

# Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church

7862 Buffalo Hart Road, Williamsville, Illinois 62693

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## Our Church

Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church seeks to bring people to Christ, to imitate His life, and inspire service in His name that glorifies God.

## Our Church Family

Our 66 members and 30 friends of the church are deeply involved in the Lord's work in the Buffalo Hart area. Average church attendance is 50 people.

## Our Church Profile



## Our Community

- Buffalo Hart is an unincorporated community in northern Sangamon County.
- Buffalo Hart township has a population of 222.
- Most members of our church live within a 15 mile radius of the church. Residing in Buffalo Hart township, Buffalo, Dawson, Mechanicsburg, Riverton, Sherman, Springfield and Williamsville.
- We are located 10 miles northeast of Springfield.



**Our mission** is to provide a spiritual home where believers gather to worship and glorify God in all three persons. We seek to fulfill the Bible's Great Commission to go and make disciples, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



**Our Vision** is rooted in Christian fellowship, as we open our doors, our minds and our hearts to our community, in both love and service. The Bible calls its faithful to lovingly work, teach and lead as the hands and feet of Jesus.

### **What We Believe**

We believe, teach and confess Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterian (ECO) essential tenets and are guided in that belief.

ECO Ecclesiastical Resources, <https://mychurch.eco-pres.org/resources>

## Ministries

Our worship service typically consists of a standard traditional Order of Worship. We hold one service on Sunday, 9:30 to 10:30 am, with piano-accompanied traditional hymns. We have a high-grade sound system and two pianos – traditional and electric.

### Ministry details:

- Communion is shared approximately 15 times per year: the first Sunday of each month, Christmas Eve service, Holy Week service and Funk's Grove service.
- Four dedicated volunteer musicians, with occasional special music from congregants.
- We currently hold a music copyright license.
- Sunday School for toddlers thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade held weekly during the morning worship service. An average of 8 children attend, and 10 adults rotate teaching Sunday school lessons.
- Adult Sunday School led by the pastor is held weekly prior to morning worship service.
- Bible studies for Lenten and Advent seasons.
- Vacation Bible school inviting children from the community. Average of 25 children attending, and ten volunteers serving this mission.
- Women's group meets monthly.
- Additional fellowship includes: all-birthday potluck, attending Springfield minor league baseball game, Funk's Grove evening potluck and church service, game night, ice cream sundae night, and paint night.



## Community Outreach

Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church reaches beyond its church family to connect with the community in service and ministry.

- Each summer, a community picnic is held for the Buffalo Hart residents, church attendees, and those with a family history to the area, co-sponsored with the township.
- Monthly book group discussions, open to the community.
- Updated web site and Facebook presence.

## Missions we support

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isiah 6:8*

We support several non-profit organizations.

### Fifth Sunday Ministries:

In the months with five Sundays, usually four times per year, the congregation collects food and monetary donations. We support two food pantries, Riverton Food Pantry and Tri-City Food Pantry. Additionally, the Women's Association prepares and serves an evening meal at Helping Hands of Springfield to clients who are experiencing homelessness.

### Other ministries:

- Year-long collection of consumables for Helping Hands of Springfield.
- Assistance to local schools, supplies for school nurse, consumables (Kleenex, Items for emergency clothing closet).
- Baby layette collection, in cooperation with Church Women United in Springfield, distributed to Kumler Neighborhood Ministries.
- Generous end-of-year benevolences to Springfield area social agencies, area food pantries, Kemmerer Village and Illinois Presbyterian Home.



# Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church Profile



## Brief History

- Early 1800's Settlement of Buffalo Hart Grove began.
- 1826 First recorded church service took place in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Lynn.
- 1832 A Chapel was constructed about a mile south of our current church location, serving all residents regardless of religious affiliation.
- 1859 Sunday school was organized and held at the Chapel.
- 1867 Buffalo Hart Union Church was built by the area Christians, Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians. It was located about two miles south of Buffalo Hart.
- 1896 The Presbyterians from the Union Church petitioned the Presbytery to organize a Presbyterian church at Buffalo Hart. The church was formally organized in May. Sunday school thrived and attendance was high each week.

- 1900 The congregation decided to build a new church at Buffalo Hart Station, where it stands today. The new church was dedicated in October.
- 1923 The Ladies Aid Society paid \$385, which was the balance of the original \$500 mortgage. The Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church has remained debt-free since then.
- 1947 Vacation Bible school was started with 102 children attending.
- 1957-61 Three rooms were added to the original structure and many interior improvements were made including indoor plumbing.
- 1992 By this time membership had dwindled to less than 30 and Sunday attendance was low. Through some “divine interventions” and steady pulpit supply, which began in June 1993, the congregation was energized, stabilized and began to grow. This was also the first year the church received a distribution from a generous trust fund. This money permitted extensive updating and improvements.
- 1996 In the fall, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the congregation’s founding was celebrated.
- 2007 Additional rooms, including a kitchen and expanded fellowship area were added and dedicated – with no debt.
- 2021 The congregation decided to leave the Presbyterian Church (USA) and joined ECO.

## **Our Church Today**

Present Today we stand strongly as a loving and giving congregation of 66 members, 25 to 30 friends of the church with an average Sunday attendance of 50. We intend to continue to be a cherished beacon of light and hope in the rural community, in the true belief that God can do so much with so little.

Staff: Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church employees a solo pastor and a part time custodian.

Leadership: Church leadership consists of a Session comprised of nine Elders and three Deacons, along with committee liaisons, members, and a robust volunteer corps.



## **Job Description: Presbyterian Pastor**

**Location:** Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church

**Job Type:** Full-Time

**Salary:** Commensurate with Experience

**About Us:** Our church is a conservative Presbyterian congregation located in a close-knit rural community. We are dedicated to fostering a faithful, scripture-centered ministry that serves the spiritual needs of our members and extends Christ's love to our broader community.

We invite interested applicants to view our church website at <https://www.buffalohartpc.com/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1755524478016149>

**Job Summary:** We are seeking a dedicated Presbyterian Pastor who embodies strong faith, scriptural wisdom, and a passion for pastoral care. The ideal candidate will lead our congregation in worship, provide pastoral care, and help strengthen our church's presence within the community.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- This is a solo pastor position for a financially stable church.
- Lead Sunday worship services and special services such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms.
- Prepare and deliver sermons that are biblically sound, engaging, and relevant.
- Offer pastoral care and counseling to church members, including hospital visits and home visitations.
- Lead and develop church programs that support spiritual growth, including Bible study groups, youth programs, and adult education classes.
- Collaborate with session to execute the church's vision and mission.
- Participate in community outreach and service projects to strengthen church-community relations.

### **Qualifications:**

- Candidates for ministry must demonstrate significant theological and biblical competence as well as the necessary skills for pastoral ministry. All pastors serving an ECO congregation must hold their ordination in ECO or be received as affiliate pastors by the presbytery of jurisdiction.
- Proven experience in pastoral ministry, preferably in a rural setting.
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, with the ability to connect with a diverse range of individuals.
- Compassionate and empathetic leader with strong interpersonal skills.
- Commitment to the doctrine and practices of conservative Presbyterianism.
- Ability to provide spiritual leadership, guidance, and education.



## **Attributes Desired in our Pastor:**

We want a pastor who will:

- Offer us scripture-based sermons, in a collegiate teaching style.
- A pastor who addresses us as intelligent people who are hungry and open for the word of God.
- Be invested in building up our youth group and strengthen our educational programs.
- Appreciate and nurture our multi-generational congregation, and our faith-style of "walking the talk".
- Value our location and our size, feeling no need to compete with the larger churches, and who can recognize that our inheritance of the past is the foundation of our desire for a vibrant future, in touch with the needs of the world, small and large.
- Bring enthusiasm and new ideas of engaging in and with the community, allowing us to share the word of God through our outreach and our actions.

## **Benefits:**

- Experience based salary package
- Housing allowance
- Health insurance
- Retirement plan contributions
- Mileage expense allowance
- Paid time off for vacation, personal days
- Professional development expense allowance

**How to Apply:** Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and three references. Please include a statement of faith and a recording of a recent sermon. Applications can be sent to [buffalohartpc@gmail.com](mailto:buffalohartpc@gmail.com) or mailed to 7862 Buffalo Hart Road, Williamsville, IL 62693.

Join us in our mission to serve God and mail our community with dedication, integrity, and compassion. We look forward to welcoming a pastor who shares our values and our commitment to the Gospel.

Applicants will be reviewed when received.

## **For additional information:**

Email us at [buffalohartpc@gmail.com](mailto:buffalohartpc@gmail.com)