

Tionesta *Christian & Missionary* *Alliance Church*

1734 Rt. 36
Tionesta, PA 16353



Tionesta Alliance Church is seeking a solo pastor.

Nestled along the Allegheny River in the Allegheny National Forest is picturesque Tionesta, a charming and friendly town of approximately 700 people. Home to the Sherman Lighthouse on Lighthouse Island, Tionesta boasts exquisite landscapes and scenery, outdoor activities, a small Victorian style market village filled with shops, and a touristy atmosphere.

Located at the heart of the forest region, Tionesta is every outdoorsperson's dream. Here you can explore the Allegheny National Forest, kayak, canoe, and float the Allegheny River, hunt and fish, hike, bike, walk and run the forest trails, take advantage of the many camping sites, golf, and enjoy winter sports such as ice fishing and snowmobiling.

In addition to the Sherman Lighthouse and the Tionesta Market Village, some of Tionesta's other attractions include Hunter Station Golf Course, Tionesta Recreation Center, the Pennsylvania Hunting and Fishing Museum, and the yearly Tionesta Indian Festival.

The cost of living index in Tionesta is low, at 85, with the national average being 100. Tionesta has full-time law enforcement and the crime rate is low, with most being property crimes. Pittsburgh and Erie are the nearest large cities and both are within 80 miles. UPMC Northwest and Titusville Hospital are the nearest hospitals to Tionesta. Both are less than 20 miles away.

CHURCH HISTORY

Tionesta Christian and Missionary Alliance Church started in 1978 as a Bible Study in an attendee's home. From there, it moved to the basement of the Tionesta Public Library where Sunday morning worship services took place. The Tionesta C&MA purchased the Free Methodist Church in Tionesta in June of 1983 where they operated until 1999 when the current building was constructed.

Tionesta C&MA has had 8 pastors. We've never had an extremely large congregation, ranging from 35-60 people, for Sunday morning service.

Tionesta Christian and Missionary Alliance Church used to be a church of snow birds who would leave in the winter for their second home in a warmer climate. Campers in the area would fill the pews in the summer, but we are noticing a change in this trend with fewer snow birds leaving. However, we still have the summer influx of area campers.

MAJOR EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF TIONESTA C&MA CHURCH

1. Tionesta C&MA Church began as a bible study in an attendees home.
2. Listed as an extension church.
3. First Sunday service was in the basement of the Tionesta Library.
4. Bought the Free Methodist Church and fixed it up for services there.
5. Purchase of parsonage.
6. Purchased property across from Sky Jet restaurant.
7. Construction of current building in 1999.
8. Bought extra land on February 1, 2008.

CHURCH DATA

In October 2016, Pastor James Evilsizor retired. During the transition, several couples and individuals left our congregation. This took a toll on both membership numbers and general Sunday attendance. While we have not increased to previous numbers, new people have joined the congregation over the past 3 years under Pastor Gerald Ester's leadership.

In the past, we had Sunday School for children and adults, but over time the families that brought their children to Sunday School moved on. Due to this, we do not currently have children's Sunday School. We do have adult Sunday School. To minister to the 7 regularly attending children, we have Children's Church which takes place during the main service. During summer months, we often have visitors that bring children.

Since our church is the summer home congregation for several who have camps in the area, our church attendance varies depending upon the time of year. Winter months are on the lean side; summer months are on the fuller side.

Average Sunday morning attendance in recent years:

2010—47 people

2011— 48 people

2012—46 people

2013—46 people

2014—45 people

2015—43 people

2016—38 people

2017—36 people (Jan – June 32 people / July – Dec 40 people)

2018— 35 people (Jan – June 32 people / July – Dec 37 people)

2019-38 people (Jan – June 35 people / July – Dec 40 people)

Adult Sunday School averaged 9 people per week in 2019.

In 2018 there were 3 baptisms.

Several children have come to Christ through the Good News Club, which our church hosts.

In spring 2020, two new members joined Tionesta C & MA.

GFC Giving

2019—\$6,284

2018—\$7,546

2017—\$13,839

2016—\$10,461

2015—\$9,307

2014—\$9,676

FINANCES

Annual Receipts includes all funds - general fund, missions, savings & building, benevolent fund, In and Out (example: offering taken for concert).

2017 Annual Financial Data:

Checking:

Annual Receipts \$70,832.41

Annual Disbursements \$60,344.53

Balance for year \$10,487.88

(The balance for 2017 added to the \$60,669.58 which was already in the checking account, totals \$71,157.46 remaining in checking account at 2017 year-end.)

Savings:

Balance Forward & Receipts \$38,101.85

Disbursements \$10,146.87

Year-end Balance \$27,954.98

2018 Annual Financial Data:

Checking:

Annual Receipts \$63,836.90

Annual Disbursements \$83,395.00

Balance for year (\$19,558.10)

(The funds remaining in checking from previous year were \$71,157.46. The church needed to draw on these funds to balance the budget. This left \$51,599.36 in the checking account at 2018 year-end.)

Savings:

Balance Forward & Receipts \$32,969.17

Disbursements \$ 5,455.29

Year-end Balance \$27,513.88

2019 Annual Financial Data:

Checking:

Annual Receipts \$75,142.20

Annual Disbursements \$88,705.55

Balance for year (\$13,563.35)

(The funds remaining in checking from previous year were \$51,599.36. The church needed to draw on these funds to balance the budget. This left \$38,036.01 in the checking account at 2019 year-end.)

Savings: (Tionesta C & MA received a gift from an estate, which is reflected in the savings)

Balance Forward & Receipts \$124,452.60

Disbursements \$ 14,268.14

Balance \$110,184.46

Plus Interest \$ 9.60

2019 Ending Balance \$110,194.06

2020 January – April Financial Data:

Checking Account:

Receipts \$15,815.00

Disbursements \$22,784.20

Difference (\$ 6,969.20)

MINISTRY

Tionesta C&MA Church ministers monthly to the residents at the Tionesta Manor providing a meal and message. We host numerous community concerts and runs the Good News through child evangelism fellowship at the local school.

Tionesta C&MA Church's current regular meetings include:

- Sunday Service at 10:45 a.m. with Children's Church
- Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. year-round
- Bible Reading Group every other Friday at 6:00 p.m.

TC&MA's Priorities:

1. Bible-based preaching and teaching
2. Missions
3. Community outreach
4. Discipleship
5. The children

TC&MA's Strengths:

1. Loving, caring, friendly congregation
2. Loyalty
3. Generous
4. No debt
5. Newer facility & lots of land for growth
6. Parsonage
7. Hymn and Contemporary praise and worship

TC&MA's Weaknesses:

1. Manpower (not enough teachers, no pianist)
2. Low membership and attendees
3. Location of church being out of town and prohibits walking to services & events

TC&MA's Opportunities:

1. Community outreach and events
2. Prayer ministries

TC&MA's Threats:

1. Manpower-few people to do the "work"
2. Monthly finances

The Leadership Would Like To ACHIEVE:

1. Spiritual and numerical growth
2. Increase in small group participation
3. Increase in activities and outings
4. Strong prayer ministry

The Leadership Would Like To PRESERVE:

1. Bible-based preaching and teaching
2. Mixture of hymns and contemporary praise and worship
3. Welcoming and friendly atmosphere
4. Community outreach

The Leadership Would Like To AVOID:

1. Decrease in attendance
2. Miscommunication, conflict, and offense in transition

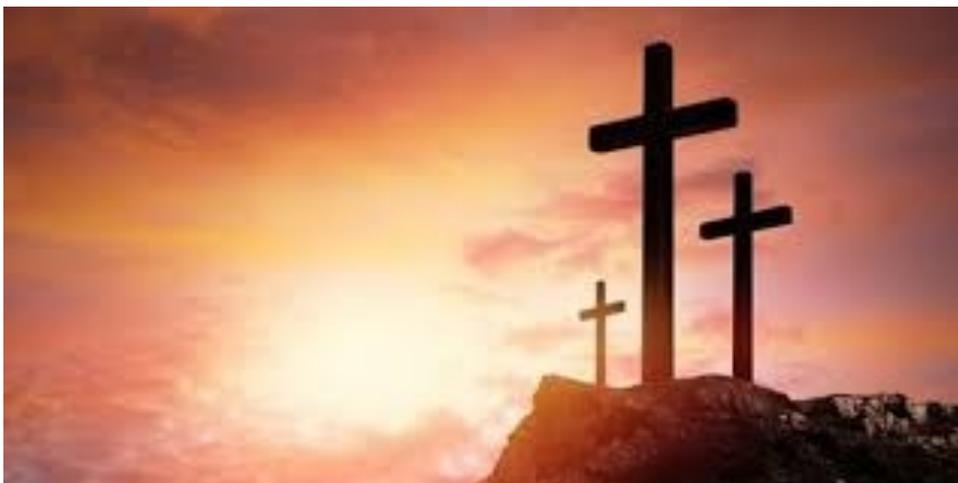
The Major Roadblocks that Could Impede Future Growth & Progress Include:

1. Aftermath of COVID-19
2. Extended period of time without pastoral leadership
3. Low membership

Worship Services are currently approximately one hour long and include a welcome, prayer, Children's Sermon, music—both hymns and contemporary—and a Bible based sermon message. The current style of preaching is bible based application and exposition.

The **Vision of the Church** is evangelism and discipleship of both children and adults through church ministries and outreach.

The **Vision for the Church Over the Next 5 Years** is to see people disciple in the Lord and raised up to leadership. We also want to see an increase in church membership.



Those Who Currently Oversee Ministries Are:

- Governing Board—Tom Walsh
- Treasurer—Chris Francis
- Assistant Treasurer—Mary Kelly O'Hara
- Children's Church—Chris Francis
- Sunday School Superintendent—not currently filled
- Head Elder—Tom Walsh
- Head Trustee—Tom Walsh
- Worship & Singing—Mary Kelly O'Hara

Elder & Governing Board

The elders are the spiritual leaders of the church. Their role is to pray for, encourage, advise the pastor and perform spiritual outreach for the church and the community.

Until this transition, the governing board met monthly. With this transition, the governing board has met several times a month and keeps in contact when needed.

In the past two years, the governing board has added two new members.

OUTREACH

Evangelistic Events in 2019/2020 include:

1. Manor Ministry
2. Good News Club
3. Eduard Klassen Concert
4. Friday Night Facebook Worship Live

The Reason/s Visitors Come & Return to TC&MA:

1. Invitation
2. Welcoming/Friendly Atmosphere
3. Attending/Owning Camps in the Area

The Most Common Reasons Regular Attendees Stop Coming

1. Age and Infirmary
2. Interpersonal Conflict

PROPERTY/FACILITIES

Sitting on 20 acres, Tionesta C&MA has room for expansion. The church building itself has two offices, two classrooms, a nursery, and a Fellowship Center. The Fellowship Center is perfect for Sunday School, small groups, dinners and community luncheons. The church building is also air conditioned.

The church was constructed in 1999 and has a capacity of approximately 150.

The overall condition of the facility is great as the trustees and governing board keep up with repairs. The property contains a large parking lot sufficient for congregation and public events. A lighted sign can be seen from the main Route 36. Tionesta Christian and Missionary Alliance Church has a debt of \$0.

The parsonage is located in town, within walking distance to the Tionesta Market Village and the Allegheny River. An older home that has two floors, a basement, and an attic. The first floor includes the living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, and half bathroom. On the second floor there are 3 bedrooms and 1 full bathroom. There is a garage on the property as well. The condition of the parsonage is good, as the trustees and governing board keep up with repairs.



ATTITUDE TOWARD CHANGE

As far as the attitude toward change, our church embraces change with prayful consideration.

2 Issues that Have Caused the Most Conflict in the Last 5 Years Include:

1. Worship Style
2. Interpersonal Conflict

PASTORAL EXPECTATIONS

Our Pastor's Emphasis Should Be On:

- Invest in personal relationships
- Evangelism and discipleship
- Developing leadership within the church
- Biblical preaching
- Prayer
- Understands the importance of spiritual warfare

ASSESSING PASTORAL LEADERSHIP NEEDS

Top Natural Talents Most Desired in a Pastor Include:

1. Friendly/able to connect with people
2. Administrative ability
3. Leader



Applications: Next Steps

Governing Board:

- Welcoming the Pastor
- Make themselves available to work alongside the pastor

New Pastor:

- Reach out and get to know the governing board and the congregation

Congregation:

- Reach out and get to know the pastor