

UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church & Senior Pastor Profile



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MISSION, VISION, & CORE VALUES



Mission

The mission of UPVPC is to be and make mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

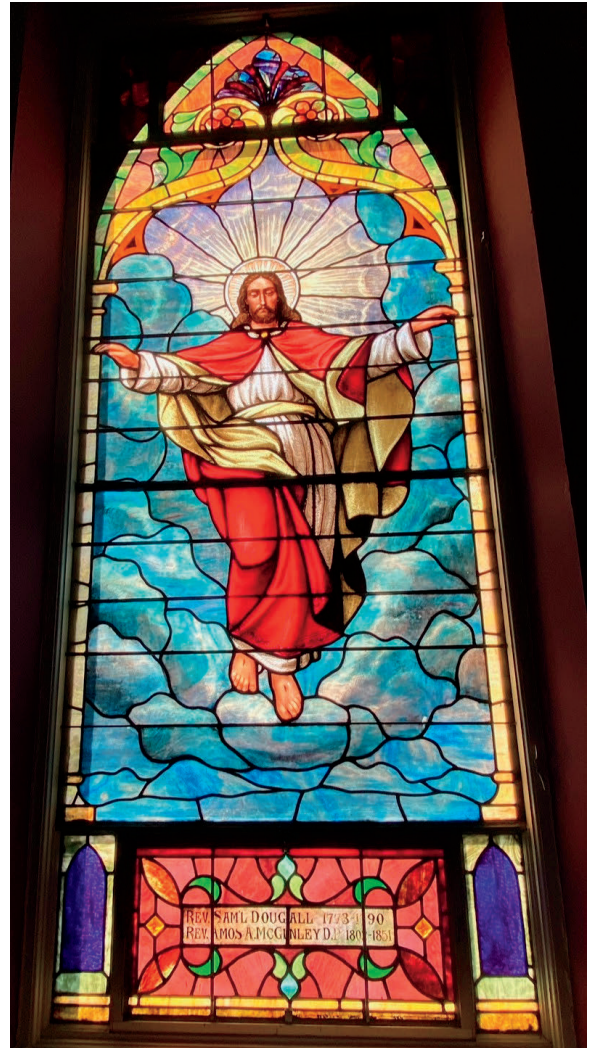
Vision

The vision of UPVPC is to ignite a deep-rooted passion for Christ in future generations.

Core Values

- We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the absolute truth.
- We rejoice that God's grace is a gift that cannot be earned by works.
- We believe that Jesus is the head of the body, the Church; therefore, He must have first place in everything.
- We are committed to missions near and far.
- We are welcoming to everyone.

OUR HISTORY



The Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church in Spring Run, Pennsylvania, has a long history of serving the Lord in Path and Amberson Valleys. The first settlers who entered Path Valley between 1736 and 1750 were largely of the Scotch-Irish and German (Reformed) ancestry bringing to the Valley strong character for industry, thrift, morality, and virtue. Long before a building was erected for public worship, the faithful gathered in groves, barns, and private homes. Several interested settlers from both the upper and lower areas of the Valley met with the Presbytery of Donegal in April of 1766 to ask for supplies and a minister. Two congregations were formed and two rude log structures were built having neither floor, nor ceiling, nor stove. Both were located near springs of water to furnish refreshment for man and beast. Both have remained faithful to gospel proclamation to this day. Since 1766, UPVPC has been pastored by 20 pastors with the most recent (retiring pastor) being our first female pastor.

OUR HISTORY CONTINUES



The Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church now worships in the sanctuary built in 1857 with many modifications over the years. In 1957 an education wing was built to accommodate the growing focus on teaching children and adults of every age in the church school. It is a wing that is full of love and laughter every Sunday morning!

In 2013 the congregation voted to become a covenant partner church with ECO, A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. Since that time we have continued to grow and flourish in our mission of being and making mature disciples of Jesus Christ and in our constant upgrading of facilities to remove possible hindrances to ministry to the congregation and the community.

We have 154 Covenant Partners and gather an average of 150 worshippers on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. for worship. Our Sunday morning small groups gather an average of 100 students of all ages. As much as we love the closeness of our groups, our rooms are full. Thus, we are currently exploring an addition to our facilities to create room for those who aren't here yet.



OUR MINISTRIES

UPVPC is a lively multi-generational body of believers committed to being and making mature disciples of Jesus Christ. We look forward to meeting & serving together on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and through fellowship & service opportunities throughout the year. Our ministries include:

- Sunday Morning Small Groups
- Wednesday Evening Small Groups
- Rooted Kids
- Kids' Worship Activity Bags
- Rooted Youth
- Journey Circle (Women's Ministry)
- Men's Fellowship
- Mime Ministry
- Local Mission Ministry
- Community Meal Ministry
- Handcrafters' Ministry
- Cancer Care Bag Ministry
- Healing Prayer Team Ministry
- Grief Share Ministry



MORE ABOUT US

● Our Location

Since 1766, we have been blessed and honored to minister in the beautiful valley between the Blue and Tuscarora Mountains, part of the Appalachian Mountain Range. As you drive up and down our rural valley, you will see cattle, sheep, and goats in the fields. You might end up driving very slowly if you get behind an Amish buggy, but that just gives you more time to enjoy God's creative beauty. Cowan's Gap State Park lies within our valley, a beautiful place for hiking, swimming, fishing, paddle boating, and picnicking. Surrounding areas also include many local treasures to explore, such as East Broad Top Railroad, Historical Gettysburg, and Raystown Lake.



● Our Staff

Full-time staff:

- Senior Pastor
- Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Program Coordinator and Ministry Assistant

Part-time staff:

- Bookkeeper
- Two Organists
- Groundskeeper

Our Worship

We worship on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We are committed to the accurate and enthusiastic preaching of God's Word and the right sharing of the Sacraments. Our 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed for those who cannot join us in person. Our livestream is available [here](#). We incorporate traditional hymns and contemporary music using piano, organ, and guitar when available. The congregation loves to learn from the Scriptures and worship through music to the Lord.

Our Discipleship

We believe small group discipleship provides opportunities for learning of Biblical truths, ever-deepening personal and collective faith, and authentic relationships with other believers. We believe the richness and health of these groups are powerful in developing us as a church family and to our maturing mission of being and making disciples of Jesus Christ. Over 100 men, women, and children gather for small group studies on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Men's Fellowship, The Journey Circle (Women's Group), and Rooted Youth gather throughout the week for additional small group opportunities. New covenant partner classes form to welcome new members as well.

Our Leadership

Church leadership consists of a Session of nine elders each overseeing a specific area of ministry. We also have a nine-member board of Deacons overseeing the care of the congregation and a nine-member board of Trustees who oversee the financials and property.

Our Call to Give

We believe God calls us to responsible stewardship with what He provides, and that He has called us to be a beacon of His generosity to the world around us. We support a variety of UPVPC, local, community, and global missions and ministries by giving generously of our time and tithe. Further details of how God directed us to share in 2022 can be seen in our Annual Report, available [here](#).

SENIOR PASTOR JOB OPPORTUNITY

We, the congregation of Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church in Spring Run, Pennsylvania, are seeking a full-time Senior Pastor to be a servant leader of our congregation and to lead us as we continue to live out our mission to be and make mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

Candidates must possess a mature, personal, loving, and joyful relationship with God through Jesus Christ. All candidates must agree with all the Essential Tenets of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (Essential Tenets available [here](#)) and be ordained or ordainable in ECO (ordination information available [here](#)). Candidates must also embrace our mission, vision, core values, and bylaws. Additionally, candidates must respect traditions while knowing freedom exists to introduce unique and new opportunities to follow the Holy Spirit's call to implement our mission, vision, and core values.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

General Responsibilities Include:

- I. Preaching God's Word, Teaching God's Word, and Directing Public Worship
- II. Coordinate, Lead, and Provide Discipleship, Leadership, and Administration
- III. Provide Pastoral Care

Actions needed to successfully fulfill these general responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- I. Preach God's Word, Teach God's Word, and Direct Public Worship

A. Preach God's Word

- Devote sufficient time to personal devotion, learning, and prayer to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading for sermon preparation
- Preach sermons grounded in Biblical truth, always leaning on the Word of God as absolute truth
- Strive to make God's Word relevant to people's lives through truth, passion, clarity, connection, and engagement

B. Teach God's Word

- Provide discipleship by teaching Biblical truths and valuing authentic relationships through a variety of settings such as small group classes, covenant partner classes, grief share classes, at special events, etc.

C. Direct Public Worship

- Plan and direct regular, special, and community worship opportunities
- Coordinate scripture, prayer, and music (both traditional and contemporary) into worship in a way that is meaningfully connected to the sermon series/message
- Involve the congregation in opportunities to serve during worship (greeters, acolyte, lay reader, prayer, special music, etc.)
- Have a willingness to reach homebound worshippers via our YouTube livestream capabilities with the support of our Tech Team

II. Coordinate, Lead, and Provide Discipleship, Leadership, and Administration

A. Discipleship

- Committed to personal discipleship beyond sermon preparation
- Coordinate small group discipleship opportunities that lead to ever-deepening personal faith for individuals and for the church as a collective whole
- Equip covenant partners and attenders for the work of leading discipleship within the church through mentoring, programming, and education

B. Leadership and Administration

- Partner with the Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and staff members to provide spiritual leadership and oversight together discerning God's Will on how to accomplish the ministry and mission of our church
- Daily monitoring and upkeep of the church to maintain facilities, coordinating of minor repairs and projects, and working with the Trustees for major items

III. Provide Pastoral Care

A. General

- Model agape love, God-honoring character, personal integrity, and faith
- Build meaningful relationships with staff, covenant partners, attenders, the homebound, the community, and our children by being approachable, authentic, and a humble listener
- Represent UPVPC to ECO, the Path Valley Ministerium, the community, and the world

B. Sacraments

- Administer the sacraments of communion and baptism with reverent love

C. Congregational Care

- Provide pastoral care to include (but not limited to): prayer, visitation, crisis care, counseling, officiating at weddings, baptisms, and memorial services as requested

TO APPLY:

All applicants are asked to email the following to PNCofUPVPC@gmail.com in order to be considered:

- Letter of Introduction highlighting interest, experience, and strengths, and including a statement of faith
- Current resume with specific educational degrees, job experiences with dates, and contact information for at least 3 references
- Links to at least 3-5 sermons in video format (at least 1 video must be a full-length service)

