



# Welcome to Sumner, Maine and the Congregational Church of East Sumner



“We are a welcoming family of faith  
who proclaims God’s love and grace in words and deeds,  
in covenant with each other and in service to the community.”



## ***Welcome to East Sumner, Maine***

Welcome from the Congregational Church and the village of East Sumner, Maine. If you like quiet, peaceful and friendly surroundings and a neighborhood where you might view an occasional moose, deer, or other animals of the woods, or if you enjoy skiing, hiking, rafting, swimming, or the ocean (approx. 1 hour away), then this is the place for you! We extend the hand of Christian love to you. If interested, please direct your responses to:

Cyndy Norton  
Secretary, CCES Search Committee  
[Norton@megalink.net](mailto:Norton@megalink.net)  
207-388-2667

*It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."  
Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak.  
2 Corinthians 4:13*



### ***Our Church and Its Location***

The church is a typical white Maine clapboard building built in 1883 in a 224 year-old New England town. The steeple has an almost tower-like effect with its square structure that forms the vestibule at ground level, the choir loft in the sanctuary and on up to the bell. It is topped with wrought iron grillwork that gives it a unique appearance, evoking evergreen trees. Our church sits on the south side of Rte. 219 facing the homes in the village, with church grounds around us and the outdoor pavilion a stone's throw away. Shopping malls, hospitals, theaters and other necessary life support systems are within a 25-mile radius. The neighboring village of Buckfield, 10 minutes away, boasts a genuine locally owned country store and larger grocery stores are only about 20 minutes away in Turner.

This area of the foothills of the White Mountains is God's paradise. We are blessed with mountains with views, crystal clear lakes, clean running streams and rivers, and abundant forests. Sumner is within close reach of winter and summer recreational opportunities, such as Sunday River, Mt Abrams, and Black Mountain ski slopes, Grafton Notch and its hiking opportunities (including the Appalachian Trail). We think of it as being the hub for Maine communities and cities such as Lewiston, Auburn, South Paris, Norway, Bethel, Rumford, Augusta and even Portland. The elementary school is ¼ mile away, and high school is 5 miles away in Buckfield.



The congregation beckons others to join them in their Christian life. This is a life that includes an organist who can play anything, a congregation that sings the birthday song for whomever is having a birthday that week, delicious monthly community suppers, two seasonal festivals with local crafters annually, summer beanhole suppers (from our own beanhole!) and more. It is the commitment of the congregation to the community and its willingness to work at it that is striking. Our greatest challenge is the declining involvement of young families.



The congregation, composed of members both generations deep in the area and those new to it, has a heart for missions and neighbors in need, with the town food bank hosted in an addition built by volunteers at the rear of the building. The church has special services for the seasonal days such as Thanksgiving (Eve), Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. But the most important feature of this church building is the love that surrounds and fills it every day of the week.

### ***Compensation Package***

Our first year compensation package ranges from \$38,000 - \$46,000, depending on education and experience. This compensation is allocated as a pastor desires. We also provide \$2,000 reimbursement ministry expenses and offer a three month sabbatical after five years. Based on long experience, we seek ½-time minister. We are willing to entertain a candidate who has other employment or who seeks the flexibility of pursuing other interests.

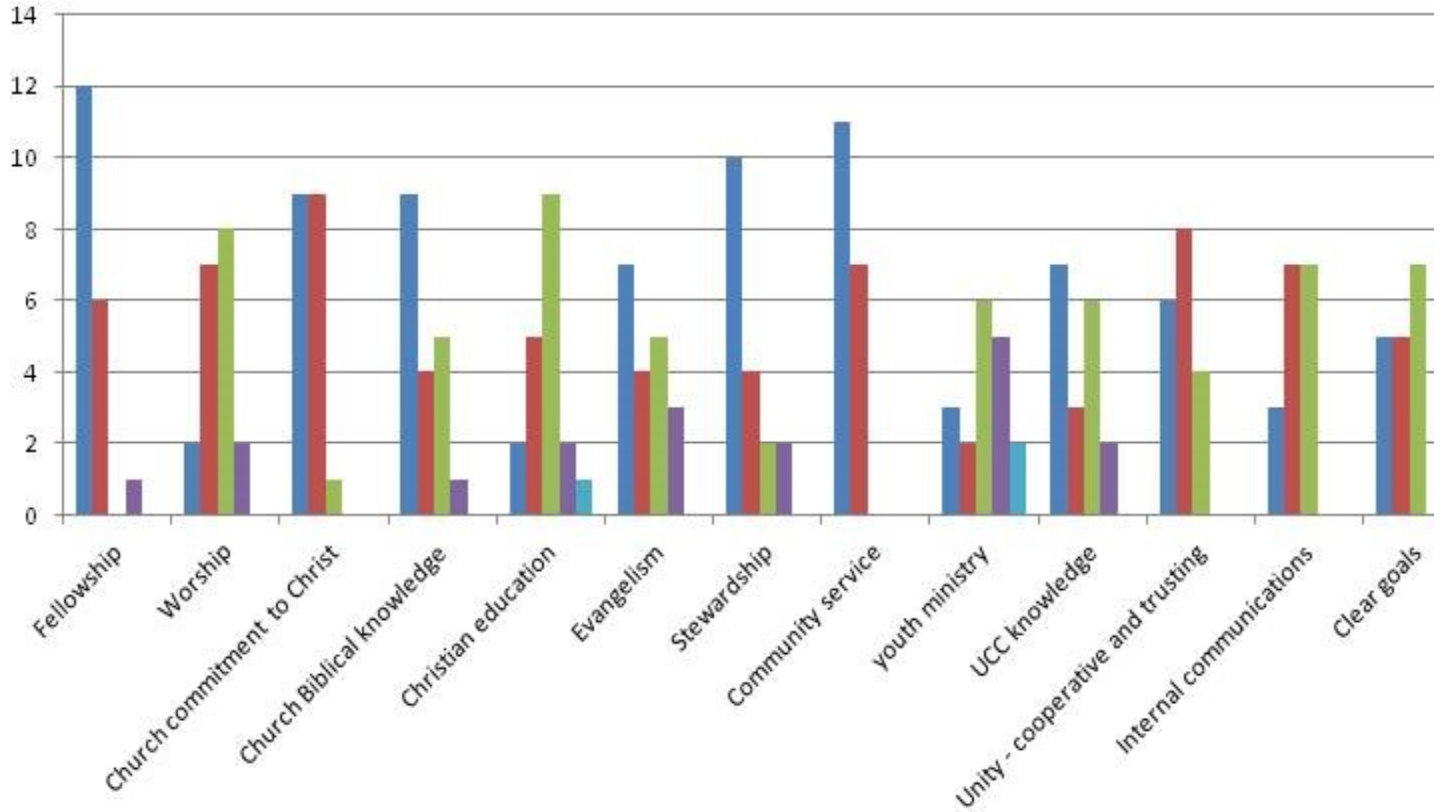
### ***Structure of the Church Body***

Our church is governed by a Council, which consists of a President, Treasurer, Clerk, and members of the Boards of Trustees and Deacons. This Council meets once a month. Major decisions regarding the life of the church are made by congregational vote, either at the Annual Meeting or a Called Meeting.

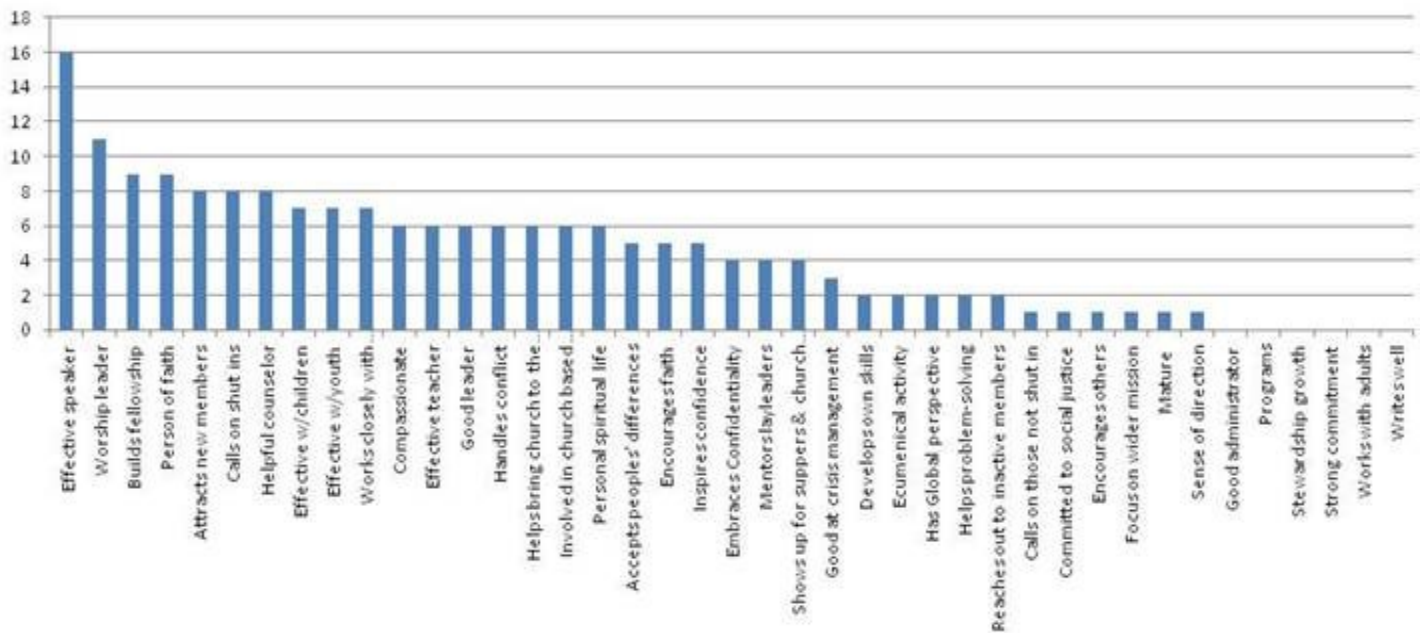
From 2008 until the Covid pandemic restrictions required us to stop in 2021, we held annual winter retreats intended to help us reflect on our calling as a church.

## *Pastoral Needs and the Church Survey*

### *Self Assessment of the Congregation*



### *Congregation's Priority for Pastoral Skills*



## *Web Presence*

We are on the Web at <http://eastsummercongregationalchurch.weebly.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/315705992230/>.

*For more information about local features:*

Town of Sumner - <https://www.townofsumner.me>

Grafton Notch State Park –

[https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/doc/parksearch/details.pl?park\\_id=1](https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/doc/parksearch/details.pl?park_id=1)

Black Mountain ski slope - <https://www.skiblackmountain.org/>

Sunday River - <https://www.sundayriver.com/>

Mt. Abram ski slope - <https://www.mtabram.com/>

Lewiston Franco Center for the Performing Arts - <http://www.francocenter.org/>

Theater at Monmouth <http://theateratmonmouth.org/>

Community Little Theater Auburn - <https://www.laclt.com/>

Oxford Hills Music and Performing Arts Association Norway - <http://ohmpaa.com/>

Bates College - <https://www.bates.edu/>

University of Maine at Farmington - <https://www.umf.maine.edu/>

Maine State Museum <https://mainestatemuseum.org/>

Celebration Barn Theater South Paris - <https://celebrationbarn.com/>

Zadoc Long Free Library Buckfield - <https://zadoc0.wixsite.com/zadoc>