

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS [FAQS]

First Time Visitors

1. **Will I fit in here?** We are a church that is committed to welcoming all: "No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are invited and welcome!"
2. **What should I wear?** God doesn't care what you wear to church, and neither do we! Dress as casually or formally as you feel comfortable. Most folks are somewhere in the middle.
3. **How do I get there?** We are located at 176 West High Street [Route 236], Somersworth, NH. Phone: 603-692-2057.
www.somersworthfirstparish.org/map.htm
4. **Where should I park?** Parking is adjacent to all entrances to the church.
5. **Is there childcare for younger children?** At times we have a volunteer, at times not. Children of all ages are welcome in the sanctuary during our worship services. If you need a quiet space to sit with your child during the service, there is a nursery located just outside the sanctuary. The nursery area is well stocked with child-friendly toys and books, a bathroom with changing table. You are also able to hear the service through a speaker located in the nursery.
6. **Is there Church School?** Yes! We have a multiple grade learning opportunity from September to May for Kindergarten and older. June-August, we have a single group gathering. Children may start Church School at any time. Church School is held following a message for the children during the service.
7. **I have a physical disability and/or hearing problem. Is there any special assistance?** Our building is fully accessible. There are no stairs to enter on either level, and an elevator to access between levels. There are accessible bathrooms on each level. We have a sound system in the Sanctuary.
8. **When are worship services?** September-June, worship begins at 10AM; July-August at 9:30AM.
9. **What sort of music will I hear?** Often a mix of organ and piano, Adult Choir and contemporary offerings are included.
10. **What about communion?** Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome to receive Communion; there are no pre-conditions or age requirements. We do an intentional learning component with children 3rd grade and older, we ask parents to guide younger children to participate with respect.
11. **What about after the service?** We invite you to stay for fellowship time immediately following the service. The Church Hall is downstairs [below the Sanctuary] and is easily accessed by the stairs near the front doors, or by the elevator off of the Narthex. There you can meet some of our members, and our pastor, Mark Rideout. We understand that you may not be able to stay or feel comfortable staying at first, so don't feel badly if you need to head out. We do ask that you sign the Visitor's Book in the Narthex [just outside the Sanctuary]. Adding your address helps the Deacons to send an added greeting following your visit.

Other Questions

1. **What is the church address, phone, email, website?** First Parish UCC, [or officially, First Parish United Church of Christ, Congregational] 176 West High Street, P. O. Box 228, Somersworth, NH 03878-0228 (603) 692-2057
website: www.somersworthfirstparish.org
email: firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org
2. **Is the Church Hall available to rent? How do I apply to do this?** Yes, forms are available in the Narthex, or via the church website. Completed forms are generally returned to the Board of Trustees. These are reviewed at their monthly meeting. If a more immediate response is needed, speak with the Pastor.
3. **Who do I contact if someone in the church needs a meal, ride to church, or would appreciate a visit?** Marc Cote [742-4743] is the point of contact for these concerns. The Pastor should be contacted [692-2057] directly should a visit at home or hospital be desired.

4. **How do you become a covenant member of the church?** We receive members at various times during the year. The Pastor and Deacons offer information sessions. Ask a Deacon for a packet of written materials, and to be informed of the next session being offered.
5. **How do you make arrangements for a wedding?** Speak with the Pastor directly.
6. **How do you make arrangements for a baptism?** Baptisms are celebrated during Morning Worship on Sunday. The Pastor and Deacons offer a learning component for parents. Speak with the Pastor directly to make arrangements.
7. **How do you make arrangements for a funeral or memorial service?** The Pastor will make every effort to accommodate a family's needs, at what is, a very stressful time. Often the funeral home will contact the Pastor to conduct a service; at times the family makes arrangements themselves. A service may be held at the church [working with the church calendar], or at the funeral home, or another location.
8. **How does someone access the food pantry at the church?** The Community Food Pantry, Inc., is a non-profit organization, separate from the church. It is open Monday 10AM-12NOON, Wednesday 6-8PM, and Thursday, 3-5PM. Contact the pantry directly at 603-692-2097 with questions or to speak with a volunteer.
9. **What if I want to volunteer for the programs below. Send an email to the church firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net , and it will be forwarded to the appropriate contact.**
 - **Spaghetti Supper** Supper are held monthly September-November, January-June. A sign-up circulates on Sunday mornings during worship, and sits on the table in the Narthex. Contact Spaghetti Supper Coordinators with any questions.
 - **Sunday School** We ask anyone volunteering with our children to complete a Safe Church Form. For further details speak with a CE Committee member:
 - **Choir/Music** Choir rehearses during the year, often on a weeknight, and then on Sunday morning prior to worship. Speak with a Music Committee member, or Organist/Choir Director.
 - **Scripture Reader** Sign up in the Narthex. The Pastor will let you know ahead of time what readings will be used.
 - **Greeter** Sign up in the Narthex. Arrive by 9:30AM to welcome people to worship.
 - **Nursery** Sign up in the Narthex. Arrive by 9:30AM to welcome the younger set to the nursery. We ask volunteers to complete a Safe Church Form [as under Sunday School above.]
 - **Women's Fellowship** meets weekly on Tuesday from 9:30-11:30AM in the church hall, to work on projects for the November Holly Daze Fair. There are other programs and projects throughout the year.
 - **Men's Group** gathers for breakfast, 8:30AM, 2nd Saturday of the month in the church hall. Bring something to share, come and join in the fellowship. Plans emerge for some projects [like a bean supper] to support the church and it's mission, as well as fun times [baseball game, cookout and local theatre visit]
 - **Newsletter** Assists with copying or mailing the monthly newsletter.
 - **Table of Plenty** [Coordinator, Chris Stolpe 603-767-2319] Serves meals in three locations weekly: Tuesday 5:30-6:30PM, First Parish Church, York, Me; Wednesday 5-6PM, Berwick United Methodist Church, Berwick, ME; Thursday 5-6PM, St. Raphael Church, Kittery, ME. Donations and volunteers welcomed! Table_of_plenty@comcast.net [note underscore between table_of_plenty]
 - **The Community Food Pantry, Inc.**
[serving Berwick, ME, Rollinsford & Somersworth, NH]
Donations & Volunteers welcomed.
Hours: Mon 10AM-12NOON, Wed 6-8PM; Thurs 3-5PM.
CALL [603] 692-2907 to speak with a volunteer or to leave a message, or email: Communityfoodpantry@comcast.net

10/2013 *First Parish UCC, Somersworth, NH*