



Burry's Church

Pastoral Search Information Packet

1835 Route 68, Rochester, PA 15074

burryschurch.com

New Sewickley Township, Beaver County

Church Overview

The congregation of St. John's (Burry's) United Evangelical Protestant Church is searching for the Pastor God has chosen to lead our Church into an exciting new phase of our long history. We are a rural church located near Zelienople, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles north of Pittsburgh and adjacent to one of the fastest growing regions of Western Pennsylvania. We are an independent, conservative congregation founded in 1835 and maintain our German Reformed tradition. We believe that God's purpose for Burry's Church is to Glorify God by Making Disciples.



We are a church in a rural setting and with easy access to world-class medical and educational facilities. Our campus consists of 30 plus acres including the church, parsonage, picnic shelter, playground, multi-purpose sports court, softball field and wooded campsite.

We have Sunday School Classes at 9:30 for all ages and one Worship service at 10:30. Our worship style is a blend of traditional hymns accompanied by organ or piano and more contemporary praise songs accompanied by piano or guitar. Typical worship service attendance is approximately 100.

We are governed by a Church Council and have active ministries for men, women and all youth age groups. We are a church that wants to grow both spiritually and in numbers and be an active witness to our community.



Mission and Vision

Purpose

To glorify God by making disciples.

Vision

Make disciples according to Jesus' words given to his apostles and to us in Matthew 28:19: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Doctrinal Basis

The doctrinal basis is defined in our constitution and Heidelberg Catechism and is summarized as follows:

1. We believe in one God who eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. We receive and hold the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, and as the only infallible rule and standard of faith and practice, according to which all doctrines and teachers are to be judged.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death and atonement, bodily resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His imminent, visible return.
4. We believe that man, created in the image of God, was tempted by Satan and fell, and because of his consequent depravity, requires regeneration by the Holy Spirit for Salvation.
5. We believe that marriage was instituted by God to be between one man (by birth) and one woman (by birth) as the foundation for the family.



6. We believe that salvation consists in the remission of sins, the imputation of Christ's righteousness and the gift of eternal life, received by faith alone, apart from works.
7. We believe in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer empowering him to live a godly life and grow in sanctification.
8. We believe in the imminent, visible, personal return of Jesus Christ in power and glory.
9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the eternal life of the saved and the eternal punishment of the lost.
10. We believe in the doctrine taught in the Heidelberg Catechism and require our youth to be instructed in that document.
11. We believe our highest aim is the worship of God in spirit and in truth, the advancement of the Christian Life through the preaching of the Gospel, the administration of the Holy Sacraments and Christian instruction in Church and School.



Pastoral Profile

Character

We are prayerfully seeking an enthusiastic Pastor with a fervent calling to serve here, living out his faith, and devotion to Christ and His church. He will possess a strong moral and ethical character that demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit, shepherding God's flock with an approachable servant's heart. He will be passionate about church growth and revival in all areas, with emotional maturity to connect at the personal level. He will have a heart for missions, seeking to minister to those in our growing community. He will possess strong interpersonal skills relating to all age groups and provide leadership and development to our ministry team. He will have the ability to function well in a council leadership structure of Elders, Deacons and Trustees, welcoming feedback and leading change with patience.



Qualifications

Burry's pastor should be able to minister and teach in accordance with our Church Constitution, possessing an advanced degree from a conservative, accredited reformed seminary. He should hold to infant baptism and adult baptism where indicated, such as a new believer who has never been baptized. We prefer that he have five years of preaching experience. He should possess the ability to preach dynamic God-honoring, Gospel-centered Biblical sermons that are clear, engaging, and relevant to all age groups. His pastoral oversight should be genuine, compassionate and effective. He should be competent in administrative and leadership skills.

Responsibilities

We pray for a pastor who will cast a clear vision and provide direction and spiritual development of the Church Council, ministry leaders and congregants. The following are responsibilities we desire our next pastor to fulfill:

- Preach God's word at worship services, special events, weddings and funerals.
- Be a spiritual advisor to the Council and committees.
- Model and encourage prayer for the health and spiritual well-being of the church.
- Actively engage in the lives of the flock, visiting members, shut-ins, and the sick.
- Teach the scriptures in various settings as part of the ministry of evangelism.
- Administer the Holy Sacraments in conformity to the Holy Scriptures and Burry's standards and traditions.
- Provide personal and premarital counseling as required.
- Train the youth and potential new members in the Heidelberg Catechism.
- Equip our church to minister to and make disciples within the rapidly growing nearby communities.

Pastoral Activities:

High importance: Preaching, Teaching, Evangelism, Church Growth, Leading Worship

Medium importance: Discipleship, Christian Ed., Visitation, Leadership Development

Lesser importance: Administration, Counseling, Missions, Lay ministry, Small groups

History

St. John's (Burry's) United Evangelical Protestant Church, located in New Sewickley Township, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1835 by a group of German farmers. The congregation originally met in the home of Jacob "Swiss" Burry, from whom they purchased an acre of land and the nickname "Burry's Church," which has persisted for over 185 years. The church's founding pastor, E. F. Winter was a German Reformed minister who served the congregation from its inception until his retirement in 1880.

The church's physical history includes three distinct sanctuaries: the original log church built in 1835, a second sanctuary constructed in 1859, and the current building, which was completed in 1928 after the congregation outgrew its previous space. Its official name, German United Evangelical Protestant St. John's Church, reflects its heritage

Historically, Burry's was part of the German Evangelical Protestant Movement that flourished in the Ohio Valley. While many similar churches eventually joined larger denominations like the United Church of Christ, Burry's Church chose to remain independent and non-denominational. Today, it maintains a congregational form of government, focused on its dual mission to serve as a "pillar of truth" in the community and to "make disciples of all nations."



Who we are

Our beautiful traditional sanctuary is structured with wooden pews and a center aisle. It contains a large balcony giving us a total seating capacity of approximately 350 people. We have breathtaking stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ. Our sanctuary also contains two functioning organs as well as a baby grand piano. We livestream our weekly worship service. We have a newly remodeled fellowship hall that offers space for approximately 100-150 people to meet. Downstairs, there is a large meeting area, a library, and multiple classrooms. In the upper portion of our building we have a renovated loft intended for young adult groups. Our staff offices are easily accessible.

Our parsonage is located on the edge of the parking lot and features four large bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a finished basement with a two car garage. Our campus has a large picnic pavilion, softball field, an outdoor multi-purpose court, and a playground area. Our cemetery lies next to the church lawn surrounded by 30 acres of land. Eleven acres are used for farming with the proceeds forwarded to Growing Hope Globally, a missionary organization.

Staff	Pastor (Solo), Part-time church Secretary, Streaming and Audio Technician, Praise Team
Ministries	Men and Women's Bible Studies, Faith Circle, Grief Share, Christian Caregivers, Outreach/Missions, Christian Education, Growing Hope Globally
Leadership	Council: Two elders, three deacons, six trustees
2026 Budget	Operating Budget \$268,000 Missions Budget \$109,000 Debt \$0

About the Area

Burry's Church, located in the scenic rolling hills of western Pennsylvania, New Sewickley Township offers a unique blend of rural charm and suburban accessibility. This community is a "best of both worlds" location: it maintains a peaceful, quiet atmosphere with deep local roots, yet it sits directly in the path of the massive economic and residential expansion flowing from the Pittsburgh metro area.

New Sewickley Township Community Profile

New Sewickley is a stable, residential/rural community with a population of approximately 7,100 residents. It is characterized by a high rate of homeownership (87%) and a median household income of roughly \$71,600. The township attracts families looking for space and safety, as well as a sizable population of established professionals and retirees. This is a "tight-knit" community where neighbors know one another and value local tradition.

Regional Boom: Cranberry & Zelienople

To understand the potential of a ministry in New Sewickley, one must look just a few miles east and south. The township sits on the border of Cranberry Township and the borough of Zelienople, areas that have become the primary growth engines of Western Pennsylvania.

- Cranberry Township: Now exceeding 35,000 residents, Cranberry has seen nearly 18% growth over the last decade. It is a regional hub for technology and retail, bringing a high-energy, professional demographic to the church's doorstep.
- Zelienople: This neighboring borough has undergone a "Main Street" revitalization, and along with new construction home developments, has become a destination for young families and "empty nesters" who enjoy its walkable, boutique atmosphere.

While the current median age in New Sewickley leans older, the growth in the 25–44 age demographic in neighboring Cranberry and the new residential construction around New Sewickley represents a significant ministry opportunity for multi-generational growth and family outreach.

Preparing for the Future

Beginning in late 2024, our church has been led by an Interim Pastor provided through Interim Pastor Ministries. A Transition Team functioned for much of 2025 to understand how to build upon our church strengths and address areas requiring improvement. Many of the team's recommendations have been or are in the process of being implemented.

During 2025, our outdoor facilities were improved by adding a multi-purpose court and upgrading our much-used playground. Indoors, we air-conditioned our Sanctuary. Additionally, our Education Hall was remodeled and air-conditioned.

In mid-2026 Roots Learning Academy, a Christian hybrid homeschool co-op, will begin meeting in our facility. We anticipate that Roots will bring new, young families to our fellowship.

Our fervent prayer is that the Lord will bring a new Pastor to Burry's Church to lead us with energy and enthusiasm and equip us to make disciples to the glory of God. We prayerfully anticipate that the Lord is leading us to build on our long history and preparing us for an exciting and God-honoring future.



Search Committee Members



Bryan

I have been married to my wife, Jeri, for 26 years. We have three children. Two of them will be getting married this year. Jeri and I were both baptized, confirmed and married at Burry's Church. We have continued worshipping here with our family and friends. I attend Sunday school, and Men's bible study. I have served on church council multiple times. During my last term, I was elected to serve as the head trustee. My responsibilities included overseeing the church buildings and grounds.

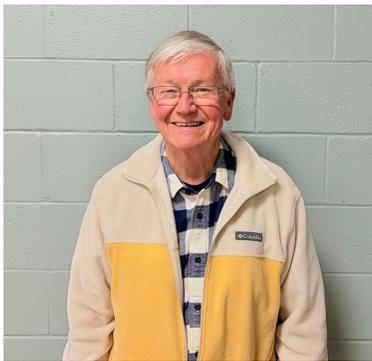
Claire

When I met my husband, I began attending Burry's Church with him. We've been married for fourteen years now and have four children. I have enjoyed serving on the Missions Committee, VBS Committee, Faith Circle (our women's service group), Girls Bible Study, Nominating Committee, Caregivers, and the Harvest Home Committee. During my time here, I have also led a Bible Study, and a group for those managing health challenges. Each year, I coordinate our church's Live Nativity. I currently serve on the Leaders Council for Community Bible Study.



Chuck

My wife Linda and I have been married for 57 years. We have a diverse family of two adopted sons and five grandchildren. We moved to the Zelienople area in early 2021 and attended Burry's Church ever since. Linda and I were attracted to Burry's by their sound Biblical preaching and teaching, adherence to Reformed doctrine, and most of all, the warmth and sincerity of the congregation. I regularly teach Adult Sunday School and mid-week Bible Study. Prior to coming to Burry's, I served as a Ruling Elder in the PCA and as a Teaching Director in Community Bible Study. Professionally, I was Vice President of ASKO, Inc. retiring in 2011. I am a graduate of Virginia Tech and the University of Pittsburgh. Post retirement I attended Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh for two years earning a Servant of the Church Certificate.



Trevor

I am a lifelong member of Burry's Church, currently serving as a Trustee on Council. I have served as a Trustee for eleven years, holding treasurer and secretary positions. I was raised in Cranberry Township with my two brothers and still reside in Cranberry today. I attended Grove City College and currently work to develop instrumentation and control equipment for the Navy.



Charlie

I was raised in a Catholic family but became a member of Burry's Church about 32 years ago. My wife, Ann, and I have been married for 39 years, and we have two daughters and four grandchildren. I have served on church council as a Trustee, and a Deacon, as well as teaching Sunday school for many years. Throughout my time here at Burry's, I have also served on numerous committees.

Michelle

My family and I joined Burry's Church when we moved to the area in 2012. I was in high school at the time. The Burry's Church congregation welcomed us with open arms. Since then, I've graduated from Waynesburg University with a degree in Math/Science Education, and a Master's Degree in Special Education. My husband, Corey, and I have been married for 1 year. I currently work full-time as a high school Personal Finance & Business teacher at the Freedom Area School District. Here at Burry's, I serve as a children's Sunday School Teacher, youth group volunteer, and worship leader. I have also served on previous Search Committees.



Tom

I have been a member of Burry's Church my entire life. Growing up, my parents hosted the youth group at their house. My wife and I have been married for over 45 years now. We raised three sons on our family farm. I am blessed to be able to say that I can't remember a time when I haven't looked to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as my savior. I have been involved in the Lord's work here at Burry's in many ways. I currently serve as an Elder.

Application Process

Thank you for your interest in Burry's Church. Please apply at burryschurch.com/pastor-search. We will let you know when we have received all of your information. Our committee will review your submission and may contact you for further information or scheduling conversations.

Burphy's Church Outreach



Golden Agers



**Strawberry
Festival**



Harvest Home



**Christmas
Caroling**



Big Knob Fair



Live Nativity



Parade



VBS