



Position: Associate Pastor of Student & Family Ministries

Job Type: Full-Time/ Salary

A mature and emotionally healthy Christ-follower who can serve as a positive role model for parents and children. This person is responsible for enriching and nourishing the faith of children, youth and their families by providing the youth of Paradise UCC innovative and meaningful opportunities to learn about God. Possess a deep love for and ability to relate to children/ youth and their parent/ guardians at any place in their spiritual journey. Experience in the nurture and education of children/ youth (0-18 years) with the ability to adapt and interact with a variety of personalities/ characteristics. Proven collaborator and team builder who is highly relational and has a history of developing volunteers and servant leaders. Create a high level of enthusiasm in children's/ youth ministry with the Paradise UCC community. Organizational, creative and administrative skills.

This position places a high value of work inside the building (Leadership/ Administration) and outside (Evangelism/ Outreach). Going "outside" of the building is an incarnational approach to meeting people where they are (attending various community events involving the youth such as concerts, sporting events, graduations, school lunches, etc.). In general, the Associate Pastor of Student & Family Ministries should be visible in the community as a representative of Paradise UCC.

One of the largest tasks that will be charged to this person will be to help support our Sunday Morning active worship experience for children. As the staff of Paradise continue to grow all three worship services, the Associate Pastor of Student & Family Ministries will oversee and continue to develop a Children's worship service. While the focus of this position will be with students and families, this person will also participate in the larger ministry of the church through preaching opportunities, pastoral care and visitation if called upon.

Duties: Duties may include opportunities beyond this list, but will include the following:

1. Lead the church's efforts to minister to our children and youth ages 0-18 and their families.
2. Raise up and train and develop volunteers and youth leaders.
3. In consultation with the Experience & Connect team and Executive Leadership, develop an annual budget for the Youth/ Children's ministry and operate within the constraints of the budget.
4. Regularly teach the Bible to the youth with conviction, compassion and care.
5. Publicize the Experience & Connect Team (Worship & Education), Children & Youth-oriented events in various internal and external print and social media. Drive the social media outreach program of the church.
6. Attend Experience & Connect Team meetings as an ex-officio member.
7. Attend all Paradise UCC staff meetings

8. In collaboration with the Senior Pastor and Experience & Connect team oversee the Sunday School, Children's Worship and Vacation Bible School programs (including planning, facilitating, and attending), oversee the purchase or development of curriculum for these programs.
9. Leadership in special services throughout the year, including coverage for senior pastor as necessary.
10. Consistently participate in continuing education and professional development.
11. Will have a support/ liaison role with our KidWatch preschool programs which would include chapel presentations, relationship building with families, communication.
12. Update medical, information, and media release forms for all youth & children. This shall be updated as changes occur and reviewed annually for accuracy.
13. Assist Senior Pastor with congregational care and ministry as needed, such as home visitation, counseling, funerals, leading small groups, attending social events, and covering for weddings.

Requirements: Ideal candidate will possess the following:

1. BS Degree or someone working toward Theological degree
2. Excellent verbal and written communication skills
3. Commitment to the mission and vision of the church
4. A calling to pastoral ministry
5. Growing Christian faith and character
6. Desire to teach and mentor youth
7. Ability to pass background check

**This position offers a unique opportunity for limitless personal growth and development. The right person will be able to take this position and transform it, ultimately having a huge impact to the future of Paradise UCC and the Louisville community.**

**Those interested in applying for the Associate Pastor of Student & Family Ministries position should submit a resume: By mail: Paradise UCC, C/O Sara Corona, 619 E. Main St., Louisville OH 44641. Or by email: [sara@paradisechurch.org](mailto:sara@paradisechurch.org).**

## 1. WHO ARE WE TODAY – WHAT IS OUR CHURCH’S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT?

Paradise Church has been serving Christ and our community since 1863. Paradise hit its apex in the 60’s 70’s and 80’s. Then as so many other churches, the church experienced a season of decline. In 2017, Paradise hired a new minister after seasons of interims, and it has been our goal to move Paradise into the future. In 2019, Paradise went through a year of restructuring in terms of leadership and vision. Who would have known it would have prepared us for 2020.

Our mission statement is Paradise United Church of Christ seeks to provide a window through which the warmth and wisdom of Jesus can be clearly seen by everyone. We seek to embody the love of Jesus Christ through worship, spiritual growth, Christian education and service to God and His community.

Our New Vision Statement is “At the Intersection of Faith and Real Life.”

This Vision Statement plays off the themes of our physical location being on main street in our city and the desire to return to the main street of people’s lives and hearts. Paradise is not a place where things used to happen, rather it is a place where God is still speaking, moving and pushing us to connect with the community around us.

## 2. WE LIVE OUT OUR VISION AND MISSION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING SPIRITUAL FORMATION, EDUCATION, MISSION AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

In our restructuring process we identified a process call MVI or Minimal Viable Involvement. We do not want the church to be committee led or top heavy. We want to enable all members to do the work of ministry. So, the MVI of our church produces 5 words:

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| • Worship Attendance    | <b>Experience</b> |
| • Small Groups          | <b>Connect</b>    |
| • Giving                | <b>Invest</b>     |
| • Community Involvement | <b>Reach</b>      |
| • Outreach/Evangelism   | <b>Go</b>         |

Everything we do and why we do it is seen through the lens of these 5 words. This is how we want to describe people at our church.

## 3. STATISTICAL DATA

Our Sunday Worship attendance is: 150-180 divided among 3 services.

Our Membership on the rolls is: 650

Our church annual spending plan (budget) is: \$450,000

## 4. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS IN THE CHURCH FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS?

- The addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> service with contemporary worship
- Summer Mission trips has become a regular feature of our summers
- A small group ministry has been started with currently 6 groups and the eventual goal of 100% participation
- The financial downturns that have categorized the season from 2010-2018 has seen a turnaround with a very good year in 2019 and a successful capital campaign.
- The next trend is the implementation of a strong and vibrant Family ministry.

## 5. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY/TOWN IN WHICH THE CHURCH IS LOCATED?

Louisville is a strong community with an excellent school system. The immediate challenge has to do with that school system. A recent levy failure has led to talks of changing and cutting programs. While this is a negative thing for a community, it is an opportunity for the church. It is our goal to stand in the gap and perhaps transition some of the things the school cannot manage into the walls of the church. Meaning simply, we would like to house retiring programs or create new programs in the wake to continue serving the needs of the community.

## 6. THE SPECIFIC MINISTRIES/ISSUES WE EXPECT OUR YOUTH/ FAMILY PASTOR TO ADDRESS DURING THEIR TENURE ARE:

The building of a program from scratch. Call it Genesis or Resurrection, but the church is ready to see something happen in the area of youth, children and families.

Engaging the community is high priority. Because of Paradise's placement and involvement in the community, the lines between school, local leadership and the school system are sometimes blurred. We have lots of school and community events at the church. The mayor of Louisville is also our music director. People always want to be seen as Louisville, but at the same time we want people to clearly know who Paradise is and what we are called to do and be.