



South Freeport Congregational Church is a healthy, multi-generational, open and affirming community church on the cusp of realizing its potential. The foundations that have been laid are strong. Our finances are in good order; there is virtually no deferred maintenance. This year, pledging increased by more than 10%. We have several young families and a strong and growing Christian Education program. Attendance at Sunday worship is increasing, and our music program is strong. We are now served by our Interim who is helping us understand what we might become. We are engaged, and our congregation is growing. We know we want to remain a pastoral-sized church.

We seek deeper spirituality and are beginning to appreciate silent moments in the service where we can pray, listen, and think. We want to be moved spiritually and deepen our relationships with God. We want to become a church involved in more active outreach. We want to welcome more young families just as we continue to care for our older members and friends. We want to be a model Christian community.



# Weekly Worship Unites and Inspires Us.



Weekly worship at 9:30am on Sunday is the cornerstone of our church life. Every Sunday, about 80 members and friends greet one another, and share in God's Holy Word. We deepen our faith and learn to experience God through the sermon, and our children are connected to us during the Children's Moment before attending Sunday School. Coffee Hour after the service is a time of fellowship where we often celebrate significant birthdays and anniversaries.



At Christmas, over 300 celebrate the birth of Christ during three services and an equal number at Easter welcome the risen Savior at a sunrise service at the harbor and two services in our sanctuary.

## We are Committed to Children and Families



Our Sunday School program is strong with two teachers and a nursery. During the year, the Children's Choir performs, and for special days like Palm Sunday and Christmas, the Sunday School actively participates during the service. Every June, our week-long Vacation Bible School, which is free for all, attracts about 35 students. Our Confirmation program prepares our teens for full membership in the church, and in preparation, they read scripture and usher at services. Confirmands also participate in service projects and experience other religious traditions.





## We Take Care of Each Other.



Our Called to Care committee is one of the most active in our church. Each week a volunteer reaches out to those in need whether they are sick, lonely or in crisis. Cards, phone calls, visits, meals are all part of this ministry.

## We Want to Develop a Stronger Outreach Program.

We currently support several non-profits financially, gather goods and food and prepare meals for the homeless. Yet, in our Focus Groups last fall, we heard a strong call for doing more than “just delivering stuff.” We hope that our new Pastor will lead us to find a mission activity for youth and adults that will satisfy our need to be more engaged in the community and the world.



## We Love to Sing.



We are blessed to have an extraordinary music program thanks to the efforts and talent of our Music Director, organist and choir. There are often guest musicians and soloists who further enhance the worship service. This year, we have had two hymn sings on Sunday afternoon that have been enthusiastically attended.



## Our Building is a Landmark in the Village of South Freeport

We first gathered in 1855 as 20 villagers from the ship-building community of South Freeport banded together as a Congregational Church. Our current sanctuary was dedicated in 1884 after a fire destroyed our first building. The church was built by ship's craftsmen in nine months.



Over the years, we have added a vestry, then classrooms, offices and a meeting room, and a large, busy Community Hall. In 2015, extensive work was done to the exterior of our property after lead paint was discovered. We have also recently improved our kitchen and the Community Hall and installed a generator. Today, the building is in very good condition, and we have a plan for maintaining and improving it.

Our building is used daily as a Day Care and pre-school. The Community Hall serves as a gathering space for L'Ecole Française du Maine (a French immersion school) that is across the street. We also welcome community activities and groups including Zumba and Tai-Chi classes, girl and boy scouts, lectures, art shows, and more. This year, we have been approved by the town of Freeport as a place to rest, warm up, eat, and charge a phone in the event of power outages or other natural disasters.

## We Are From Many Communities.

While we are nestled in the village of South Freeport, less than 25% of our membership resides in this community. We are from Freeport, Yarmouth, Falmouth, Portland, Pownal, Durham, Brunswick and Topsham.

South Freeport, itself, is a beautiful historic community on the Harraseeket River filled with both fishing boats and pleasure craft. There is the opportunity to sail, power boat, kayak, canoe, fish, clam and swim (if you can stand the cold). Other activities include hiking the conservation trails or those of the state park. We are 20 minutes from Portland known nationally for its farm to table restaurants and strong cultural offerings including the Portland Museum of Art and the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

## Our New Pastor

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we plan to call a pastor who is experienced in coaching and collaborative leadership. We seek a joyful, authentic, experienced, compassionate coach and leader who genuinely loves people. We need someone who can recognize what we need and help us become more spirit-centered, direct us toward more active outreach by youth and adults, be a strong administrator and collaborator, visit the sick and homebound, and inspire us through meaningful worship that connects the scripture to our daily lives. We hope for a pastor who can model a healthy balance between work and a rich personal life.

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