

Mitchell Community Church

1507 S. Mitchell Rd., Turlock, CA 95380

Do you want to pastor a loving, generous, supportive, friendly congregation who wants to see the Lord work in powerful ways to change lives and advance His kingdom in our church, our community, and the world? Do you want to seek the Holy Spirit's leading to reach the next generations for Christ? If so, please consider serving with us at Mitchell Community Church!

Bio/profile March 2024

Mitchell Community Church is a non-denominational evangelical church located in a rural setting in a farming community. Nearby cities include Turlock, population 72,000 about 6 miles to the east, and Modesto, population 218,000 about 14 miles north. The church was started about 95 years ago as a Sunday school with the American Sunday School Union and became a full church in 1947.

We are a Christ-centered Bible-believing church with average Sunday attendance of about 70 to 80 people and others viewing online each week. Our mission statement is **“Developing Passionate Followers of Jesus Christ”**. We welcomed our current Senior Pastor, Rick Burnam, in July of 2023. Our discipleship/calling Pastor, Rex Wright, serves part time.

We have Sunday school classes prior to our Sunday morning service with two adult classes as well as children's classes. Sunday school is followed by coffee/snack break for fellowship before the morning service. Our worship style is blended with usually an old hymn or two and some praise/contemporary worship songs supported by piano, guitar, and drums. We highly value preaching the Word and its practical application for transformation and daily living by the Holy Spirit's power. While the service is usually traditional, we have been open to alternatives such as short videos (including inoffensive secular video as the pastor may determine is appropriate to make a spiritual point), musical presentations in lieu of a full preaching service, children's presentations, promotional videos, guest speakers such as missionaries or other appropriate persons etc.

Our sanctuary has been under renovation since August of 2023 and is expected to be completed during the Spring of 2024. The church campus includes a sanctuary with library, restrooms, nursery, and larger classroom, an adjacent Sunday school building with 8 rooms (some are currently used for storage), two modular former school classrooms with one used for an adult class and one for a Women's Missionary Society sewing room. We have a full-size gym/fellowship hall with commercial kitchen, a youth pastor home with separate garage, a Sr. Pastor parsonage with separate office/garage, a newly-planted 1-acre grass field for recreation or outdoor services, and large paved parking along with campus-wide wifi and attractive landscaping. A street-side lighted sign has its message changed often and is noticed by the community.

Our men's and women's weekly Bible studies meet weekly. We have a prayer and praise meeting mid-week. Other special events in the recent past are men's games and trap shoot tournament, women's events, a tractor treat with equipment, games, farm animals, treats, etc. Some men attend a men's/boys camp at Pilot Lake (Lake Delahunty) annually near the end of summer in conjunction with another church in the region.

As for other social outreach, many years an open invitation is given for families to spend the 4th of July evening at the church. We have active volleyball teams in the local church league with great participation by members and have found it a good ice breaker to invite member's friends (this is permitted).

Our church also has a focus on Missions. As mentioned, our ladies have had a Women's Missionary Society for many years. Women meet each Thursday to work on quilts, crafts, frozen baked goods, etc. and each year they hold a bazaar to sell what has been made. A few men contribute goods also. All materials and ingredients are donated throughout the year and total proceeds from the sales all go to support missionaries around the world. As these women meet, they also mentor and pray for the needs of each other. For at least the last decade, funds raised are in excess of \$25,000 per year. Locally, we have a ministry called Release Time that includes students at the local public elementary and middle schools. Through the schools, we coordinate an angel tree project each Christmas to support families from our community. We also have an in church food pantry for our members and others in the community who need food. We have been blessed to provide local families with holiday food boxes and groceries as needed.

Our church has no financial debt and a sizeable reserve fund.

At one time, church governance was almost totally congregational. However, revisions have been made to the constitution in the last decade that have more formally spelled out elder and trustee roles as well as the elder board, full board, and congregational authorities and duties. Each pastor is accountable to the elder board. The elder board desires leaders and gives discretion to a pastor executing plans and decisions related to the pulpit and spiritual matters. The Sr. Pastor, in accordance with his job description, will oversee and direct the pastoral staff.

As a place to live, the Central Valley of California is far different from the urban centers like San Francisco, LA etc., as well as different from the resort areas like Lake Tahoe. The pros: you are within an hour or two from major urban areas with some of the best health care and fine arts in the world. You are one or two hours from resort areas on the central coast, or in the high Sierra Nevada mountains. There are local lakes and streams for fishing, the Gallo Center for the Arts is about 20 minutes away in Modesto, and even some smaller and interesting entertainment at the 1,000-seat Turlock Community Theater Auditorium. Other events take place at Stanislaus State University in Turlock. Sacramento, Fresno, San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland all offer airports within a 2 hour drive. There is also a closer airport in Stockton. The local schools offer both public and private education available through high school. A Jr. College, State University, and University of California are all within a short commute.

On the con side, it does get hot here in the valley and the air quality is poor during part of the year. Crime and homelessness seem to be growing everywhere, but we are much better than San Francisco or LA in this regard.

Salary and benefits are negotiable. The church has been willing to send Pastors and sometimes their spouses at church expense to training/uplifting conferences at irregular intervals.

