

Church Profile  
for  
First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
in  
Greene, New York



28 North Chenango St.  
Greene, NY 13778

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**Listing Information**

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Greene, NY 13778

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## **Summary Ministry Description**

This church was founded on June 13, 1811 and joined the United Church of Christ in 1957. Our active members are involved in the worship service and ministry life of the church. We participate in community outreach, some of it coordinated with the other community churches. Our members demonstrate faithful attendance and involvement in the worship life of the church, stepping up and volunteering to meet needs as they arise. We are a warm community of believers who care deeply about each other and the townspeople in general.

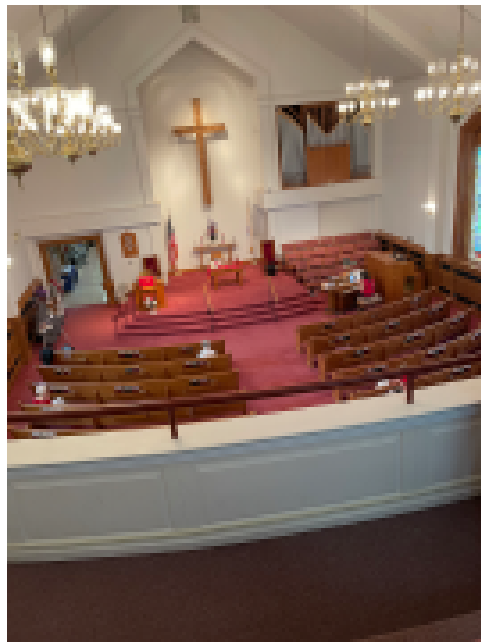
Music plays an important part in our worship services. We have a choir, led by a Choir Director who, along with an Organist/Pianist, bring beautiful music into the service. This is supplemented by special music for certain services and during the summer months when the choir is not in session.

We are seeking a pastor who will provide steady biblical teaching, compassionate leadership, and a clear vision for the future of our church. A key priority is strengthening our youth ministry, growing attendance, expanding programs, and actively engaging young people and their families. We hope for someone who can connect well with all ages, support our spiritual growth, and work with us to build a welcoming, vibrant, and Christ-centered community.

## Photographs



Our church building, rebuilt in 1987 after being destroyed by fire in 1985.



The sanctuary as seen from the balcony. The cross hanging in the front is made from timbers salvaged from the original church building after the fire.



The social hall during coffee hour after the worship service. This room can also be a gymnasium, with features that allow a basketball hoop and volleyball net to be installed.



The choir is practicing before the worship service.

## What We Value About Living in Our Area

Greene is a small village in upstate New York with a true small town feel. You know your neighbors and many of the townspeople that you bump into when you go to one of the restaurants, out for ice cream, or when at one of the local stores. People are friendly and genuinely care for one another. Located in a central location in the state and within 4 hours of Niagara Falls, the Adirondack Park, the Finger Lakes Region, and New York City. Many people vacation and spend their leisure time in these areas.

The town is home to a good school system, [Greene Central School District](#), a small museum in our public library, [Moore Memorial Library](#), and a community theater that shows 4 or 5 live plays each summer season, [Chenango River Theatre](#) .

As a rural community, outdoor activities are an important part of our lifestyle. Common summertime hobbies are hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, and kayaking down the river. A few different water parks are within reach for a day trip: [Enchanted Forest Water Safari](#), [Splash into Fun at Cascades Indoor Waterpark in Cortland NY - Greek Peak Mountain Resort](#), [The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark](#), and [Seabreeze - Rochester](#) to name a few. The Finger Lakes Region offers multiple wineries for those that enjoy a day of wine tours, [Finger Lakes Wineries | Wine Tours, Vineyards & Tastings](#). For those who enjoy motorsports, [Watkins Glen International](#) Raceway and [Unadilla MX](#) are two premier level motorsports venues within an hour and a half from here. There are also numerous other motorsports venues located in our region, including one small flat track raceway here in town [Action Park East Speedway - SpeedwayBikes.Com](#). Binghamton offers minor league baseball [Binghamton Rumble Ponies | MiLB.com](#) and hockey [Binghamton Black Bears](#), and we're close to major league teams in Buffalo and East Rutherford, NJ. A large number of museums and the [Baseball Hall of Fame](#) are in close proximity.

During the winter, it is a short distance to the different downhill ski slopes, [Greek Peak Mountain Resort](#), Song Mountain, and Labrador Mountain [SkiCNY](#) are close by. There is an extensive trail system in place for those that enjoy cross country skiing, [Skiing, cross-country - NYSDEC](#). The snowmobile trail system, which extends into Canada from here, is a major draw for winter motorsports enthusiasts, [New York State Snowmobile Association](#).

Large metropolitan areas are not far away, Binghamton and Norwich are within 30 minutes, and Syracuse about an hour away. Many people travel there for their shopping, entertainment, and medical needs. Bus fare from Binghamton to New York

City or Atlantic City, NJ is cheap. These areas are well known for all the entertainment that they offer and the buses provide a cheap and relaxing way to travel there.

The members of the First Congregational Church are very active in the life of the church, the community, and in a cooperative effort with the other churches in our community. Our congregation reflects the demographic make-up of our rural community, which is predominantly white and English-speaking.

We understand that many pastors answer their call to ministry later in life and may wish to continue in a current career while serving a congregation. Although our preference is to call a full-time settled pastor, we are open to part-time arrangements. We encourage anyone who feels genuinely called by God to serve with us to apply, even if they are available only for part-time ministry. Our goal is to partner with the pastor God is leading to this church. The total compensation package aligns with conference guidelines for a full-time position and will be adjusted appropriately for part-time service.

## Scope of Work

### Core Competencies

From the results of a survey of the members of First Congregational Church in Greene, we identified three core competencies that members feel are of importance in our next pastor.

1. A pastor who models spiritual integrity, authenticity, and a life shaped by Biblical truth.
  - A. Worship Leadership. The ideal pastor will clearly interpret and explain Scripture, helping the congregation understand its meaning and how it guides our daily walk with Christ. While illustrations and stories can be useful in clarifying a point, we prefer they occupy a smaller portion of the sermon. The greater emphasis should be on a direct, faithful explanation of the biblical text—what it says, what it means, and how we are called to live it out.
  - B. Proclamation of the Word. The central message of Scripture is that Jesus Christ came to earth fully human and fully God, died on the cross for our sins, rose again on the third day, and now sits at the right hand of the Father. All who repent, believe in Him, and place their faith and hope in Him receive eternal life; there is no other way to salvation. As followers of Christ, we are commanded to share this good news. Our pastor must hold this truth at the core of their faith and carry a sincere desire to proclaim the gospel.
2. Visitation. We seek a pastor who brings genuine compassion and a comforting presence to those they visit. In our close-knit community, this includes caring for the sick, the shut-ins, and those facing urgent or emergency needs. Many members also appreciate occasional visits simply for fellowship and encouragement, even when they are well. A heart for connecting with people in all seasons of life is essential.
3. Administrative Leadership. The pastor will provide steady administrative oversight that supports the daily life and ministry of the church. Responsibilities include working closely with boards and committees, supervising church staff, and maintaining clear, consistent communication with members. Reliable office hours and attentive coordination of church activities and property help ensure that the ministry functions smoothly and well.

## Daily Duties

### Full-time Pastoral Position (40-50 hours weekly)

1. Preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding and sometimes finding lay liturgists, planning of music in coordination with the Choir Director and Organist, preaching, offering of prayers, etc.
2. The Pastor will work closely with the Board of Deacons in planning the worship services, including Holy Communion, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Veteran's Day service, and others.
3. Faith formation through prayer and Bible study. Identifying helpful resources and opportunities, and assisting lay persons take advantage of them.
4. Officiate at weddings, funerals, and baptisms. Provide confirmand instruction and confirmation of those individuals.
5. Visit the sick, shut-ins, and those in the hospital and emergency care. Visit healthy members if they request it.
6. Perform administrative duties related to office, staff, and property which are necessary in coordinating the ongoing life and ministry of this church. Work with responsible persons to prepare bulletins, newsletters, and other correspondence and communications.
7. Provide regular church office hours, using voice mail and email at times of unavailability. Attend Family Council, Board of Deacons, Board of Christian Education, and Board of Property meetings. Be available as a resource person for church groups.
8. While we do not expect our pastor to serve as a professional counselor, we value someone who can provide pastoral care and guide individuals to appropriate resources when deeper support is needed.
9. Participate in the Greene Area Churches, the Greene Area Churches' Clergy Group, the Susquehanna Association Clergy Cluster, Susquehanna Association meetings, and the annual meeting of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ whenever possible.

## **Compensation and Support**

We follow the conference guidelines for salary for a full-time pastor and a minimum starting salary of \$44,358 annually. Benefits include health insurance, retirement contributions, and housing allowance. For less than a full-time position, we are willing to negotiate a package that's fair to the pastor and the church. We will provide financial support up to \$5,000 to help cover relocation expenses.

The church owns a house next door (historically we've referred to it as a manse) that functioned as a parsonage for previous pastors years ago. It has not been a functioning parsonage since 1996. It is currently a rental unit which requires significant updating and renovating. We do not feel that it is a good option for a parsonage at this time.

Wider church connections available in our association are: Susquehanna Association, New York State Conference meetings, and the Greene Area Churches.

## **Who is God Calling to Minister With Us?**

The members of First Congregational Church in Greene are realistic about who we are. We are a congregation with a few young families, but not enough to have a Christian Education program and a youth group.

We are a very caring family, a group of believers that yearn to learn the truths found in the Bible so that we can apply them to our lives.

We are excited about where we can go. Once we have a new pastor who demonstrates passionate and enthusiastic leadership, we are eager to join with that person as we move forward with this new phase in our church's ministry. We would like to consider a new ministry for seniors. We envision our church's impact on the community growing and also having greater involvement in community ministries. We also desire to have an increase in congregation membership accompanied by increased youth numbers, so that the Sunday school, youth group, and even Vacation Bible School, can be restarted and grow.

All of us are excited about this next phase in ministry with a new pastor. Someone who faithfully teaches God's word, seeks God's will, and partners with us as we grow in faith. Someone who can minister to us, for who, and where, we are now. This person will also challenge and teach us for where we will go together in ministry.

We also look forward to the opportunity to minister to, and care for, our new pastor and family as they become part of the community and our church family.

## **Who is God Calling Us to Become?**

We feel God's calling for us is that our ministry outreach be substantially felt within our community. We feel that God is calling us to be part of the community outreach in a way that is inspiring. For example, Greene needs a strong church to provide leadership among the other churches in this community. The Greene Area Churches (GAC), a group of religious organizations in which we have been a part of for many years, has done much good for this community. Covid has reduced the size of the churches in Greene and, therefore, subdued the enthusiasm of the GAC as a consequence. With our new pastor, we desire to provide enthusiastic leadership and invigorate the GAC, as well as the other member churches. We wish to help and support each other, while volunteering where we can, to minister to this community in a greater way than we currently are.

We wish to increase our knowledge of, and faith in Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We look to understand the Bible better and learn what God is telling us through the scriptures. Only as we understand this better are we better equipped to spread the good news of Jesus and His redeeming power to save us.

We recognize the need to realign the structure of our By-Laws and our Manual of Duties and Responsibilities. In recent years, there has been ongoing discussion about reducing the number of volunteer positions, especially as our active membership has decreased from more than 160 to 82. At the first Family Council meeting this year, the Moderator noted that the council will take up this work once the pastoral search is complete. Council members were encouraged to consider possible approaches and, when visiting churches of similar size, to ask how they manage their structure. Whatever direction we take, it must fit our congregation's capacity so that members can serve without feeling overextended or burned out.

## **Congregational Reflections**

Our congregational family is a close-knit group of people who show genuine care and concern for those around them. God has gifted many people here with the desire to minister to the needs of others. Members regularly pray for the sick or in need, and will shower them with cards, phone calls, food, or whatever else is needed and helpful to the person(s) experiencing a difficult time. With the exception of limitations due to distance, there does not seem to be a different standard of caring for church members or for non church members. If you have a need and someone here is aware of it, you will feel some love from people within the church.

Our congregation has a sincere desire to learn and know the truths that God has written within the Bible. Over the years, we have had many Bible studies, adult Sunday school, a strong Christian education program for our young people including programs such as Sunday school, youth group, and Vacation Bible School. A person from the congregation will volunteer each week to read the scriptures during the worship service, and the Pastor will read the final passage. The sermons that our members have indicated they desire to hear are those that explain Bible passages, while also helping us to apply it to our lives.

In a recent congregational survey, members identified evangelism as a high priority for our church. This commitment is reflected in many of our ministries, especially those serving children and supporting people in our community. These ministries, several of which are described elsewhere in this profile, demonstrate a strong desire to share Christ's love in practical ways.

However, when members were asked whether they personally participate in evangelism, the average response was a neutral 3.4 out of 5, with 1 meaning that they did participate, and 5 meaning that they did not. This result may point to two interpretations. First, some may define evangelism narrowly as verbal proclamation to non-believers, leading them to overlook how their service, hospitality, and community engagement also communicate the gospel. As a result, they may underestimate the evangelistic impact of our ministries. Second, it may indicate that while the congregation values what we are currently doing, they also believe we have room to strengthen and expand our evangelism efforts.

These findings give us a helpful starting point as we seek to strengthen our witness. They remind us that evangelism is both spoken and lived, and that our congregation has a strong foundation of service on which to build. Moving forward, we hope to

deepen our shared understanding of evangelism and encourage one another to embrace it with confidence and joy.

## **Our Educational Program and Faith Formation For Our Youth**

Our church has a long history of strong youth programs; Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, youth group activities, and confirmation classes to mention a few.

One of the sad things in recent years, especially post Covid, is that the number of youth involved in our youth programs has declined. Church membership in general has declined as many of our committed group of members have aged and passed away. Youth have grown up, gone away to college, and pursued a career elsewhere. A few new members with children have joined the church, but not at the rate that we have seen in the past.

This has affected our youth program substantially. We do not have an active Sunday School program or youth group at this time. It is difficult to maintain these programs with only a few young people in attendance.

There are many young people in our community, and the school district in this town is evidence of that. We have the desire to do the work needed to reinstate our programs. We need the leadership and vision to draw them and their families to the church. Our church social hall is set up so that it can be equipped as a gymnasium. We need to fill it with excited young people!

## **Music at First Congregational Church**

The partnership between the pastor and the music staff is vital and has consistently been marked by support and cooperation. While they may not collaborate on every service, the pastor and music team work together when needed to select music that supports the message and strengthens the congregation's worship and understanding of God's will. Their shared efforts, grounded in respect and genuine care, contribute to a meaningful and cohesive worship experience.

We have a very musically active and involved congregation, and at the heart of this is our choir. The choir performs weekly anthems at every church service from September through June. These anthems span a variety of musical styles and genres, from classical to spirituals, with lots of religious choral music of various styles. Much of the music we sing was written during the last 40+ years. We have collected a large selection of music into our library, and continue to supplement with new purchases. We also have a tradition of performing Christmas and Easter cantatas, typically rotating one or the other every other year. Choir anthems are planned out either by the choir director alone, or in conjunction with the pastor, and are coordinated with the scripture readings that are being read in the church service that week. Historically, this has been done by following the lectionary readings. If the pastor would like to choose alternate scripture readings, the choir director can still work with them to pick music to go with these changes, given adequate notice. In addition to making sure the music follows the scripture readings, efforts are also made by the choir director to provide stylistic variety with the anthems from week to week. This means picking pieces of different tempos, moods, compositional time periods, etc.; all in the spirit of reaching the congregation with both the appropriate message and musical interest for all tastes.

Apart from the choir, there is a rich history of piano and organ music at FCC. The church is proud to have a beautiful and well maintained pipe organ, as well as an upright piano. We have a great history of talented organists, often hiring trained musicians and teachers to fill the organist position. Every church service contains at least a prelude and postlude piece which is performed on either the organ or the piano. There is also gathering music that is typically played on piano while the congregation comes together before the service begins. Additional piano or organ pieces are often added for other moments in the service, such as communion. Sometimes extra music is added to services when the organist prepares additional pieces with other musicians. This may come in the form of a piano/organ duet, a duet with other instrumentalists (such as piano with violin), or an additional song with a soloist or small group of singers and piano. One thing you can always count on in our services is an abundance of beautiful music.

During the months of July and August when the choir is not performing, the organist continues to supply music for each service, and we get into our “special music” season. This is a time when members of the congregation and community work on their own or with the organist to prepare a piece to perform in the place of the choir anthem. These can be vocal solos, instrumental pieces, songs with guitar - all ages and ability levels are welcome and encouraged to sign up for a service and participate in the music making.

## **Church Governance**

The governing body of this church are the members assembled in a church meeting. They meet to discuss and approve the budget, for the annual meeting, and for an additional meeting if required.

The church membership delegates most of their duties to the Church Family Council. The council is made up of the Moderator, the chairs of the other boards, and a few members at large. The Family Council functions as the coordinating body between boards. They meet four times a year.

The Deacons are responsible for the ministry of the nurture and care of members and constituents, including worship, discipleship development, fellowship, crisis care, evangelism, stewardship education and development, and the equipping of the laity for their ministries as disciples of Jesus Christ. They meet monthly.

The Board of Property is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church, its buildings and grounds. They meet monthly.

The Board of Christian Education is responsible for the religious education work for the youth. They meet monthly when active, but are not currently meeting.

The Board of Finance performs the daily duties required for proper fiscal management of church funds. They meet as required.

The Board of Missions is responsible to lead the congregation in ways to show God's love at work locally and around the world, to provide education and promotion for ministries of justice and peace. They meet monthly.

## Congregational Demographics

### Estimated Participants in our Church

Number of Active Members	82
Number of Active Non-Members	2
Total of Church Participants	84

### Estimated Number of Total Participants by Age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
4	2	1	2	2	6	13	22	25

### Percentage of Adults in Various Household Types

Single Adults under 35	9%
Households with Minors	7%
Single Adults Age 35-65	11%
Joint Households with no Minors	45%
Single Adults over 65	28%

### Education Level of Adults by Percentage

High School	10%
College	70%
Graduate School	20%

### Percentage of Adults in Various Employment Types

Adults who are Employed	40%
Adults who are Retired	60%

For the adults who are active in the workforce, they work in the industries of manufacturing, education, health, retail, and agriculture. Our congregation is not ethnically diverse, made up mostly of predominantly white members. This make-up is reflective of the community in which we live.

## Participation and Staffing

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings?
Adult Groups or Classes	N/A	Pastor, Deacons
Baptisms (number last year)	2	Pastor, Family, Deacons
Children's Groups or Classes	N/A	Board of Christian Education
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	100	Pastor, Deacons, Choir Director and Organist
Church-wide Meals	35-45	Deacons, Women's Fellowship
Choir and Music Groups	10-15	Choir Director, Pastor
Church-Based Bible Study	Zoom (7-8)	Pastor
Communion (Once a Month)	35-45	Pastor, Deacons
Community Meals	N/A	Women's Fellowship, Deacons
Confirmation (every other year)	0	Pastor, Deacons
Funerals (member deaths)	5	Pastor, Family
Outdoor Worship	25-35	Pastor, Deacons
Prayer Groups	5	Lay Members
Weddings	0 (last year)	Pastor, Wedding Party
Worship (10:00am)	35-45	Pastor, Deacons, Choir Director, Organist
Young Adult Groups or Classes	N/A	Board of Christian Education, Pastor
Youth Groups or Classes	N/A	Board of Christian Education, Pastor

We currently have two retired clergy who worship with us regularly, John Koopman and Judy Travis. They do not currently serve on any board, committee, or ministry team. Additionally, two individuals who were raised in this church have become ordained ministers and gone on to serve as pastors at other churches.

Staff positions here include:

Pastor	Full Time
Secretary	3 - 4 Days per Week
Organist	12 Month Contract
Choir Director	10 Month Contract
FaceBook Live Coordinator	Hourly Wage
Custodian	Hourly Wage

## **Church Finances**

### *Operational*

The financial summary shows relatively level donations over the last five years, while expenses have shown a steady increase. A roof repair accounted for a large portion of the increase in expenses in 2024.

We are debt free. Salaries are our largest expense and exceed donations for every year in the five year summary. Our large investment income has been allowing us to meet our expense obligations. For the most part, draws on the investment income have been equal to, or less than, interest earned on the portfolio.

Our investment income is used to maintain our church facilities and to cover operational expenses. There have been some discussions recently among board members of ways that we can use this money for ministries and to bring more people into our church to hear the good news of Jesus' redeeming grace.

### *Rental*

The church owns a manse next door that is currently rented to a long time member of the church. Rental income goes into an account that is used to pay expenses associated with the ownership of the house.

### *Benevolence*

Over the last two years, our Benevolence money has been used for a scholarship, Our Church's Wider Mission, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, health and school kits to Church World Service, local missions, and a one-time gift to help some Christians in Ukraine during the war.

## **Historical Information**

A corporate society called the Congregational Society of Greene and Smithville Flats was formed on June 13, 1811. After meeting in members' homes for nine years, the first church in Greene, The First Congregational Church, was built for \$2,000 on the site that we currently occupy.

A fire in 1985 completely destroyed the church building. The first Sunday after the fire, the worship service was held on the front lawn of the church property. During the rebuilding process all services and programs continued in other churches and community buildings. Some of the members who were involved in the rebuild still attend the church.

Two years later, in May of 1987, we returned "home" to our new church building. The dedication service for the new building was held on October 4, 1987. Most of the chancel furniture was saved from the old building. The bell in the steeple was also saved from the original building and still has burn scars on the wooden frame. A large wooden cross in the front of the sanctuary is made from the beams of the 1820 meeting house. The stained glass windows are over one hundred years old, and were purchased from the Chenango Forks UCC when they sold their building.

Since 1987, we have survived numerous floods due to the rising river that flows through our town. The most recent being in 2006 and 2011.

The next trial to test this church was Covid in 2020. New York State deemed churches "non-essential" and forbid in-person worship in the church. Within two weeks we were streaming a worship service of Rev. Curtis in our church without any members present on both YouTube and Facebook. We reopened the building when we felt it was safe, navigating the ever changing guidelines, including masks, hand sanitizer, and spaced out seating. Special individually packaged communion packets were used to celebrate communion. While the pandemic has ended and all restrictions have been lifted, we have continued to maintain streaming our service on Facebook Live and have a considerable number of views each week, often more online than our in person attendance. In person attendance has rebounded since the pandemic ended, but not to pre-covid levels.

Pastor's Name	Years of Service	Reason for Leaving	UCC Standing (Y or N)
Curtis Whitman	2007-2024	Retired	Y
Richard Tosh	2001-2005	Retired	Y
John Cooper Martin	1998-1999	Resigned	Y
Emile Jaquet	1982-1996	Resigned	Y

Our church has never been involved in a Situational Support Consultation, nor has a pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while serving as Pastor here.

Rev. Emile Jaquet was a much loved pastor. While he was here, the church burned. He stayed through the rebuilding process and beyond. Then he left to pastor another church out of the area.

Rev. John Cooper Martin had a very good first 10 months here. During the next 8 months something changed. He withdrew. He would not discuss anything with the church or its members, and then he resigned. As all the people who were on the council at that time are no longer with us, more detailed information is not likely to surface. It was a very hard time for the church. It was noted later that he experienced significant personal struggles during this time. While details are limited, it was a challenging period for the congregation, and we acknowledge it with honesty and grace.

Our next pastor, Rev Tosh, indicated at the search process that he would remain active for about 5 years, and then he would retire. Our relationship with him was very good. We cared for him as his wife went through a serious illness. We did have some conflict during that time, but it was addressed proactively and resolved in a constructive and healthy manner.

Pastor Curtis Whitman enjoyed over 17 years here and participated fully in the life of this church. He performed all of his duties at the church. With his wife Pam, they raised their children and they built many friendships. It was a time of low conflict. He worked hard to make sure that people knew and felt the love of Jesus.

## **COMMUNITY VISION**

Our congregation has participated in and supports these church and community events:

- Greene Area Churches
- Greene Ministerium
- Lenten Services
- Easter Sunrise Service
- Memorial Day Graveside Service
- July Craft Fair
- Labor Day Chicken BBQ Tent
- Applefest
- Veteran's Day Service
- Choir members sing in a community Christmas concert with other churches and school choirs and performers
- Attend Association, Conference, and National meetings

## References

November 17, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: First Congregational Church of Greene, UCC.

I'm writing this letter of recommendation for the First Congregational Church of Greene. As a life-long resident of Greene, I can attest to the congregation's commitment to our community.

Health & Wellness. UCC Greene supports several health and wellness initiatives in our community:

- Involved in local walking trail maintenance and walking clubs.

- Home to multiple weekly group fitness classes (Zumba, Yoga & Strength).

- Hosts monthly health screenings by a local health network.

Food Security. The UCC congregation supports local food security:

- Ongoing food drives to support our local food pantry.

- Members volunteer each month on food pantry distribution days.

- Home to a monthly WIC (Women, Infants & Children) outreach clinic.

Community Vitality. The Church actively collaborates with local partners to support the vitality of our community.

- Members are actively involved with community beautification through the local garden club and the Keep Greene Clean Initiatives.

- The Church supports our local Historical Society.

The congregation supports many community events such as: The Greene Arts & Crafts festival, The Annual Labor Day Picnic, The Fall Apple Fest, Annual Veteran's Day Memorial Service & Hometown Holiday Weekend.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend UCC Greene for your consideration.

Gary Quarella

1109 County Rd. 2

Greene, NY 13778

(607) 422-1849

## **To Whom It May Concern:**

I am a retired American Baptist pastor who has lived with my family in Greene, NY for the past thirty years. I am not a member of First Congregational Church, but I have many connections with it, including serving as a pulpit supply and an attendee at weekly services. My varied experiences have taken me to many different religious organizations, providing a pretty broad background for my recommendation.

First Congregational is known throughout the community as a strong and steady presence—both spiritually and civically. It is the strongest mainline church in the village, with healthy attendance, stable finances, and a deep commitment to serving Christ. The lay leadership is exceptional, and members are active in many groups and organizations across Greene. Wherever you go in town—Rotary, ecumenical gatherings, community events—you will often find its people leading, supporting, and showing up for others.

The congregation has a remarkable history of resilience and unity. Decades ago, after a devastating fire, the church came together with determination and rebuilt—an experience that still shapes its identity as a community that supports one another in all seasons. Reflective of the value placed on tradition are its annual Christmas candlelight service, along with its longstanding Veterans Day service. However, First Congregational is also open to innovation. In recent years, this has included embracing new technologies such as broadcasting our services to reach those beyond our walls.

Music has always been one of the church's great strengths. Over the years, the choir, musicians, and music leadership have built what many consider the finest music program among the local churches—an enduring source of joy and inspiration in its worship.

Looking to the future, it is hoped that there will be continued growth in engagement with younger generations and collaboration with other churches in the area. This is a place where a minister can truly partner with the congregation—helping to strengthen what is already vibrant, while providing guidance with fresh vision and faithful imagination.

Greene is a wonderful community, and First Congregational Church is woven tightly into its life. Care is shown for *all* people.

If you feel called to a church that is rooted, resilient, community-minded, and ready for its next chapter, First Congregational will definitely warmly welcome your interest.

Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always."

Pastor John Koopman  
Retired ABC Pastor - Hospital - Prison - Military Chaplain  
607.765.6269

November 10, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am not a member of the First Congregational Church of Greene, UCC. I have been a resident of Greene for more than 50 years. I know most of the congregation personally. As with most smaller communities there are a lot of events and activities that require community support. I always see members of the congregation involved in these events and quite often taking on leadership roles.

I am a member of the local American Legion Post and was an officer in the post for 15 years. A number of Post members are also members of the church. The church has allowed our post to utilize the church's kitchen to prepare apple crisp for our local Apple Festival every September. The church hosts a yearly Veterans' Day Program on Veterans' Day. Church members work with our Post, local high school choruses, and the church choir. Middle school English teachers are asked to have their students write poems to be read at the program by the students or a Post member. This is a well-attended community event.

Rummage sales are fund raisers that the church host, when these sales are over items left are donated to the local clothing bank where my wife is a member. These items are provided at no cost to local community members.

I feel the First Congregation Church of Greene, UCC important part of our community. The church is always looking for ways to help the community.

Sincerely,



John Girton

(607) 349 0221

girtonjs@gmail.com

## **Closing Prayer**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Col. 3:15-17 NIV

## **Statement of Consent**

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending a suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

The group responsible for contributing to, and assembling this Local Church Profile is the Search Committee.

*Arthur G. DeJager*

Arthur G. DeJager

Search Committee Chairman

November 18, 2025