

## First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



**A Christian Family: Loving, Welcoming, & Serving**

**South Portland, Maine**

*Serving is at the core of our identity.*



We serve the community in a wide variety of ways. We distribute free children's clothes and toys through our Children's Closet and emergency food through our own Food Pantry, prepare meals at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen, and once each quarter we host families experiencing homelessness in our building through the Greater Portland Family Promise program. Our Community Crisis Ministries program gives approximately \$75,000 each year directly to people in need in our community, with the money coming from members and

friends of our church giving above their annual pledge. We also take annual mission trips to Cherryfield, Maine to perform home maintenance in conjunction with the Maine Seacoast Mission.

*Worship unites, inspires, and challenges us.*

During the program year we offer two services each Sunday morning—an informal chapel service at 8:30 and sanctuary worship with choir at 10:00. During the summer we have one service at 9:30. We offer worship on all our holy days, including a special sunrise service on Easter morning overlooking the ocean at nearby Fort Williams Park. We cherish our traditions while also welcoming creative worship expressions.



## ***We are also a congregation of music.***



Our Minister of Music directs the Meetinghouse Choir, which sings every Sunday, and the Children's Choir, open to 2nd through 6th graders. The Joyful Noise choir, a group of little ones from ages 3 to 5, practices after church each week and sings whenever they are ready. Our sanctuary is home to an Austin organ which has been in the sanctuary since 1960,



as well as a baby grand piano we received as a memorial gift in 2008. In addition we hold three concerts each year featuring gifted musicians such as Carrie Newcomer, Jonathan Edwards, and Dave Mallett.

## ***We are an Open and Affirming Congregation.***

Our ONA statement reads, in part: *We, the members of First Congregational Church, welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, gender, marital standing, physical or mental ability, economic status, nationality and sexual orientation or identity into the full life and ministry of this community of faith, including membership and leadership.* Each year we participate in the Portland Pride Festival, both marching and with a booth. Many of our members are active in a wide variety of other justice activities. In 2020 we will celebrate our twentieth anniversary of being Open and Affirming.



## ***Our Children & Family Ministries Program is active and lively.***



We value our Sunday School program for children and early teens, and we offer family activities throughout the year. Each spring, a Bible Discovery Workshop is held for 3rd and 4th graders, which culminates with the presentation of Bibles to the students during worship on Palm Sunday. Our Confirmation program is strong and held every other year. December brings the Christmas pageant with a cast of 20-30 children. In the recent past our youth program has been small but active, and we look forward to having strong leadership with our teens again.





***Our building is well-maintained, well-used, and well-loved.***

The sanctuary and balcony seat around 400, and offer a beautiful space to worship, as well as host occasional public events such as concerts and recitals. Our facility includes Guptill Hall, a gym-sized room which includes an industrial kitchen and a stage; Wright Pavilion, a wonderful window-filled gathering area with a small kitchen; a church sponsored weekday preschool called the Discovery Center; a lovely, intimate chapel; and many classrooms and offices. In our renovation to make the church completely accessible in 1998,

we installed an elevator that goes to every level of the church except the balcony.

***Our church family has 550 members, most residing in the towns of South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, and Scarborough.***

We are located on the Maine coast, a short 3 mile drive over the drawbridge from downtown Portland and less than 2 miles from the Portland Headlight at Fort Williams Park. Our entire region is known for its stunning beauty, with nearby beaches and rocky shores. Portland boasts a vibrant arts community as well as a nationally recognized food scene. Our church has been part of this wonderful region since it was established on May 7, 1733. Our first meetinghouse was built in 1734, across the street from the present building. In 1891, the building was relocated to its present site and has undergone many changes since then.



***We are a team of leaders, leading together.***

Our current staff includes a Senior Pastor, Minister of Music, Director of Community Crisis Ministries, Business Manager, Church Secretary, and Sexton. We work together in our attempts to build a church that meets the needs of many, both those in our community and those beyond our walls. We are looking for a collaborative clergy person to fill a unique role in our congregation as Minister of Faith Formation and Visitation. This person will oversee the church's spiritual development program for all stages of life—including the current Sunday school program, youth ministry program, and adult education—in order to offer a cohesive plan of education and faith formation for all ages. This person will also spend approximately 25% of his/her/their time visiting our members who are homebound or have limited mobility, and making hospital visits. Although we do have these specific needs, we also want to be open to the gifts and calling of the candidate. Do you have an interest in contemporary music, mission, or justice and advocacy? Share with us your passions, and we will see what fits. The qualified candidate will hold ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ; or be a Member in Discernment near ordination; or, if a member of another denomination, will hold credentials that would qualify him/her/them for such ministerial standing. This position offers 3/4 or full-time employment and is supervised by the Senior Minister. If you are interested, please send a cover letter and resume, C.V., or profile to [apsearch@fccucc.org](mailto:apsearch@fccucc.org).