

# Clarksburg Community Church Church Profile



CLARKSBURG  
Community Church

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates. As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending a suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates.

We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinion about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

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Phil Ogilvie, Search Committee Chair

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Date

## Why Clarksburg Community Church?

The Clarksburg Community Church (CCC) is a Protestant church located near Sacramento, California that exists to serve our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Our church was formed in 1926 by a small group of early farmers representing several denominations. Their goal was to create a community church in which all people could feel welcome and comfortably worship together our Savior, Jesus Christ. Today, we continue to embody this philosophy.

As is described in this Church Profile, CCC is a traditional small town community church. Yet its proximity to the state capital provides the convenience of a big city's resources (major airport, shopping, world-class medical care, etc.) without many of the negatives (crime, high taxes, political turmoil, etc.) that come with a massive population. The population of the Sacramento Metropolitan Area is over two million residents. The major employer in the Sacramento region is the state government and entities that provide support to its functioning. Clarksburg is nestled just south of the metropolitan area along the Sacramento River. Clarksburg is twenty minutes travel time from the state capitol in downtown Sacramento. However, after crossing the Freeport Bridge and entering Yolo County, the trip along the tree-lined Sacramento River levee road seems to transport you from the busy traffic and rush of the city to the tranquility of an agrarian based community. In fact, the major employer in Clarksburg is farming.

Central to this village is the CCC. There is a stable core within its congregation that is descended from many of the families that first organized the church over 90 years ago. Pastor Montzingo is evidence of CCC's stability, having served the Lord, Jesus Christ, the congregation and community for over thirty years. CCC is an active church as outlined in this profile, and one of the congregation's strengths is the high level of initiative demonstrated by members. Just a couple of examples of this are both the men's Saturday 6:30 A.M Bible study and the volunteer support provided to the Union Gospel Mission downtown. Both of these ministries were initiated and are currently run by lay persons who saw a need and organized the programs. In fact, many of the church's ministries were begun by lay persons stepping up to serve others.

Our congregation has learned through the decades that it is our responsibility to support the mission of spreading the Good News of salvation through Our Savior's shed blood on the cross and to be the instruments of God's plans for our community. It would be very difficult to find any member who feels it is solely the pastor's job to run the church. CCC members expect a lot from their pastor, but they expect even more from themselves. Leadership at CCC stresses that the "community" in its name means members must carry their load and not expect the pastor to do it all.

CCC is a strong church. In 2018, we came together and produced a **long-range strategic plan** to organize our efforts in serving the Lord. But CCC is not a perfect church. We seek a pastor who recognizes our strengths and is excited to work with us as we accomplish the vision the Lord has shared for our effectiveness. We view the future as a challenge to grow in all areas. We are happy with our progress but not satisfied and complacent. God's work in Clarksburg must continue to advance and we see the opportunity to do more. We know God will answer our prayers and send the pastor we seek.

## 1. Our Mission and Values

**Our mission of the Clarksburg Community Church is to serve God and the community by following Christ's teachings and extending His Love to all.**

We hold these **beliefs** to be sacred:

- We are Christians who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Bible as the word of God.
- We are a Protestant church which follows Jesus' teaching to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself."
- We are men, women and children who seek to live out our faith in Jesus Christ with worship and music, prayer and Bible study, community service and mission support.
- Our vision is to be a thriving church, creating devoted disciples of Jesus, welcoming and impacting the surrounding community and providing worship space for all ages.

## 2. Church History

Sporadic visits from pastors who were employed by churches down the river were not meeting the spiritual needs of the farmers in Clarksburg. So, in 1926 a cadre of men and women met and decided to create a local Protestant church to serve the immediate community by employing a full-time pastor. The challenge was to create a church that would attract and meet the worship needs of individuals who were raised by a plethora of denominations. Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians—a total of 17 different denominations—were represented within the community.

Those founding members wanted to accomplish three goals in starting a new church:

1. They did not want to start and then see it dissolve due to financial weakness. So during the first community meeting name-less pledges were made to determine if the church could be started free of debt. God's hand in CCC's creation was evident when the meeting of 60 community members pledged \$2,500 to establish a local Protestant church.

2. It was to be a true community church that was administered and operated by the local congregation. CCC was not to be directed by an outside temporal authority. Although the members recognized the value and strength in having an outside affiliation with a mainline Protestant denomination, local choices and decisions must remain with CCC.

3. The church must be so centered on God and His Only Son that members with different denominational backgrounds would feel comfortable with the organization and services.

After exploring many options, the local Methodist Conference agreed to admit CCC under the terms it required. Unlike most Methodist churches, CCC would retain ownership of all its assets and select its own pastor independently of the Bishop's direction. This arrangement remained in place for 25 years until a change of bishops resulted in an ultimatum from the Methodists to either "get completely in or completely out." CCC decided to do the latter.

In 1951, a CCC committee researched six denominations for possible affiliation: Baptist, Christian, Congregational, Episcopal, Evangelical and Reformed Presbyterian. None offered a situation that the

congregation felt in the best interests of their needs. For the next fifteen years CCC remained an independent community church.

In 1966, the Church Council once again created a committee to study the issue of affiliation. After diligent study, the committee favored the option to affiliate with the United Church of Christ (UCC.) In March, 1968 the congregation voted 47 to 18 to affiliate with the UCC. For the last fifty years CCC has maintained an affiliation with the UCC which has allowed the local church mostly to operate independently within the umbrella of the denomination.

Of special note when considering the history of CCC is the continuity and stability of the congregation. Since UCC affiliation fifty years ago, we have been served by only five full-time pastors. For the past thirty years our pastor has been Reverend Dennis Montzingo. The fourth generation of many of the founding families currently populate the leadership positions within the church. These are joined by a significant number of newer members who have joined CCC during the past ten years. Over the last ninety years the population of Clarksburg has doubled and so has the size of CCC membership. No scandal or church congregation divisions has interrupted the central focus of the church—to *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself.”*

As we head into our next century of existence, there are great challenges ahead. The primary evangelical focus identified in our Strategic Plan is to reap the harvest of unchurched families of students that attend our local schools, especially those families that are drawn to Clarksburg’s Delta Elementary Charter School. The spread of Sacramento suburbs is now planned to grow by 5,000 new homes just ten minutes from Clarksburg, on the east side of the river. How do we maintain our small town community when the urban sprawl of the capital pushes even farther southward, yet be faithful to the call to help the new residents meet Jesus and secure personal salvation?

The history of CCC is admirable, but the future is bright and we have a Strategic Plan to help with the challenges!

### **3. The Community We Serve**

Situated on the bank of the Sacramento River, Clarksburg is an unincorporated community with a population of approximately 400. In the greater environs, the total population is approximately 1,200. Clarksburg has no traffic lights. It has one small grocery store. Studies have shown that the weather in Clarksburg is the best in the Sacramento Valley. The influence of the Sacramento River and small population produce mild winters and the gentle Delta breeze keeps the community measurably cooler than the rest of Valley during the hot summer months.

Some would infer that it is a “bedroom community” with employment being a commute distance to the State capital. Such an assumption is not based on the history of this village. The community was founded by hard working farmers who fought annual floods and sporadic droughts from the 1850s to the mid-1920s. The land was reclaimed from the delta waters during the 1920s primarily led by the New Holland Land Company. The farm land exposed by this massive effort of building levees, draining the water back into the river and sloughs then mowing down and burning the six-foot high, terribly

dense tulies has been a true blessing from God. The farm land exposed by these efforts is packed with nutrients from the centuries of silt deposited by the flooding delta. It is possible to grow nearly any crop in this land.

Initially the land produced a variety of crops which included beans, sugar beets, barley, wheat, alfalfa, asparagus, celery, lettuce, and other vegetables. Through the years asparagus became a primary crop until sugar beets became prominent. Sugar beets were planted to provide produce to the sugar factory built just north of downtown. In 1934 this plant provided a great service to the community during the Great Depression by employing 250 workers during the harvest and 50 year round. The sugar mill was the primary non-farm employer until 1993 when changing conditions forced its closure after a half-century of operation.

Despite this set back for the farmers, the rich soil and weather conditions of the delta provided perfect conditions to replace the sugar beet fields with wine vineyards.

The community is interconnected through many organizations that are central to the life of the village. Some of these organizations include the wonderful Volunteer Fire Department, the two churches, the Delta Elementary Charter School (DECS), knitting and ceramic clubs, local sports leagues and annual celebrations.

One of these annual events has occurred in November for the past 50 years (completely sponsored by the community for the past 30 years) when the Clarksburg Country Run is held. Hundreds of volunteers work on this event. It is recognized as one of the oldest and most prestigious competition events on a distance runner's schedule. The race is limited by Yolo County to 1,600 racers and it is usually filled to the limit. Nearly every Clarksburg club and organization works on the many facets of sponsoring the race. Since the community took full responsibility of sponsoring the event, over \$200,000 has been raised and distributed to the various civic organizations who work on it.

Another community annual event is "The Wines of Clarksburg." This wine tasting event raises money for the Clarksburg Library which is across the street from CCC. The library is supported by the local community and provides a gathering place for all ages. It is unusual for such a small community to have a permanent library, but the residents bought the building and remodeled it and although it is affiliated with the Yolo County Library System, it is supported financially and staffed through the efforts of local citizens who volunteer to ensure this resource is available to our citizenry.

In 2006 the governing board for the River Delta Unified School District which meets in Rio Vista "reconfigured" the Clarksburg schools. They voted to close the elementary school and turn its building into a middle school and bus the elementary students nine miles down river to the Courtland school. The Clarksburg community did not approve of this action and quickly started an accredited elementary charter school on property connected to the old elementary school. The DECS school is governed by a local board and is so popular with the community that there is usually a waiting list to be admitted. DECS is evidence of the independent spirit of those who will do more than complain about something that is important to them—and education of their children means a great deal to them.

The auditorium in the middle school is the site of the annual high school musical. The community always supports the production and every performance is played to a full house. Another show that is fully supported by the community is the annual CCC Christmas concert.

The main street is lined twice a year for the Christmas parade and the 4th of July parade.

California is a state with a highly mobile and transit population. Most Californians will change addresses multiple times over the decades. The Clarksburg community is unique in California as many families that initially settled the area are still present. In fact, many live on the same property that has been in the family for decades. This helps maintain a small-town charm that present-day families value. It can be difficult to buy a home in Clarksburg because "For Sale" signs are unusual. But those who persevere and establish residence in this village are accepted into the community and sincerely welcomed.

## **4. Worship**

**Regular worship:** Sundays at 11 A.M. from August to June and at 10 A.M during the summer.

Communion is given the first Sunday of each month.

A lay worship leader conducts the Sunday worship hour. A central aspect of the service is the music by the choir and special solos/groups that praise the Lord and is a shared experience of worship within the congregation. During the summer months, the choir is on break and special music presentations are heard from talented members of the church.

**Sunday School:** Sundays at 9:30 A.M. from August to June. No Sunday School classes are held during the summer. All attendees, children and adult, gather for an opening of singing and Bible recitation which is in the sanctuary from 9:30 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. The congregation then proceeds to their respective classrooms for an hour's lesson. Usually there are two adult classes and five children's classes ranging from pre-school through high school.

The Sunday School curriculum is chosen by the pastor before the beginning of Fall classes. A plan for study is outlined by the pastor. To assist in keeping a uniform standard of excellence of instruction, all Sunday School teachers meet on Wednesday nights to prepare for the coming week's lesson.

**Bible Study.** On Mondays a women's Bible class is held during in Fall, Winter and Spring and then takes a break in the Summer.

Men's Group meets monthly and studies are centered on a commentary or an inspiring book. It meets at 6:30 A.M. on the second Saturday of the fall, winter and spring quarters. It is extremely well attended (breakfast is served when the meeting commences!) and coordinated by a couple of laymen. A bar-b-que dinner is held for the men and their spouses after the last class of the year.

During the summer months, a small weekly men's Bible study is conducted usually on Tuesday nights. It is facilitated by the laymen who share the teaching of the class with the pastor.

## **5. How We Connect and Serve**

### **a. Boy Scouting Support.**

The church has sponsored local Troop 83 since its inception in 1927. Four men of the church organized the troop that initially consisted of fourteen scouts. The founding Scoutmaster was the minister of the church, Reverend John Wilkins. In 1930 the Holland Land Company deeded property to CCC and the current Boy Scout cabin was built. Over the decades the cabin has been host to thousands of Monday night meetings and has launched a multitude of exciting outdoor adventures. Current scout leaders include some church members who represent the fourth generation of their family's Troop 83 involvement. The excellence of the Clarksburg Scouting program is evidenced by the fact that over the years 15% of the scouts achieve Eagle Scout rank. The national average is only 1% of a troop. This remarkable success rate is directly attributable to the very strong support of the sponsoring entity—Clarksburg Community Church. Today, troop membership is 48. At least once a year, the Boy Scouts conduct the entire worship service.

### **b. Interfaith Cooperation.**

There are only two churches in Clarksburg, CCC and St Joseph's Catholic Church which is located by the west end of the Freeport bridge. The congregations have a history of supporting each other. The local Catholic Church was founded by the large Portuguese/Azorean population that immigrated in the 19th century to farm the delta. For the past 125 years a late spring "Clarksburg/Freeport Festa" is celebrated by St. Joseph's. This festival lasts most of the day and includes Azorean food and crafts and a parade with traditional Portuguese costumed participants that transverses the one mile between the I.D.E.S. Portuguese Hall to St. Joseph's. The priests who have served the Clarksburg Catholic community have supported joint services with CCC around holidays. This tradition is typical of the cooperation between spiritual leaders of the community.

### **c. Senior citizen lunches.**

Monthly CCC hosts a Senior Citizen luncheon. Attendance averages about 30 participants, including many who are not CCC attendees. The program provides a wonderful service to the community by bringing together many of the church and unchurched elders to enjoy a time dedicated to showing appreciation of their contributions to Clarksburg.

### **d. Missions Support.**

For the past five years, CCC has sent a mission team to Nicaragua. The team assists in the training of local pastors in Bible knowledge and evangelism techniques. These short-term mission trips are associated with Institutos Biblicos de America Central and have been led by the pastor.

The church lends support to another eight foreign missionary programs through financial contributions and, in some instances, with church members going to the mission field. Another nine programs receive financial support and volunteer efforts nationally.

One of the local programs is support for the homeless in Sacramento. CCC provides volunteers to serve dinner at the Union Gospel Mission one evening a month. Also, food, clothing, and gift drives throughout the year help to maintain the available supplies of the Mission.

**e. Music Impact.**

Our church community is blessed to have an abundance of musicians and singers. Music has always been integral to our worship and community outreach. We have a beautiful sounding pipe organ and 35 members participating in the adult and youth choirs, and bell choir. Additionally, the voices are able to be accompanied by instruments to include drums, saxophone, standup bass, violins, flute, and multiple guitars. Throughout the year special music programs and concerts attract non-members to share in our worship. This love for creating music has been passed from generation to generation for nearly a full century.

**f. Impact with youth.**

As in many small towns across the nation, CCC provides a wonderful social outlet for pre-teens and teenagers. This is done by the presence of strong youth groups that sponsor Christ-based entertainments for the students of the middle and high schools. CCC employs a part-time youth leader who coordinates the weekly meetings of junior high and high school groups, each of them averaging over 20 participants.

Annually the CCC pastor coordinates a Baccalaureate Service that is always well attended by Delta High School seniors and their families.

Additionally, CCC has a strong connection with DECS. Involved CCC laymen sit on the DECS school board. Additionally, the church provides property for use by the DECS administration to operate an agricultural education garden.

## **6. Leadership Structure**

Our church is lay-led with the congregation making the decisions either directly or through the elected members of the Church Council. The church council is presided over by a church Moderator. Council members include the Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Finance Chairman, Clerk, Christian Education Coordinator, Controller, three Members-at-Large, and the three members of the Board of Trustees. Committees oversee most church functions and report to the Council. Members are elected and serve two or three-year staggered terms. Approximately 50 members are actively serving in the council and committees at any one time. Church Council meetings are held monthly.

The week-to-week activities are organized and performed through the following committees:

Worship	Hospitality
Pastor Parish Relations	Chancel
House	Friendship and Concern
Music	Memorial Fund
Mission Outreach	Nominating

## 7. By The Numbers

### a. Finances.

	2018	2017
Expenses	\$179,573	\$223,264
Income (Pledges & offerings)	\$265,000*	\$284,809
BALANCE	\$85,427	\$61,546
Memorial Fund Balance	\$58,497	\$59,289

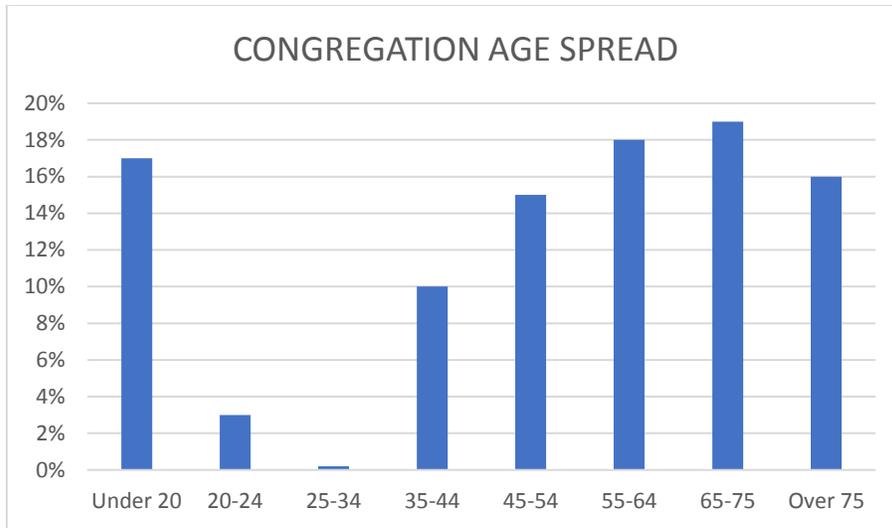
\*Projected for expected December receipts

### b. Membership

#### ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Year	Official Members	Ave. Sunday Worship	Ave. Sunday School
2007	139	95	90
2008	139	95	52*
2009	142	95	98
2010	139	100	111
2011	139	100	111
2012	144	98	94*
2013	144	98	94
2014	159	105	95
2015	159	105	95
2016	159	95	76*
2017	159	95	76

\*Note: Sunday School attendance evidences when large high school group graduates and leaves for college or military.



## 8. Buildings

Our church building is not only our spiritual home, it also serves the greater community. As such we take great care to keep it in pristine condition. The building was first erected in 1937. It underwent its first expansion in 1956 that added Sunday School rooms. In 2009 the building underwent a second major expansion and modernization. The sanctuary was greatly expanded, air conditioning was installed and a pipe organ was fitted into the expansion. The cost of the most recent renovation was \$700,000, with the church assuming a \$400,000 mortgage. We were able to retire the mortgage within five years. This year the roof was replaced and paid for without borrowing funds. The church remains free of any long-term debt. Currently, we are preparing to enlarge and modernize the kitchen facilities.

The parsonage was originally purchased in 1952. It is an updated 3 bedroom, 1½ bathroom, 1,700 square feet house situated across the street from the Delta Charter Elementary School and within walking distance of the church, as well as the middle and high school.

The church also owns the corner lot across the street where the Boy Scout cabin and community garden are located.

## 9. Strategic Planning

a. **Plan Development.** In early 2017 the Church Council decided to implement a Strategic Plan review. The motivation for doing this was threefold.

1. To plan for the future.
2. Ensure that our church remained healthy and sustainable.
3. Prepare for the transition of our Pastor.

A Transition Planning Team was formed to manage the process. A priority was given this work due to its importance to the future of the Church. A team of nine worked for nine months on the project, and a professional facilitator was retained for the retreat day when the actual plan was written.

b. **Congregational Survey.** To ensure all the congregation would have input into the strategic planning process, the entire congregation was invited to participate in the Harford Institute for Religious Research Congregational Assessment Study. The survey asked how the church is presently meeting their needs, updated our demographics, and asked the congregation for their input into defining the characteristics of a good Pastor. The survey results were shared with the congregation and the Church Council.

c. **Strategic Plan.** On Tuesday, February 13, 2018, a retreat was held with a group of 22 church members and a facilitator meeting for a full day to complete the strategic plan. The members were carefully selected to represent the demographics of the church. Using the results of the congregational survey as a guide, the participants spent the day drafting the plan. It was a time of coming together and exploring all aspects of the Church. The outcomes were presented to and approved by the Church Council and the congregation on April 22, 2018.

## **How the Church is meeting the needs of the congregation**

The congregational survey taken as part of the strategic plan development evidenced that these major needs of the parishioners are being met.

1. Challenging sermons that motivate desire for a closer walk with Jesus
2. Strong youth program
3. Strong, supportive community of believers/interact like loving family

The survey also highlighted the following areas where more effort is necessary to better meet congregational needs.

1. Comforting sermons
2. More effective outreach/evangelism efforts

## **Characteristics of a good pastor**

The survey also revealed the following characteristics preferred in a pastor of Clarksburg Community Church.

1. Inflexible in belief of saving grace only available through Jesus's sacrifice on the cross and the call to serve Him; flexible in non-faith matters
2. Understanding and "buy-in" to achieve our ten-year vision outlined in the Strategic Plan.

## **10. Who are we seeking**

**We envision our next pastor to collaborate with the congregation in realizing our VISION as outlined in the Strategic Plan by committing to the following goals:**

- Leading us to a closer and deeper walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
- Engaging in community outreach
- Enhancing family-focused programs
- Effectively communicating with the congregation and community
- Offering mentoring and discipleship development
- Encouraging youth leadership
- Continuing a strong music program
- Preach sermons that are Biblically based and increase our understanding of God's Word.