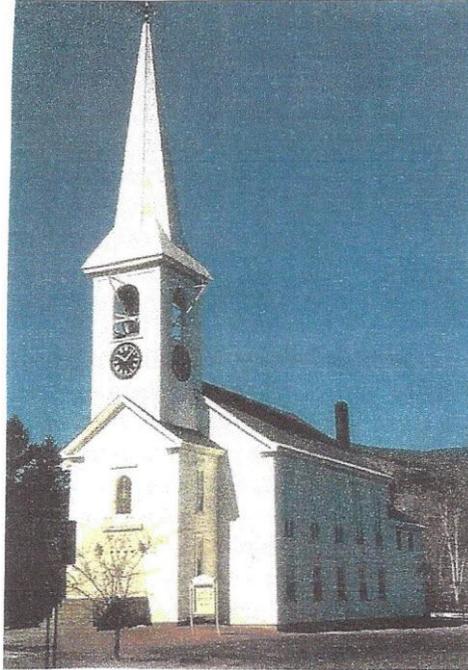


# Monadnock Congregational Church

147 Main Street  
Colebrook, New Hampshire 03576



We invite you to look through our pamphlet and to consider what unique things we have to offer and prayerfully consider seeking God's call to minister to our congregation.

## Our Community

Settled in 1770, Colebrook is a small rural New England town located in northern New Hampshire's "Great North Woods". It shares a border with Vermont on the headwaters of the Connecticut River. The community is eight miles south of the Canadian border in northwestern Coos County. There are about 2,500 year around residents in the community.

Colebrook is a bilingual community, with about 30 of the population able to speak French Canadian and English. The age distribution is stable, with a fine relationship among all ages.

Because of our location, many local businesses are related to timber harvesting and processing (i.e. lumber, wood chip) with tourism rapidly becoming an important source of jobs and subsidiary income. We have a small number of agricultural enterprises-dairy, beef, hay, Christmas trees. The community is experiencing an insurgence in locally grown organic food crops.

Colebrook is an independent, self-supporting community and business center for the smaller surrounding towns. This wider community supports two banks, and retail stores including a drug store, clothing, hardware, gift, and grocery store. We also enjoy two weekly newspapers; the oldest was established in 1870.

Colebrook is very proud of its small critical access hospital where we receive 24 hour emergency care, complete lab, pharmacy services, modern radiology including x ray, ultra-sound, mammography, CT scans and

MRI. We have a surgeon on staff and numerous visiting specialists as part of North Country Health (NCH) which is an affiliation of the four northern New Hampshire hospitals. If tertiary hospital care is necessary, we are served by the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Ambulance Service and the DART helicopter service to provide transport assistances in the wider New England area.

Other health services in the community include primary care at the Indian Stream Healthcare Clinic plus two private practice primary care physicians in the community. The V A has a small clinic here as well. Our community has two dentists, and two optometrists. Home Health Care is under the guidance of the NCH. There is also a small area mental health facility which is affiliated with a sheltered workshop for developmentally disabled adults. Coos County Nursing Hospital is located in the next town north. There are also two assisted living apartment complexes for the elderly and the disabled in our community.

The Colebrook school system provides educational facilities for kindergarten through twelfth grade. There are private day care centers in town. Our elementary / middle school houses 220 students and the public high school has 120 students enrolled in grades 9 - 12, offers courses in college preparation, business and technical education. The dedication of the teachers and the quality of the educational system has consistently resulted in a high percentage of graduates successfully going on to achieving a higher education.

The University of New Hampshire, College for Life Long Learning, White Mountain Community College and the Community College of Vermont offer courses in the area for adult learners. The town's recently expanded library offers additional educational and cultural opportunities for all our area residents.

The community is very proud of the Tillotson Center, which is a gathering place for everyone in the region to come and enjoy local plays and international musical talent in a modern theater facility. Colebrook also has a recreation center that offers year round exercise and sports activities. It houses an Olympic size swimming pool for competitive, learning and exercise aquatic activities. A local businessman operates a gym with exercise machines, sauna, and exercise pool.

There are many community organizations that offer so much to our small community. These include Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Masons, American Legion, Volunteer Fire Department and Garden Club.

The local Country Club offers a nine-hole golf course. There are miles of snowmachine and ATV trails. The abundant natural resources offer access to hiking, fishing and hunting opportunities.

There are five other church congregations in our community besides ours. These are the United Methodist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic congregations. There are small Baptist and Mormon congregations as well. We all work together in a strong ecumenical spirit to provide special holiday services and community mission projects. The ecumenical movement in Colebrook has been active for nearly fifty years. The clergy work together on special holiday services on Thanksgiving, Good Friday and Easter. As a group we also coordinate music festivals for Christmas and Palm Sunday services.

## **Our Church**

The Monadnock Congregational Church was founded in 1802 as a mission project by a church thirty five miles to the south. We actively participate as members of the New Hampshire United Church of Christ, and are enthusiastic members in the North Country Association, which is a regional sub group of the state conference.

Our church has a membership of 101. However, only 72 are actually available for fellowship in the local area. Approximately 50 of active participants are above 60. However, the congregation is young in spirit, with 22 persons being members 10 years or less and 15 persons being members for 10-20 years. Our senior member has been a covenant member for 78 years. We also have an active group of parish affiliates, who actively support

church functions. Our church family comes from all walks of life and tends to complement each other in the needs of the church. A recent newcomer to our congregation commented on our warm and friendly spirit. Our people are supportive and caring of each other's needs and tend to find humor in everyday life.

The church council is the governing body overseeing the faith based operation of our congregation. It is made up of sixteen persons; four officers and twelve members. Four members comprise a Spiritual Life group, four a Participation group, and the last four oversee Stewardship. This body is responsible for the overall policy decisions of the Church. Major policy or asset changes are brought before the congregation for approval at the annual meeting which is held in February of each year.

Church services are conducted every Sunday at 10:00 A.M. in the church sanctuary which is located on the upper floor of this three story building; it is handicap accessible via a chairlift. The sanctuary seats 176 people. We have been blessed with an excellent Music Director and there is a small, dedicated choir which adds musical spirit to our worship hour.



We celebrate the traditional Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae and Easter Sunday. Communion is offered the first Sunday each month.

Our congregation works hard at encouraging and inviting full family participation. We welcome everyone with a warm and caring manner. We support church unity through social activities such as Family Night Pot Luck Suppers and church yard sales.

A few years ago we began the GOT LUNCH program. This is summertime local mission project where each Monday a large group of volunteers assemble grocery bags full of fresh nutritious food for families with children. This is to ensure that the children have an extension of the School Lunch Program during the summer school vacation. Our church leads this project, but the school and community are enthusiastically behind it.

Our church hosts a Thanksgiving Day Dinner for anyone from the community who is alone on that holiday. As part of the ministerium outreach, a free community dinner is offered every Thursday evening at the United Methodist Church. Our church takes its turn providing servers and desserts for this meal.

In an effort to set an example for the broader community, we recently installed a wood-fired pellet boiler. Soon we will host an open house to make the community aware of the benefits of using local, sustainable and renewable fuel sources. As you can see we support new ideas and ways to encourage these efforts.

As seen in the picture, our church steeple stands out as a landmark in our community. This classic Congregational structure, built in 1812, is the oldest church structure in Colebrook.



The parsonage is within walking distance of the church. It is a typical two story cape with a detached two car garage. It has a modern kitchen, dining room, living room, bathroom and study on the ground floor with four bedrooms and a bath upstairs. It has a concrete basement with an oil fired forced hot water heating system. The grounds are landscaped with flower gardens and a large lawn.

## What We Seek in a Minister

We seek a person who is young at heart, is energetic, is passionate and will put us on the path to promise and renewal, teach us to be seekers of justice and beacons of hope in our community. Our Pastor will help strengthen us when we are unsure which way to go or what to focus on. Our Pastor will bring the gift of the Holy Spirit in our presence and lead us forward in finding that Spirit in our daily lives. We need someone who believes in the power of daily prayer and who will lead us on a path closer to Jesus Christ and our Father here on earth through developing and leading Bible Study and prayer groups.

We need help in stimulating and drawing younger people and families into active church participation by making the scriptures come alive in all our lives. We are seeking a person who has a strong commitment to educational ministry throughout the community with a desire to reach out to everyone in the congregation who are shut-ins at home or patients at the local hospital or nursing homes. You should have an interest and the ability to be able to relate to youngsters and teens in instilling a desire to participate and be an active part of our church family.

Colebrook is a rural community different from the mainstream life style one would experience in southern New England. "Getting here is half the FUN"! is a local colloquialism. Major cultural and shopping centers are either an hour and a half or three hours away. This has had an impact on the region, which is economically not as viable as the lower part of New Hampshire. As a result many young families have to work multiple jobs or work seven days a week to make ends meet. Thus it is difficult to get these folks actively involved in our church life. It will be a challenge to create ways to encourage and instill interest in getting young folks into our fold. We want you to lead and inspire us in this direction.

We hope that this map will give you a realistic idea where Colebrook is in relationship to the rest of New Hampshire.

Colebrook, NH



The "other" Mount  
Monadnock, Jaffrey, NH

The church derives its name from it sitting in the shadow of Mount Monadnock which is located to the west on the far side of the Connecticut River beyond the state line in Lemington, Vermont

