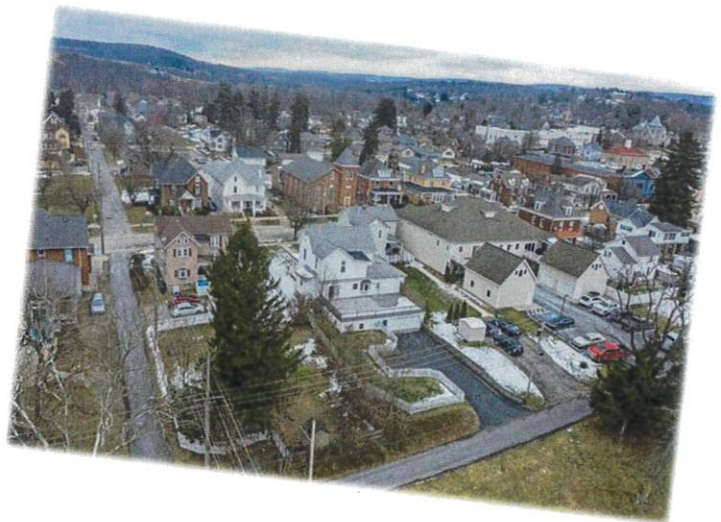


COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY INFORMATION

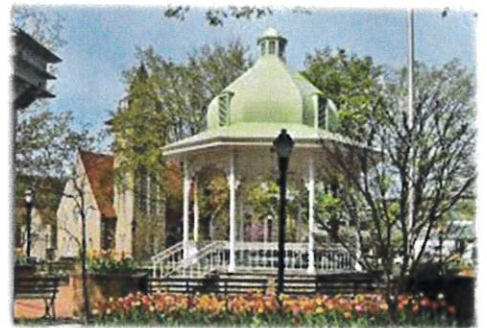
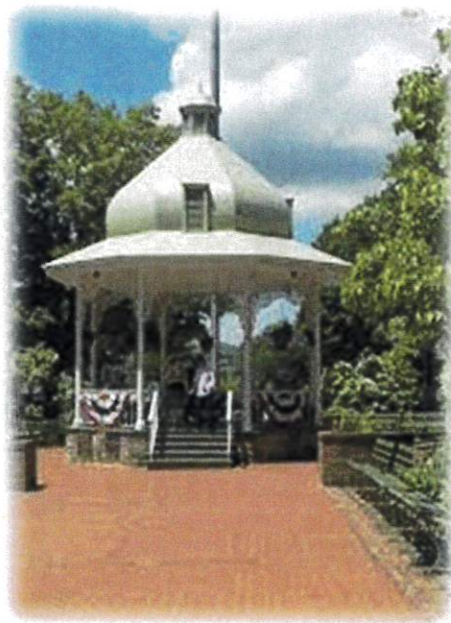
Ligonier prides itself as the friendly small town in the center of Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. Recognized by *Country Living Magazine* as one of "The Most Charming Small Towns in America" and by *The Washington Post* as a "Small Town Charmer", it strives to maintain its' character while improving the quality of living through educational, environmental, and infrastructure initiatives.

Situated between Laurel Ridge and Chestnut Ridge, steeped in history dating back to the French and Indian War of 1758, the town hosts over 60 specialty shops, galleries, restaurants, and places to stay. The scenic valley surrounding the town is home to many outdoor adventures and attractions.



Here are some of the highlights unique to the Ligonier Valley:

- Fort Ligonier
- Idlewild and Soakzone Amusement Park
- Ligonier Country Market
- Laurel Mountain Ski Area
- Linn Run State Park
- Forbes State Forest
- State Game Lands 42 (18,000+ acres)
- Powdermill Nature Reserve
- Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail
- Ligonier Valley Railroad Museum
- Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art
- Ligonier Camp and Conference Center
- Antiochian Village Conference and Retreat Center
- Ligonier Country Club
- Champion Lakes Golf Club
- Laurel Valley Golf Club
- Laurel Mountain Ski Resort



Ligonier residents are passionate about high school sports, regularly see their friends at the grocery store, strongly support the five volunteer fire departments, join the various sportsmen and conservation clubs, celebrate their veterans and military heritage, enjoy long walks and bicycle rides, argue about local politics, enjoy seeing all their friends during Fort Ligonier Days and then complain about the crowds, wish 'things were like they used to be', and work hard to make life better in a small town.

What the Ligonier Valley DOES NOT have are fast food outlets, chain restaurants, or big box stores. When you need these amenities you just travel to Latrobe (10 miles, 16 min), Greensburg (19 miles, 27 min) Johnstown (20 miles, 30 min), or Somerset (23 miles, 34 min). Big city activities are available in Pittsburgh, whose downtown is 50 miles and one hour away (on a good traffic day).

SCHOOLS

Preschools: There are 5 preschools in Ligonier: Champion Christian Preschool, Woodbridge, YMCA, Ligonier Valley Learning Center, and R.K. Mellon Elementary School

Public Schools: The Ligonier Valley School District and Westmoreland County Vocational Technical School offer public education to Ligonier residents.

Private Schools: Valley School of Ligonier, Johnstown Christian School, Champion Christian School, there are also Catholic school options in Latrobe, Greensburg, and Johnstown

Colleges and Universities: The small private colleges Seton Hill and St. Vincent University are located in Greensburg and Latrobe respectively. The University of Pittsburgh has campuses in Johnstown and Greensburg while Indiana University of Pa is located in Indiana Pa. Penn State's closest campus is located in Fayette County. Westmoreland County Community College is in Greensburg and has a full array of educational opportunities for all levels

DEMOGRAPHICS – Ligonier Borough and Surrounding Townships

Total Population: 8,916

White Population: 8,863

Black Population: 25

Hispanic Population: 49

Asian Population: 24

Hawaiian Population: 7

Indian Population: 20

Male Population: 4,379

Female Population: 4,537

Median Age: 50

Median Age of Males: 49

Median Age of Females: 52

Average House Value: \$152,400

Average Annual Household Income: \$51,198

Businesses: 274

Employees: 1,820

Annual Payroll: \$56,045,000

Average Family Income: \$63,087

Median Family Income: \$36,430

Average Income for Men: \$43,280

Average Income for Women: \$20,999

LIGONIER HOUSING MARKET OVERVIEW

Median Sold Price By Bedroom Count

	<u>OCTOBER 2020</u>	<u>OCTOBER 2021</u>	<u>%</u>
1 Bedroom	\$73K	-	N/A
2 Bedrooms	\$106K	\$139.9K	+32.0%
3 Bedrooms	\$177.5K	\$234.9K	+32.4%
4 Bedrooms	\$271K	\$315K	+16.2%
5+ Bedrooms	\$700K	\$1.5M	+114.3%

How many homes are available in Ligonier Township, PA?

Number of Homes For Sale	<u>SEP 2021</u>	<u>OCT 2021</u>	<u>%</u>
	45	49	+8.9%

Homes For Sale By Bedroom Count

	<u>SEP 2021</u>	<u>OCT 2021</u>	<u>%</u>
1 Bedroom	0	0	0.0%
2 Bedrooms	10	10	0.0%
3 Bedrooms	14	18	+28.6%
4 Bedrooms	11	10	-9.1%
5+ Bedrooms	10	11	+10.0%

Number of Homes Sold

<u>SEP 2021</u>	<u>OCT 2021</u>	<u>%</u>
6	7	+16.7%

Average Sale Time

<u>OCT 2020</u>	<u>OCT 2021</u>	<u>%</u>
82 Days	92 Days	+12.1%

HISTORY OF LIGONIER

During the French and Indian War in 1758, General John Forbes ordered the construction of a new road over the Allegheny Mountains to transport soldiers and supplies to present-day Pittsburgh on a mission to capture Fort Duquesne. The road became known as Forbes Road. In September of that same year, Fort Ligonier, named after Sir John Ligonier (commander in chief in Great Britain), was built at Loyalhanna. The fort served as a place for supplies and to prepare the British-American Army for an attack on Fort Duquesne. On October 12, the British successfully defeated the French at the Battle of Fort Ligonier.



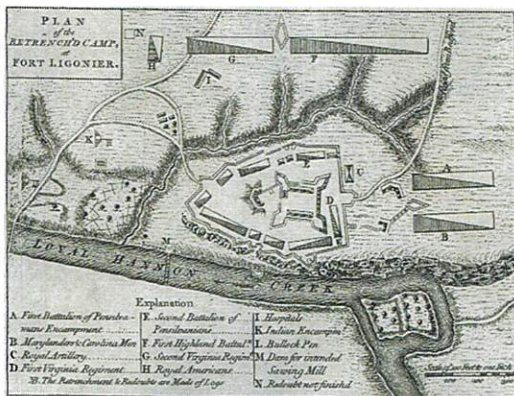
From the French and Indian War until the 1790s, what is now Ligonier saw very little, if any, settlement. The poor quality of the State Road, which roughly followed the Forbes Road, political instability, and threat of Indian attack discouraged settlement.

Even after the 1790s, few people called Ligonier home until the completion of the Philadelphia-Pittsburgh Turnpike in 1817.

At the completion of turnpike, Colonel John Ramsey put up for sale plots of land near the site of Fort Ligonier. He wanted to call it Wellington, but most people referred to it as Ramseytown. The name was officially changed to Ligonier when it was incorporated as a borough in 1834.

The Turnpike brought slow and steady growth to Ligonier. Blacksmiths,

wagonwrights, shopkeepers, livery stables, and taverns lined the Turnpike along what is Main Street today. Despite this development, Ligonier was not considered a destination. Most of the people in town were transients—teamsters, drovers, peddlers and migrant settlers.



John Ramsey also established the public square, now referred to as the Diamond. He required those that purchased lots build two-story brick buildings within seven years or pay a fine. While the Diamond today is seen as a decorative feature and community gathering space, it originally served as a “parking lot” for the horses and wagons travelling along the turnpike. The Diamond remained as such until 1894 when Ligonier joined the City Beautiful Movement. At that point, the Diamond was transformed into a public park with lamps, sidewalks, landscaping and a bandstand.

Ligonier continued to be a popular spot along the Turnpike until the mid-1800s when the Pennsylvania Railroad was built and bypassed Ligonier. Ligonier’s population began to drop. However, when the Ligonier Valley Railroad (LVRR) was completed in 1871, the town became a shipping center for lumber, wood products and stone. In becoming commercially significant yet again, Ligonier’s population doubled between 1870 and 1880.

In the midst of the transition from the turnpike to the railroad, Ligonier established itself as a summer resort for Pittsburghers. Once the LVRR was completed, Ligonier became even more popular, especially with the addition of Idlewild, a summer campground that eventually developed into the amusement park we know today.

Today, Ligonier, while preserving its small town charm, is a popular summer destination for many.



BRIEF HISTORY OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The name Ligonier Church was found for the first time in the Presbytery Records, October 22, 1817. It is probable that there was a congregation prior to this time but it had no regular organization.

It was thought that a tent, near the present location, sheltered the congregation at the first religious services. The first church building was constructed around 1820 and served for the next 27 years when it was torn down and a larger sanctuary was constructed in 1848.

The current day building was dedicated in 1904. It is made from light grey sandstone from a local quarry in a combination of Romanesque and Gothic styles. At that time the membership was about 200 and was in a very prosperous condition.

Over the years various expansions and renovations were necessary. The major renewal of the sanctuary was completed in 1969 when the entire sanctuary was rotated 90 degrees and classrooms were added to the basement. This is essentially how the sanctuary appears today and vigorous maintenance and upkeep strives to keep it that way.

In 2009 the congregation made the prayerful decision to leave the PC USA and join the EPC

