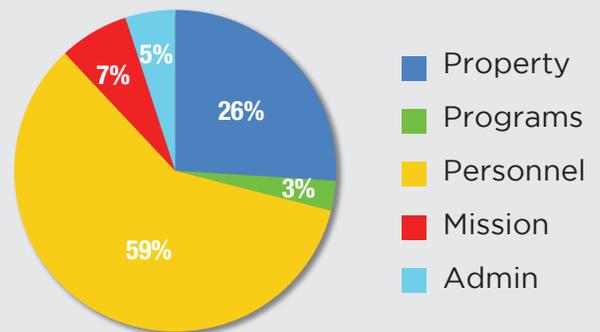
### Important Traditions that we hold in high regard:

- We have many traditions that are important to our members, including Holy Communion for all who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Infant Baptism, and Youth Confirmation. Some of our traditional services are those held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve.
- Some of our Lenten and Advent services are held in conjunction with other churches in the Township.

### The Church Finances the last two years:

2019 expenses \$196,585; Missions \$13,960

2020 expenses \$159,000; Missions \$11,900



### Congregational Characteristics – Quick Profile of our Members:

- Ages: 3% 0-12, 10% 13-18, 12% 19-34, 10% 35-49, 25% 50-64, 40% 65+
- We are looking to expand our youth program and are reaching out to young Christians in addition to individual adults and families.

### Church History:

Worship began in 1842 in cooperation with Lutherans from our area. In 1848 the German Reformed and Lutheran congregations united to construct a building across the street from our current building. The original building no longer exists. In 1882 each congregation constructed a new church building. Formerly known as St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church (1934), and St. John's United Church of Christ (1960), our current name, St. John's Church on Morgan Hill, was adopted in 2006.

Our governing board is a Consistory made up of the Pastor, five Elders and five Deacons. The Consistory elects its own leaders, including a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and financial secretary.

Current official membership is 596. The Church roles have not been cleaned in many years. The Consistory is currently working to create a role that more accurately reflects the true size of the Church by removing people who are no longer active and contacting those who have not actively participated in the past several years. Our regular attendance had averaged 110 per week until March of 2020. We switched to all-virtual services from March through August, and have been holding services in-person, with an increased emphasis on live, virtual, and recorded participation. In-person attendance averaged in the mid-30s in March and April 2021.

Rev. Dr. R. Blake Heffner served as pastor of St. John's for 36 years ending 11/1/2020 when he embarked upon his retirement. He received his bachelor's degree from Lehigh University, and his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained in the UCC, moved to the EA in 2006.

Rev. Dr. Scott Janney began serving as our part-time interim pastor on 12/1/20. Pastor Janney received his bachelor's degree at Asbury University, M.Div. from

Princeton, and Ed.D. from Temple University. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), moved to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in 1995, and had attended St. John's for a short time under Pastor Heffner's ministry. Pastor Janney's full-time position is as Territorial Director of Gift Planning for The Salvation Army.

St. John's has two Assistant Interim Pastors, Linda Kreitz and Tim Gordon, both licensed by St. John's and the EA.

## COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

### The Populations around us:

- Williams Township: 6,132 (2018)
- City of Easton: 27,122 (2019)

We are located in a very historical area with various other points of interest, as listed at

<https://www.Eastonmainstreet.org> and <https://www.discoverlehighvalley.com/>, a few of which are:

- Crayola Experience
- State Theater Center for the Arts
- National Canal Museum

### Growth and Expansion in our area:

The Lehigh Valley has been recognized as the best performing region of its size for economic development in the Northeastern United States for the past three years.

- Technology, Manufacturing, Warehousing
- Health Care (St. Luke's University & Lehigh Valley Health Networks)
- Professional and Financial Services, Construction, Retail trade, Restaurants

### Local Higher Education:

- Lafayette College
- Moravian College
- Cedar Crest College
- Muhlenberg College
- Lehigh University
- Moravian Theological Seminary
- DeSales University
- Northampton Community College.



### Local Public Schools:

Ratings for the Wilson Area School District, as listed by Great Schools at

<https://www.greatschools.org/-school?id=03096&state=PAk>

- Williams Township Elementary School (grades K-4) rated 9/10
- Wilson Area Intermediate School (grades 5-8) rated 5/10
- Wilson Area High School (grades 9-12) rated 8/10



## CANDIDATE PROFILE

We are seeking a pastor who will bring the gifts God has given him/her to the pulpit. In our orientation meeting with the EA's national minister, we discussed several pastoral types, and the "Father Mulcahy" pattern was our preference from those he presented.

### Characteristics and Responsibilities

Our congregation participated in a Pastoral Preference Survey and identified the following five as the most important, in descending order, whether choosing their top ten or top three characteristics:

- a compassionate and caring person, sensitive to other's needs
- is an inspired and compelling preacher
- encourages people to apply their faith in daily life
- is effective in planning and leading worship
- is effective in working with youth

The next five highest-ranked choices when asked to select their top ten preferences were:

- works well with children
- handles conflict effectively
- works well with committees and officers
- makes pastoral calls on members
- ministers effectively to people in crisis

The next six highest-ranked choices when asked to select their top three preferences were:

- grounds decisions and ministry in Biblical perspective
- has a strong commitment to the Christian education ministry
- works well with children
- works well with committees and officers
- disciplines people to spiritual maturity
- makes pastoral calls on members



## Qualifications

The next pastor will:

- 1) demonstrate a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- 2) have earned a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary
- 3) affirm historic confessions of the Reformed tradition including the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Heidelberg Catechism
- 4) be an Evangelical in dedication to reaching people in our community and the world with the Good News and saving grace of Jesus Christ
- 5) be in agreement with the "Statement of Faith", "Core Values", and "Issues and Core Beliefs" found at [http://evangelicalassociation.org/?page\\_id=126](http://evangelicalassociation.org/?page_id=126) (St. John's Church primarily practices infant baptism and affirms the role of women in ministry.)

## Pastoral Compensation

A minimum compensation package of \$75,000 will be offered. Final compensation will depend on the pastor's education and experience.



## APPLICATION PROCESS

The members of St. John's Search Committee respect each candidate's need for complete confidentiality in the application process. Be assured that all details, including interest expressed in applying, will not be discussed with anyone beyond the Committee without the candidate's prior consent.

### Review:

Candidates should review the stated qualifications, must meet the personal faith and education qualifications, be in full agreement with all doctrinal positions, and comfortable with all items outlined in qualification 5).



### Apply:

If you wish to explore that opportunity to become the next pastor of St. John's Church, email the following to [18042forChrist@GMail.com](mailto:18042forChrist@GMail.com):

- 1) A cover letter including your personal testimony with a description of your sense of calling and how this position would fulfill that calling.
- 2) Your resume.
- 3) Sample sermons, preferably links for sermon or worship service recordings.

If you are selected to go further in the process, you may also be asked to provide samples of ordination or candidacy documents and references.

A background check and credit report will be conducted on finalists.

### Candidate Reviews:

Candidate reviews will begin in early June and continue until the successful candidate is chosen. Full, first-round consideration will be given to candidates whose documents are received by June 28, 2021.

### Questions:

If you have questions regarding your application, please email the Pastoral Search Committee, Dr. Scott Janney, Chair, at [18042forChrist@gmail.com](mailto:18042forChrist@gmail.com).

While the Committee will work diligently to process the applications, we expect it to take several weeks to make initial decisions. We will be in contact with you by email as our review progresses.