

# United Church of Christ in North Hampton



*No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## Introducing Ourselves

We invite all to join us in nourishing their faith in a loving and inclusive spiritual home here at the United Church of Christ in North Hampton (UCCNH). Our members share a focus of service and missions as we explore what it means to be Disciples of Christ.

We understand that our faith journeys are life-long journeys. We love to gather in fellowship to share the love of each other and our savior. Through our time together in worship, service, prayer, and faith formation studies we have grown, and will continue to grow, in our love of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.



## Our History

In 1738 a meeting house was built for the town on North Hill. It was in 1760 that the town opted to build a second, larger meeting house, as the original one had become too small for the growing town. The first church service on North Hill took place in the new Meeting House for the town's Puritans. It was in 1780 that a group of Free Will Baptists asked the town's permission to form their own congregation.

The current church building on North Hill was built in 1838, across from the Meeting house, and was dedicated as the Congregational Church.

The Baptists built their Little River Chapel in the same year. By 1947, due to smaller congregations in both churches, the two groups shared one minister and by 1949 the services were held alternately at each church for three-month periods. This changed in 1951 when the churches joined together as the Congregational Christian Church

with services being held at the North Hill church in the winter and summer services at the Little River Chapel.

By 1962 the Congregational Church became the United Church of Christ in North Hampton. Our UCC continues the tradition of offering summer services for the months of July and August at the Little River Chapel.



*Little River Chapel*

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## Our Church Family

Our church has a vibrant congregation with lots of energy. After worship we meet for Fellowship to share a cup of coffee and catch up with each other's lives. Our Fellowship continues with church suppers, trips to local theaters or even the occasional outing to a Red Sox game.

The men gather each Sunday morning for lively discussions on current events, and Ladies Union meets once a month for a business meeting, lunch and crafts.

The Ladies Union holds a wonderful church fair each fall to provide scholarships to youth who attend the New Hampshire Conference UCC programs at Horton Center and Geneva Point.

The Women's book club meets once a month to share brunch and a spirited discussion of the current book selection. Our church also has a Health & Healing committee offering health programs and regular blood drives plus a Vitality Team that works to interact with our local community.

## What we are seeking in a Pastor

The United Church of Christ in North Hampton is seeking a pastor who is a dynamic and engaging speaker; one who can relate the scripture to our everyday lives through narrative. It is our hope that our new pastor will focus on leading both youth and adults on their faith journey. We pray that our new pastor will create with us a faith community that will attract new members and assist our church in remaining an integral part of the North Hampton Community.



*Ladies Union Fall Fair*



*Church Picnic Grilling*

## Our Leadership

Our church adopted the Church Council form of governance in the early 70's, eliminating unnecessary committees and meetings. Our church members select the Church Council, which consists of eight members and the Pastor. They are guided by the Holy Spirit to oversee the working of our Church life together. The Council meets with the Pastor to communicate about their areas of responsibility. It is the function of each Council member to delegate tasks and responsibilities, providing all congregants the opportunity to serve.



*Christmas Pageant*



*Easter Service*

## **Our Music Ministry**

Music is an instrumental part of the worship experience at the United Church of Christ in North Hampton. All music ~ prelude, introit, hymns, offertory, responses and postlude ~ is selected to support the scripture and message of each service.

A variety of music is shared - from African songs with drums, duets with guitar accompaniment, trios with piano, and choir anthems with organ, trumpet and our own flautist. We have a wonderful choir, ages 13 to 80, who perform from September through May. Music is shared throughout the late spring and summer in the form of quartets, duets, solos, instrumental pieces, tone chimes, and drum music. Our Christmas Eve service is a sharing of musical talent from many choir and church members.

The music program is led by a dedicated music director who shares her talent on piano and our digital Allan organ. All are welcome to participate in our music ministry.

## **Our Worship Life**

Sunday worship held at the North Hill church each week is the centerpiece of our ministry. It is a precious time for all to continue to grow in God's teaching. Children are invited to attend a faith formation activity following the "Children's Message" during the service. An intergenerational service is held once a month where even the youngest family members can stay in the sanctuary with their family. Volunteer Worship leaders share in scripture reading and prayers each week. Our church nursery downstairs and family room at the rear of the Sanctuary both have speakers to enable parents to listen to the service. Special Services are held on Christmas Eve and during the Easter holy week. During the months of July and August, services move to our summer venue the Little River Chapel. This beautiful seaside chapel, adorned with stained glass windows, is a more relaxed worship setting. Musical selections are volunteered by gifted members each week, while the choir enjoys a summer break. There is an informal atmosphere and members may sign up to bring garden arrangements for the altar or lemonade and cookies to share following the service.

## Our Faith Formation

Opportunities are provided for children and adults of all ages in order to walk together in a spiritual journey through prayer, study, service, and community. We encourage and welcome all ages in worship, as well as communion.

Our young people, pre-K through grade 8, spend time together during the sermon time with two teaching volunteers, guided by the Faith Formation director. Topics of discussion are coordinated with sermons using prayers of illuminations and drawing topics from a thematic.

An ongoing learning experience is offered throughout the year for adults from Bible studies to retreats. The different Bible studies give the congregants and opportunity to learn and explore their faith. A Men's Breakfast group, Ladies Union and Book Group offer both men and women a chance to share their faith as well as fundraise for many missions.



*Choir Singers*



*Sr. High Mission Group at Hurricane Camille Memorial in Biloxi*

## Our Missions

Missions are very important to our congregation. Our church is a charter member of Seacoast Family Promise, formerly Faith Hospitality Network, which provides a safe place for families to turn for food, shelter and social services.

For over twenty years UCCNH has provided mission trip experiences for senior high youth. Youth have served in Mexico, San Antonio, Atlanta, and Biloxi, MS.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry seeks to provide the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God through the creation and distribution of shawls.

End 68 Hours of Hunger's mission is to confront the approximately 68 hours of hunger experienced by children between school lunch on Friday and school breakfast on Monday morning.

For more than 10 years, UCCNH has participated in the Ukama Partnership with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ).



*Choir*



*Palm Sunday Parade*

## **Our Community Life**

The UCC in North Hampton's beautiful winter church sits up on North Hill facing the community's Gazebo, venue for the town's summer concert program. Just a few miles down the road sits the historic summer church with its striking stained glass windows. The summer church, Little River Chapel, is the setting for the July and August Sunday services, followed by fellowship around a table offering of lemonade and cookies.

North Hampton's state beach is one small section of the seacoast along the 18 miles of New Hampshire's coastline. Driving along Route 1A offers a view of the Isles of Shoals, and on a clear day the Oceanic Hotel on Star Island and the lighthouse on White Island are clearly visible. North Hampton and the surrounding communities offer a lot of shopping, golfing and cultural opportunities. The town is less than an hour from Boston and less than two hours from the lakes and mountain regions of New Hampshire.

K-8 Grade students attend the North Hampton School "Winner of the Middle School of Excellence and the Blue Ribbon School Awards". High School students attend the regional Winnacunnet High School, located in the neighboring town of Hampton. The school was recently recognized as the 2017 New Hampshire High School of Excellence.

## **Compensation Package Offering**

Our compensation package will be inclusive of salary and benefits, housing (parsonage), health insurance, continuing education allowances, Pastor related travel expenses, a sabbatical offering and paid vacation. Our offer is comprehensive and is in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.

## **Please contact for questions and additional information:**

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