

LIVING HOPE

Dunfee Missionary Church



Dunfee Missionary Church exists to: meet people where they are, show them Jesus, celebrate their commitment, and grow together toward spiritual maturity.

November 15, 2021

Lead Pastor Search

Church Profile

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Pastor Profile

818 N West County Line Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

www.dunfeemc.org

Living Hope

CHURCH PROFILE

Our Mission

Dunfee Missionary Church exists to: meet people where they are, show them Jesus, celebrate their commitment, and grow together toward spiritual maturity.

Our Vision

Glorify God by being devoted to: Him, one another, and reaching the world for Jesus.

Dunfee Missionary Church upholds to the Articles of Faith and Practice of the Missionary Church constitution and the bylaws of the Central Region of the Missionary Church.

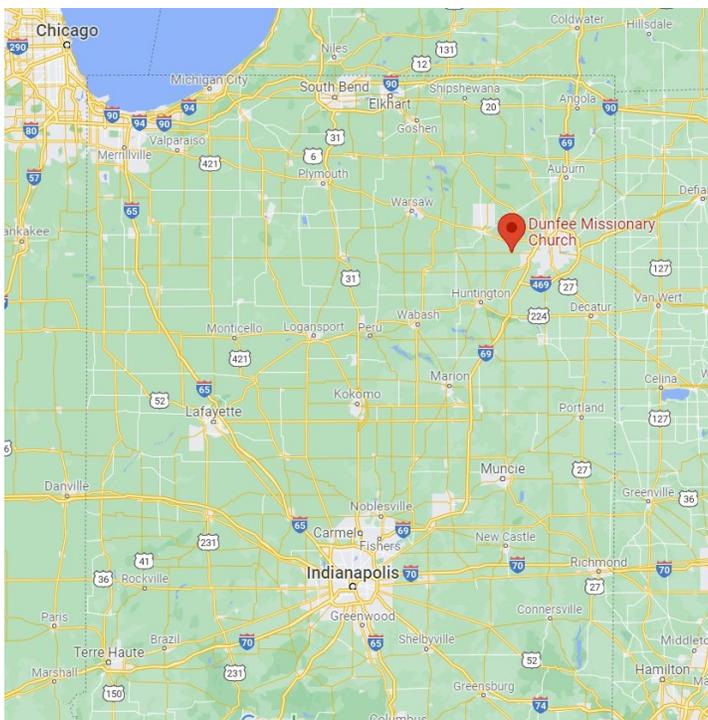
Location

Dunfee Missionary Church is located in northeast Indiana on the Allen/Whitley County line.

History

Dunfee Missionary's Church history dates to 1844 as part of the Christian Church's Eel River Conference. In 1953 the congregation agreed to build the current sanctuary. In 1975, the church reorganized with the Missionary Church.

After joining the Missionary Church, worship attendance averaged in the 90s through the mid 1990's when the average fell to the mid 60's. Since 2004, average worship attendance has been mid 30s to low 40s.



Throughout the years, the church has had, with varying levels of participation children's ministry, youth ministry, small groups, and ministries to reach the community.

Historically, the church and its members have been a faithful giving group. Some notable testimonies of God's faithfulness to the church and the congregation.

- Since approximately 2006, the church has given ½ of the 5th Sunday offering to a local mission. Through this strategy, over the last 2 years, the Church has given \$6,300 to local ministries
- The church has frequent missionary updates. During their respective updates, the church collects love offerings. Those love offerings are matched by the church \$1 for \$1 up to \$500. Typical love offerings are \$400 – \$1,000 each time.

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- The church routinely participates in various food drives for local food banks and clothing drives for local homeless shelters.
- The church has currently committed \$10,800 to a Columbia City church plant in the Central Region of the Missionary Church.
- In 2009, the church completed a major building renovation. A \$500,000 project, \$250,000 paid in cash and the \$250,000 loan was paid off 6 months early
- Currently the church has no debt.

Pastoral History

1976 – 1999 Rev Jerry Blanchard
2000 – 2000 Rev Warrant Banks (Intentional Interim)
2001 – 2007 Rev Jeff Spence
2007 – 2020 Rev Dennis Rowe
2021 – TBD Rev Alan Stover (Intentional Interim with IPM)

Current Ministries

In 2020 the church ceased most all ministries due to the pandemic. The ministries that have been restarted to date are:

- Library
- Men's Ministry
- Women's Ministry

Looking Ahead

During the past year, our local church has been working through an intentional five stage transition process to prepare us to soar into the future with a Great Commission mission, enduring core values of an evangelical congregation with a supporting denomination and captured by vision. We completed various health assessments and studies to fully understand our historical and current position. We facilitated action to resolve conflicts and improve organizational structure. We initiated a strategic planning process to identify our Biblical mission and vision, address our weaknesses, and prepare us to reach our growing community with the reckless love of Jesus. We sense that the Holy Spirit is moving in our congregation and preparing our church for the next chapter. To communicate to the community that we have a hope in the promised fruit of Jesus, the congregation decided we will call ourselves *"Living Hope" at Dunfee Missionary Church*.

Our current greatest needs for a healthy church include:

- Holistic Small Groups - We need help creating places safe enough to own and reveal our brokenness within a group that can help one another through the love of Jesus.
- Gift-based Ministry - We need help accepting responsibility for ministry aligned with our spiritual gifts. We are also praying that God provides people with gifts that will make our local church body whole.

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- Inspiring Worship - We need an inspiring worship experience with relevant Biblical preaching and spiritually led music/arts. NOTE: We currently have an approved open staff position for Worship Leader.

(For more information on the Interim Pastor Ministries (IPM) five step intentional process: Internet - InterimPastors.com; Book - *Soaring Between Pastors*, Harris / Bullard; Podcast - KarlVaters.com, Ep 015, October 7, 2021)

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Dunfee Missionary Church is in a rural residential community located 15 miles (or 23 min) west of downtown Fort Wayne, IN on the Allen County and Whitley County line. Located in northeastern Indiana, Fort Wayne is 18 miles west of the Ohio border and 50 miles south of the Michigan border. Fort Wayne is the cultural and economic center of the Northeast Indiana Region which consist of 13 counties and in 2020 reached a combined population of nearly 800,000.

The 10-mile radius around the church is made up of a steadily growing population density of 381 per square mile, made up of mostly rural and country families to the west and more residential areas to the east. Young families of average household income (\$86,135) are a consistent upward trend for this area with several new additions being developed in the immediate area. Along with the growth of young families moving into the area, there is a respectable number of elder facilities nearby that have historically worked with the church in ministering to their residents.

The church is at the cross-roads of three school districts, Southwest Allen County Schools (SWACS), Northwest Allen Count Schools (NWACS), and Whitley County Consolidated Schools (WCCS). There are also several home school cooperatives. The church is host to one local area Homeschool co-operative that uses the church's facility on a weekly basis.

This region enjoys a low unemployment rate of 2.6% as compared to the U.S. average of 3.2%, with low-cost housing and higher owner-occupied properties than the national average as well.

Leisure and recreation can be found easily with over 200 lakes as your playground. Over 100 miles of biking paths are ever-growing in this area with local and state parks all close enough to enjoy in an afternoon. Parent Magazine has put the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in the top 10 children's zoos in America. Fort Wayne is also home to one of the country's top minor league baseball parks, has a vibrant arts community, and numerous community activities leading to it being named a 2021 All-American City.

COMMUNITY FACTS:

- The Community population is projected to increase by 3.0% by 2026, (3602 additional persons).
- Within 2 miles of the church, at least two new housing developments will be the home of an estimated 300 families.
- 80.4% Caucasian with all other racial/ethnic groups making up 19.6%
- Survivors, (age 40 to 60), are the largest age group comprised of 31,506 persons or 26.3% of total population in the community; this group is also represented similarly within the church. Generation Z (age 0-19) make up 25.9% of the population which is above the national average.
- There are 10 colleges and universities in the Northeast Indiana Region consisting of public, private, community and Christian. [Click Here](#) for listings.
- Dunfee area Median Property Value: \$179,360 (prior to the recent real estate boom).
- Allen County Library has a top Genealogy Center incorporating records from around the world.
- Fort Wayne has three highly ranked health systems comprised of Parkview Regional Medical Center, Lutheran Health Hospital and most recently IU Health.

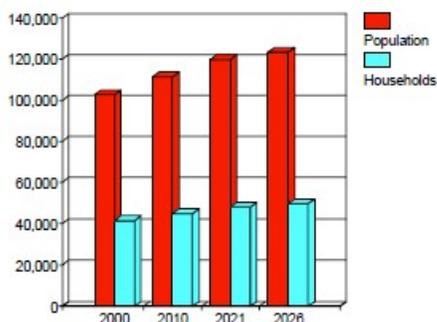
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- Shopping, schools and international airport are all within 10-20 minutes of the Dunfee Community.
- From Fort Wayne you're a 3 hour drive to Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Columbus, and 2 hour drive to Indianapolis and Toledo
- Fort Wayne's Memorial Coliseum hosts many popular concerts/events/tours all year round.
- Amish communities within 1 hour drive offering unique shopping and festivals.

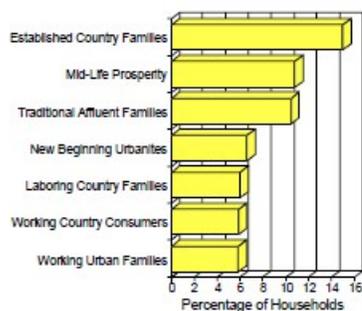
To see more information about living and working in northeast Indiana, please visit the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership website ([Click Here](#)).

Population and Demographic Trending (10 Mile Radius)

Population and Households

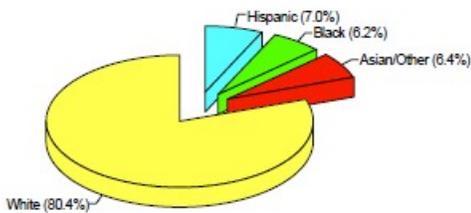


Primary U.S. Lifestyles Segments-2021

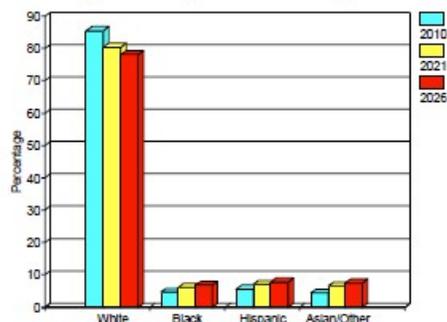


The population in the study area has increased by 8407 persons, or 7.6% since 2010 and is projected to increase by 3602 persons, or 3.0% between 2021 and 2026. The number of households has increased by 3436, or 7.7% since 2010 and is projected to increase by 1518, or 3.1% between 2021 and 2026.

Population By Race/Ethnicity-2021

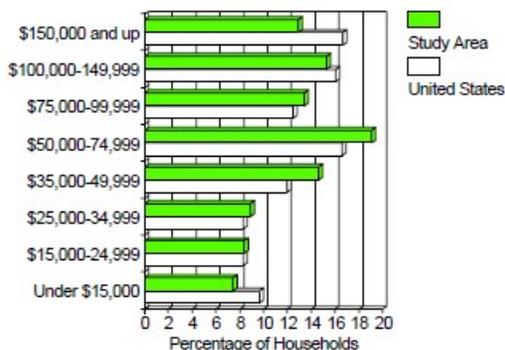


Population By Race/Ethnicity Trend

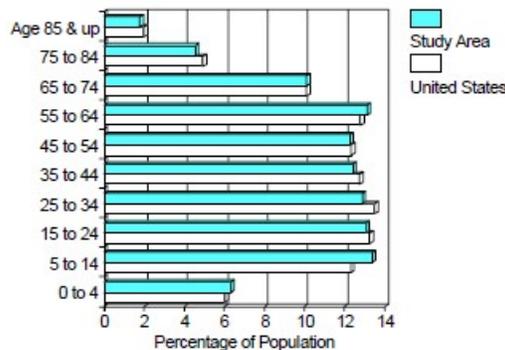


Between 2021 and 2026, the White population is projected to increase by 88 persons and to decrease from 80.4% to 78.1% of the total population. The Black population is projected to increase by 915 persons and to increase from 6.2% to 6.7% of the total. The Hispanic/Latino population is projected to increase by 1112 persons and to increase from 7.0% to 7.7% of the total. The Asian/Other population is projected to increase by 1486 persons and to increase from 6.4% to 7.4% of the total population.

Households By Income-2021



Population by Age-2021



The average household income in the study area is \$86135 a year as compared to the U.S. average of \$96765. The average age in the study area is 39.2 and is projected to increase to 39.9 by 2026. The average age in the U.S. is 39.8 and is projected to increase to 40.6 by 2026.

LEAD PASTOR PROFILE

The lead pastor shall serve as the spiritual leader of the church. He will lead and guide the church in conjunction with the Elder Board and work with all ministries of the church to carry out the mission and vision of the church. He will lead the Elder Board, be a member of the Local Church Board, and be responsible for directing and supervising all church staff. He will be accountable to the Elder Board and will be expected to attend meetings of the Elder Board and Local Church Board. He will obtain and maintain credentials with the Central Region of the Missionary Church USA.

The Lead Pastor is expected to embrace a multi-generational congregation and lead a spirit-lead blended style service.

Spiritual Gifts and Competencies

The Lead Pastor shall embrace his spiritual gifts to lead the church and the community. Strong spiritual giftedness in the areas of:

- Leadership
- Evangelism
- Shepherding
- Knowledge

Other spiritual gifts that could improve the Lead Pastor's effectiveness at the church are:

- Encouragement/Exhortation
- Discernment
- Administration
- Mercy
- Wisdom

The Lead Pastor will also be strong in the following competencies:

- Drives Vision and Purpose
- Has Courage
- Communicates Effectively
- Interpersonal Savvy

Our next Lead Pastor must be passionate, proactive, and personable. Ideally, the Holy Spirit will have gifted him with an entrepreneurial spirit and characteristics of an apostle to pioneer God's mission beyond the proverbial walls of the church. He will be passionate and proactive about ensuring God's good news of Jesus, and crosses barriers (tradition, comfort zone, assumptions, etc.) within our community. Our next Lead Pastor and elders should be able to lead us in holistic small groups, teaching and modeling discipleship, and effectively engaging our growing community with the indiscriminate love of Jesus. He must love to be with people, encourage them in our mission, and nurture them through the stages of life.

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Ministry from an accredited college or university
- Master of Divinity or Ministry - **Preferred**
- Ordained or Licensed in the Missionary Church USA (Ability to obtain and maintain credentials)
- At least 1 year experience in ministry (full or part time)

Lead Pastor Duties

Preaching/Teaching

- Preach at regularly scheduled worship services
- Plan all services, developing and integrating the sermons, music, and other components together with staff and volunteers.
- Preach at special services that may come up with the church, the central region, or other services with the local church community.
- As led, lead bible study and/or small group

Church Leadership

- Pursue the church's mission and vision
- Lead an inspiring and effective evangelism ministry
- Work together with the Elder Board in supervising the spiritual vitality and general operations of the church
- Work together with the Local Church Board and lay leadership in leading the church and its ministries
- Motivate & encourage leaders and volunteers
- Supervise staff, hold regular staff meetings, encourage spiritual growth, maintain accountability
- Encourage a gifts-based ministry
- Encourage stewardship of time and talents to support the church and its ministries

Church Care

- Minister to those with spiritual needs
- Ensure the sick, shut-in, and bereaved are ministered to either personally, by the Elders, or by others
- Ensure that weddings, funerals, baptisms, baby dedications, and other such services are performed personally, with support from the Elders