

## Sharon Congregational Church Profile

### 1. Who are we as a Church?

The Sharon Church dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is centrally located in the town of Sharon, with a congregation of about 20 regular members. We are all long time members. We enjoy getting together for Sunday worship and fellowship.

Our previous minister retired sooner than we expected so the deacons are arranging pulpit supply this summer and sometimes filling in themselves. We are determined to keep Sunday worship services open.

Also, we are beginning to partner more fully with community organizations serving Sharon and exploring the possibility of making our building more accessible/useful for the wider community. At present, we are not making as much use of modern technology as might be possible. In worship, we have many traditions that we love and expect but we're always open to interesting and applicable sermons that make us think and inspire us to mission.

We continue to support the Sharon Foodshelf that is located in the "Lighthouse" across the street from the Church building. The Church owns the "Lighthouse".

We also have a stitching group that makes quilts with donated fabric. We make these either for raffle or to give to folks who need comfort.

### 2. What is the community of Sharon like?

Sharon VT was once an active small town along the White River about 14 miles from White River Junction and the Connecticut River border with New Hampshire. It has gradually become a "bedroom town" of sorts within the broad VT/NH Upper Valley area where many from Sharon or traveling thru Sharon go often to work and to shop. Sharon sits conveniently along I89 at exit 2. Others, however drive from a wide area into Sharon because of the Sharon Academy with its excellent reputation. Residents and commuters miss the presence of a restaurant/coffee shop/gathering place however. Recently, the Sharon Revitalization Committee was formed to hear from residents about future goals.

### 3. What are we looking for in a minister?

We would like someone who is accepting of an older congregation and willing to "walk with us" as we deal with our aging. Someone who is supportive and takes time to communicate with those in difficult times; whether that be calling or visiting. Accompany us as we explore further partnership with community folks, become more "tech savvy" so that we have greater visibility (helps if the next pastor or interim pastor has tech skills or is willing to work with someone who can help us improve in that way) , as we continue support of the Food Shelf ministry which has been a primary

ministry focus for years, and as we try to revitalize our music ministry in some creative ways. All that and all those efforts to get to know the “core group” of long time members/leaders while meeting new people in the community who might join us going forward.

Most of us enjoy sermons that take a story from the bible and how we can relate it to our everyday lives; a reminder of what Jesus expect of us.

We are an Open and Affirming Church so we have no preference to gender, racial or sexual identity. A good sense of humor is always a plus.

4. How many hours and financials.

We are looking for someone half time. Our last minister was half time with a package that was about \$39,000. We do not have a parsonage.

This profile was written with the help and support of Rev. Marjorie MacNeill.

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