

Church Profile for Christian Education Positions
South Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Kennebunkport, ME
June 2024

Welcome to South Congregational Church!

We are an open and affirming community of faith, looking to balance comfortable traditions with growth and change. Mission is important for us: we support our immigrant neighbors, the local food pantry and soup kitchen, join efforts to end domestic violence, and advocate for gun safety. A community of faith as well as works, we have on-line weekly vespers, periodic Bible studies, and special services and times for spiritual deepening. We value creative approaches to being present in the community, including a recent art project with related events, Advent “angel wings” on the church portico, Easter Egg hunts in the spring, and a “Shorts on the Green” summer short story reading program on our River Green under the trees.

What we love about living in our area:

We love living in this idyllic area! The sense of community is strong. Excellent conservation organizations tend a number of beautiful nature preserves in wooded areas and along rivers, and the area beaches are a draw year-round. The foody culture of Portland is not far away and has brought excellent restaurants to our community. Farmers markets, farm stands, and local fishmongers supply the home cook with fresh foods for healthy living and warm hospitality. There are excellent local libraries, and varied music and art offerings. Portsmouth, NH and Boston, MA also provide easily accessible opportunities.

Membership

Officially we have 297 members, plus many church friends who are as active as members. Some members/friends are summer-only, most are present year-round. Like many churches, our families and children became less engaged during and after Covid. We are committed to changing that.

Church Staff

We currently have a staff of 4 (Sexton, Administrator, Communications Coordinator and minister), with two additional positions under search (Christian Educator and Interim Organist/Music Director). Our supportive staff enjoys each other’s company, likes to laugh together. We all work hard, and appreciate the flexibility that church work can provide.

Our Children’s Program

While our families have become more disengaged with Sunday offerings, we are committed to providing children with a sense of hospitality and belonging. Sunday morning includes a “message for Children of all ages” when children are in the congregation. We are hoping to offer Sunday activities for younger children for the 45 minutes after this message until Fellowship time. While this will be covered by

volunteers for the short run, we feel consistency will be more effective for the small number of children that we have on some regular or periodic basis.

We have offered confirmation programs in the past, which happen outside our Sunday morning time frame.

We are also going to pilot a program for children (3-11) and their families, which we hope to run once a month for the program year.

We are looking to fill two distinct needs: Sunday morning activities for children, and leadership for the pilot program.

The right person is more important than the detail of the job description at this point. Please contact us if you have any interest in either or both of these positions.

Summary

Our church is a community of joy and wonder. We provide many faith-based programs in addition to Sunday worship. We welcome newcomers and support our church family. We are active in the local community and engage in mission outreach and advocacy near and far. Children are valued in our community, and we wish to meet the needs of busy families. As we near our 200th anniversary, we are excited about the future, and eagerly await new leadership for a reimagined children's program .