

THE TUNBRIDGE CHURCH

273 VT RT 110, PO Box 270

Tunbridge, VT 05077

<https://tunbridgechurch.org/>

SEEKING A PERMANENT PART-TIME ORDAINED OR LICENSED PASTOR

The Tunbridge Church is an interdenominational community church established in 1978 when the local Congregational, Methodist and Baptist congregations merged. Most church services and ceremonies are held in the beautiful 1839 Congregational Church in the Tunbridge Village Historic District.

We seek a pastor who will bring fresh energy and creative ideas to help engage and increase membership and attendance. He or she should be personable, an effective preacher and speaker, and a compassionate and caring person. Our pastor would lead worship, serve communion, and officiate as requested at baptisms, weddings, and memorial/funeral services. Pastoral visits to those who are hospitalized and homebound, and spiritual counseling to those in need would be expected. It is fine with us if the pastor has another part-time job.

The church has a history of lay responsibility, which allows the pastor to concentrate on tending the flock and its spiritual needs and to be a representative of the church in town. Parish Council members focus on the financial and building maintenance side with an aim to having a well-managed, fiscally sound church.

Our typical Sunday worship attendance averages 25, and we are a diverse congregation politically and socially. A handful of people watch the weekly service on Zoom or tune in to listen. We feel strongly about our Sunday worship service, looking to church as a place to find peace, a time to hear Scripture and music and receive guidance from our pastor, and an opportunity to meet with our neighbors and friends. As a congregation, we aim to be caring members of our community.

The Service of Worship is traditional but varies some week to week. One element that is a must is the lighting of the Peace Candle and the question "Why do we light this candle?" and the reply "to remind us to pray for peace." We also like to sing the "Gloria Patri" and we welcome special music in our services, in addition to the hymns.

Visitors find us friendly. The congregation is relaxed and social with visiting and chatting before the service. After the service leader gives the welcome and asks for announcements, the congregation settles in for a prelude and time for contemplation to open worship. Light refreshments are offered after the service.

The Tunbridge Church has a history of community service and engaging neighbors through a variety of outreach programs. These include four sit-down Senior Celebration meals, with delivery to the homebound. Winter soup, Thanksgiving treats, and poinsettia plants are delivered to seniors during the year. Community events include an ice cream social and Halloween trunk or treat. A monthly Women Moving Forward potluck lunch welcomes widows and women who are alone.

The church provides space for the Tunbridge Community Food Shelf and Community Garden, an outdoor food pantry during growing season and a community yard sale. The Town Nurse stores medical equipment and supplies in a church-owned building. The Parish House space is available for meetings including AA and Al-Anon. The congregation mails signed cards of support, sympathy, and cheer to residents. A fellowship committee handles receptions for funeral and celebration of life services. Special offerings and church donations assist local families and others, including displaced people in Ukraine and victims of natural disasters.

The Tunbridge motto is *“Not perfect, but pretty darn close!”* Tunbridge was chartered in 1761. Its rural roots can be seen on farms that raise animals and offer such products as vegetables, plants, maple syrup and wood. Townspeople work hard to retain our farms, fields and forests and provide good quality of life for all, from our school and town services, to our landscape and historic structures, including five covered bridges and the Tunbridge World’s Fair fairgrounds.

Health, social, elderly and other services and many cultural offerings are nearby. Interstates 89 and 91, Amtrak’s Vermonter train, airports and bus service to Boston and New York City are easily accessible. Employment centers include Lebanon and Hanover, N.H., and White River Junction, Randolph, Montpelier, Barre and Burlington, Vt.

The compensation will follow Vermont Conference guidelines for housing/salary and benefits.

Who To Contact for more information:

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