

North Saco Congregational Christian Church Prospectus

Our Community

Saco is a fabulous oceanfront community located at the mouth of the Saco River and adjoins the seaside communities of Ocean Park, Old Orchard Beach, Biddeford, and Scarborough. By car, we are 20 minutes from Portland, two hours from Boston, and two hours from the White Mountains of New Hampshire, all of which are attractive areas for families, retirees, and young



people. Transportation options include the Portland International Jetport, just 20 minutes away by car, and the Amtrak Downeaster, which runs from Brunswick, Maine to Boston, Mass and has a stop in downtown Saco. Our community has excellent schools, which include Thornton Academy, a private/public institution with an international boarding program that provides excellent intermediate and secondary education curricula. The City of Saco is governed through the management of the mayor and city council in coordination with an active and involved citizenry. North Saco is the beautiful rural side of the City of Saco.

Our Church

The 40 active members of our congregation are dedicated and extremely welcoming to one and all. Many strong friendships have been formed here. Our faith community is known for our outreach to church members who have fallen on hard times. We hope to expand in this area as we always feel we could do more to help those less fortunate.

Founded in 1868, our church includes the (original) sanctuary building, a separate Carpenter Hall for dinners and gatherings, including full commercial kitchen, two bathrooms, and an office/study room. We own a single-family home, which is rented as a form of income. And lastly, we have a storage shed for yard maintenance tools.

Our church is equally influenced by history, tradition, and contemporary trends. Our UCC identity and heritage is subtle and real, but not fully embraced or celebrated. Members express an almost equal mixture of agreement and disagreement regarding (1) their having a clear understanding of what the UCC stands for, and (2) the presence of effective efforts in teaching about the UCC's mission. Members agree or strongly agree that they are comfortable with the UCC identity, that they could easily tell friends about the church, and that they have a strong sense of belonging to this congregation, which has made a difference in their spiritual lives. Members strongly feel like part of one large family.

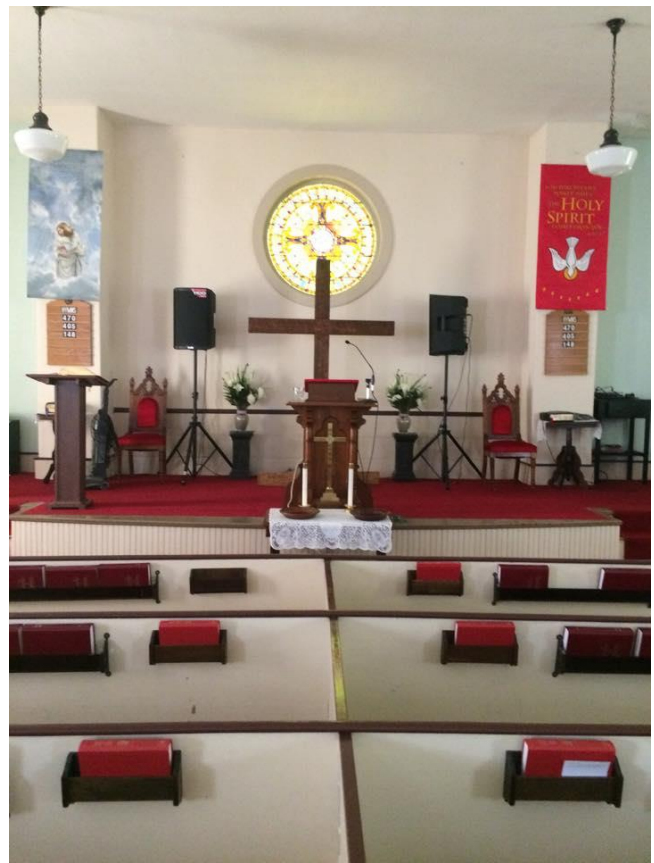
Most members believe they are similar to the people who live immediately around the church. Our church is very involved with the community around the church and balances its orientation between serving members and the world beyond the church. We do a Hunter's breakfast in the fall for the community as well as several bean suppers in the summer, and we support a young lady growing up overseas. We take up collections for the Saco food pantry.

We emphasize education, nurture gradual faith formation, and growth rather than born again experiences. Our congregation does not take stands on social issues, but leaves it to the individual conscience.

Our congregation works by itself or through denominational channels rather than in ecumenical activities or with other local UCC churches. Our greatest challenge at the time, besides finding a permanent part-time minister, is growing membership.

The Pastoral Needs of the Congregation

Our current need is for a spiritual leader in the form of a very part-time pastor. We get by with fill-in leadership, but long for a permanent friend in faith to guide us through good times and bad. The person we seek should be warm and understanding, without bias, and capable of getting the point across. We hope this person will spark in us the ability to bring in new people and friends as members. We like to sing a lot and would hope the new minister is open to singing and leading us musically.



Helpful Websites

North Saco Congregational Christian Church: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Saco-Congregational-Church-UCC-283573368343053/>

Saco Schools: <http://www.sacoschools.org/>

Thornton Academy: <https://www.thorntonacademy.org/>

University of Southern Maine: <https://www.usm.maine.edu/>

University of New England: <https://www.une.edu/>

City of Saco: <https://www.sacomaine.org/>

Saco and Biddeford Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.biddefordsaco-chamber.org/>

Saco Main St Organization: <https://www.sacomainstreet.org/>

Visit: Ferry Beach State Park; Saco Bay Trails; Eastern Trails

Contact

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