

St. Stephen United Church of Christ

905 East Perkins Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Facebook: St. Stephen UCC Sandusky, Ohio

1. WHO ARE WE TODAY –

Our Pastor of 16 years has elected to retire, and we are seeking a highly spiritual, energetic leader to become our new full-time Pastor and shepherd.

Our Mission Statement is: Gather the lost, Equip the gathered, Send the equipped.

We try to live out our mission statement but realize we could be doing better and feel we need more people to follow through. We are a traditional UCC church still in tune with our heritage striving (or seeking) to remain relevant in today's challenging and changing times.

2. WE LIVE OUT OUR VISION AND MISSION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING – worship, faith formation, care and fellowship, mission, and outreach opportunities:

Currently we have regular Sunday worship services at 8:00am and 10:15am, with a faithful group of attendees, and a core group of active volunteers who put on most of our events. We have Coffee Hour after each service and several lunch and dinner events throughout the year to provide fellowship.

St. Stephen UCC houses the long running Kiddie College Pre-school which has received the "Firelands Area Best" award for 2024 & 2025. We have an active children's program although there is room for greater numbers in this area. Our music program includes choir, bell choir, and praise band. We host four events, to help support the church and provide outreach or service to the wider community, these are: our annual Strawberry Festival, Rummage Sale, Sauerkraut Supper, and Christmas Bazaar.

We operate our own Food Pantry with support from the congregation to provide food items, household goods, and other assistance to families in the Sandusky area. Our other missions include: Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, The Christmas Fund and Blanket Sunday.

3. STATISTICAL DATA

- Active Membership: 80
- Total Reported Membership: 841
- Sunday Worship average attendance: 8:00 am Early Service average is 18 people.
10:15 am Late Service average is 44 people.
- Average Church School Attendance: 4-6 children.
- Members serving on Boards and Committees: Church Council - 8 members, Board of Christian Education - 8 members (not including small groups):
- Mission outreach giving, annual: \$8,837 or 3.3 % of the budget.
- Our church's annual plan for resourcing the ministry (budget): 2026 Total Annual Church Budget \$273,448.
- Number of staff persons serving the church: One full-time Pastor and one Office Administrator.
List of staff positions: Church Custodian, Kiddie College Administrator, Kiddie College Custodian, Organist, Pianist and Choir Director.

4. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS IN THE CHURCH FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS?

As with many churches we have lost members over the past years due to aging out, but we have a very dedicated core group on Council, Board of Christian Education and active others who drive most of our activities. We have an opportunity to re-engage with some members who have left and the wider community through improved outreach programs. For example, better marketing, social media presence, etc.

5. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS in the larger community/town in which the church is located?

Sandusky, Ohio is a medium size city of 25,000 people (115,000 in the surrounding area) located on the shores of Sandusky Bay on Lake Erie which make it an ideal spot for recreational activities like boating, sailing, swimming, fishing, as well as golf and other outdoor activities. Sandusky is centrally located between Cleveland and Toledo. Sandusky is a tourist destination with the Cedar Point amusement park (6 Flags ownership) in the summer and fall. There are also several large water parks/hotels that attract visitors year-round. Our metro park system and nature preserves offer hiking, walking, jogging and bird watching. We are accessible to fine medical facilities along with a variety of educational opportunities from local schools, colleges, and technical schools.

Sandusky is a comeback city that is more vibrant now than it has been for decades. The time is right for an engaging Pastor to help us gain momentum and grow our nucleus of dedicated parishioners. There are many more opportunities for wider outreach than we have had in recent years.



BRIEF CHURCH PROFILE

6. THE SPECIFIC MINISTRIES/ YOU EXPECT YOUR NEXT PASTOR to address during their tenure including the gifts, talents, and skills and leadership style you are seeking in your next Pastor

We are seeking an energetic full time Pastor that can preach with authority and really pull us in. An open-door policy leader who is not afraid to roll up their shirt sleeves and help with activities in the church and the wider community. In short, someone to invigorate and energize us as a congregation, so that we can more fully live out our mission statement. We would like someone who can relate to our current members as well as reach out and bring in younger people, younger families and help add to our music program. We are seeking someone who asks questions and engages with us on a personal level.

7. PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED COMPENSATION RANGE you are offering in dollar amounts or note negotiable. If less than full-time, specify the hours of work.

St. Stephen UCC will offer a complete package that is equal to or above UCC Guidelines.

Council/Search Committee Chairperson

Date

8. COMMENTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

Signature of Association Staff

Date

Association Staff member assisting:
Rev. Don Giesmann, NWOA Association Minister
416 Wentz Street, Tiffin, OH 44883
Office: 419-447-8323; Cell: 419-341-8288
don@nwoa.org