



# Latrobe United Presbyterian Church

Founded 1852

**“relying upon the presence, power, and direction of the Holy Spirit”**

*“The Latrobe United Presbyterian Church is a family-oriented church which works together to glorify God as we make disciples, mature disciples, and keep disciples.*

*We have a heart for leading others to Jesus Christ by relying upon the presence, power, and direction of the Holy Spirit.”*

Church Name: **Latrobe United Presbyterian Church**

Street Address: **340 Spring St; Latrobe, Pa**

Denomination: **Redstone Presbytery**

Facebook: **Latrobe United Presbyterian Church**

Contact: **Scott Cole, Pastor Nominating Committee: 2sscole50@gmail.com**

## Community

The Latrobe United Presbyterian Church’s immediate neighborhood is a mixed community of rental and owned homes that include retirees, young families, and the main street of Latrobe in the surrounding blocks. As in too many of today’s communities, little to no church attachment exists in Latrobe.

Our church strives to help meet the needs of this community by being a welcoming, friendly, and non-judgmental congregation. Anyone is welcome to attend our services, Sunday school, after school church club and other ministries where they will hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In addition to our worship services, many people from our congregation volunteer at community services such as the local food bank, and various school programs that support students and families in need of both food and clothing.

Many people have strayed from attending church on a regular basis. There isn’t much time set aside, dedicated to God and prayer.

We feel called to help our community find their way back to God. We need to invite more people to worship with us. We can offer support to someone in need. We can offer a family the gift of uninterrupted time to focus on one another and pray together. We can offer someone who lives alone conversation and a sense of belonging. We can offer 60 minutes of prayer, music, and lessons from the bible to help take on the coming week and all the challenges that may lie ahead.

## Leadership & Status

Latrobe United Presbyterian Church is served and led by a session composed of 9 elders. Also serving our church is a team of 9 deacons who lead us in providing care for our community. Pastor Don Graff was our most recent full-time pastor who served our church and community for 45 years – retiring at the end of 2019. Currently we are being served by an Interim Pastor, Rev Dr. John Simpson. The church has a part time secretary, Barbara Stahl who has served the church for the past 44 years. Our choir director has also been active for 40 years. Custodial care has been handled by two members since our part time custodian had to retire due to her health in 2021. We have been actively seeking a full-time pastor with a pastor nominating committee since January 2022.

## History

Before Latrobe was even a village, this area along the Loyalhanna Creek attracted settlers from across the mountains to the East. Among them were members of Associate Reformed families. From these people and their faith, the Latrobe United Presbyterian Church had its beginnings one hundred and seventy years ago. The nearest church of that day was in the little village of New Alexandria. Travel of seven miles to and from church over uncertain roads behind actual horsepower was quite a chore to folks who lived up the creek. A new congregation was formed in Latrobe in 1852. The first minister was Rev. William Connor, a one-time blacksmith. The first communion was served to 14 members and 7 corresponding members. During those early days the churches were small and the ministers few. At one time the Latrobe Church shared its minister with two other congregations.

Three church buildings have served the congregation. The first church was of frame construction and, according to the belief of that day, contained no organ or piano. Forty years later that building was replaced on the same site, the corner of Alexandria and Spring Streets, by a new building of red brick construction. It was dedicated in 1892. The present church structure was built on the same site and dedicated in 1931. Economic conditions caused by the great depression delayed construction of the Sunday School wing until 1956. The church building is of Indiana limestone. It is of Gothic architecture with beautiful stained-glass windows. The pipe organ was installed in 1931. Its mellow tones still fill the sanctuary during Sunday morning services.

We are proud that the United Presbyterian Church has played an active part in the history of the community, serving the Lord for 170 years. It is the oldest congregation in the area. We are thankful to the ministers, officers, teachers, and all others who have contributed their time, energy, talents and substance over the years.

## Ministry

Our congregation's vision for ministry is to bring the teachings of Christ to our members and our community to help bring individuals into personal relationships with Christ. This vision is lived out in our worship services and the messages expressed in them through our pastoral sermons, scripture, music, children's messages, Sunday School, and the fellowship of our members. Of particular note for living our vision, our after-school church club has begun to attract new young people to our church for activities outside of the normal worship services. The children's learning experience has been meaningful to both the attendees and the leaders for enhancing their relationship with the Church and with Christ.

## Membership and Worship attendance:

### Covenant Partners:

Members as of 12/31/2020	197
New members added	1
Removed from roll	15
Deaths (members)	4
Membership as of 12/31/21	177

### Average worship attendance 2022:

January	41
February	43
March	38
April	52
May	39
June	35
July	36

Average worship attendance for 2019 - 57

Average worship attendance for 2020 from June 26 thru December 13 - 39

Average worship attendance for 2021 – the average worship attendance in the building in 2021 was 40.

*Worship was also available during 2020 and 2021 on Facebook/YouTube, both of which had users.*

*A true count is not possible.*

**Church Goals:**

- to bring the teachings of Christ to our members and our community to help bring individuals into personal relationships with Christ.
- Growing the church.
- Pursuing local ministry and church outreach.
- Practicing intentional discipleship with all ages.
- Maintaining music in our worship service.

**Qualifications:**

- a strong commitment to Christ
- a definite sense of God's calling to be a pastor.
- Be ordained by Presbytery or be eligible for ordination.
- the ability to communicate clearly.
- the ability to delegate as appropriate
- spiritual wisdom to discern when "to change" and when not "to change".

**Compensation:**

To be negotiated within the parameters Redstone Presbytery provides and commensurate with the level of experience. A competitive benefits package will be offered as well as a housing allowance.

**How to Apply:**

Contact Scott Cole of the Pastor Nominating Committee. He will share your application with the rest of the committee, and we will get back to you. Please attach your Personal Information Form (PIF) or resume and contact information.

2sscole50@gmail.com

**Our church family is seeking to welcome a full-time pastor whose responsibilities will include:**

- ◆ Delivering biblically based sermons that are relevant, engaging, and inspiring
- ◆ Ministering to the needs of our congregation through spiritual and personal guidance, teaching, admonishing, and visiting.
- ◆ Serving as Moderator of our Session and helping Session members grow in faith and leadership.
- ◆ Oversee worship service planning.
- ◆ Administering the sacraments to all of God's people.
- ◆ Serving as head of staff
- ◆ Providing support, guidance, inspiration, and encouragement to the church's ministry teams.
- ◆ Officiating at weddings and funerals
- ◆ Training newly elected officers, preparing persons for membership, providing confirmation classes.
- ◆ Participate in the fellowship and discipleship activities of the church.