

**Church Profile for Interim Organist/Music Director Position  
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 Music Program**

We consider music essential to worship and respect the musical offerings provided. Most parishioners stay at the end of each service to enjoy the Postlude.

We have an excellent organ with beautiful tone: 2004 Noack (Opus # 146) two manual, 21 rank, tracker pipe organ, with an electric stop action and an extensive memory bank.

It was installed following a capital campaign, and for which additional space was built in the sanctuary. There are a baby grand Steinway and a keyboard in the sanctuary, another piano in the separate choir room. In addition, we have a second keyboard which is more easily moved for outside worship, which we do about four times each summer.

We have a Chancel Choir of 12-14 members who sing nine months out of the year; a volunteer member of that choir keeps the extensive music library. We also have a hand-chimes choir of 8 members, created in 2016, which performs in worship about 7 times a year, and has given public concerts as well as playing at assisted living communities. We have some talented in-house instrumentalists and singers, and encourage all congregants to share their own musical gifts. Including children in the music program is important for us, regardless of number of children present.

Our previous Organist/Music Director was with us for 10 years. His classical musicianship and compositional abilities were greatly appreciated. In the year ahead, we want to re-evaluate our music program, thinking about what will fit the congregation while giving us space to grow in spirit and numbers.

### **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. Music is highly valued and a key part of worship; we want to continue and build on this strength. As we near our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are excited about the future, and eagerly await new music program leadership.