

Our Vision

We will fuel the growth and prosperity of our blessed congregation and community through our tenacious and committed Christian energy in spreading the word of God. On our tireless journey we welcome believers of all ages to enjoy peace, spiritual nourishment and warm fellowship.

Our Goals

- Actively encourage membership growth
- Provide a variety of spiritual growth opportunities and activities for our church family and the community
- Cultivate and nurture wholesome activities for youth and children of all ages
- Visibly demonstrate greater involvement and ministry in the community and wider-church
- Achieve the church's financial goals in support of the growth and vitality of its ministries
- Uphold the tradition of being a caring and friendly church

All Welcome

Sunday Service 10:00 AM

Coffee Hour Following Service

Contact : Phone 603-899-5722

Website: www.rindgeucc.org



**First Congregational
Church and Society, UCC**

Rindge, New Hampshire

Phone: 603-899-5722

Website: www.rindgeucc.org

Greetings

Welcome to the First Congregational Church and Society of Rindge, New Hampshire. We are pleased you are interested in learning more about us and hope the description we have prepared will lead you to seek further information .

Just a few words about the picture on the front cover. It was taken from the 2006 Church Directory. This narrative was written by our late Pastor Jim Melhorn. “It is a departure from tradition not to include a picture of the Meetinghouse on the cover, but we wanted the cover to express more about ourselves than just where we meet to worship. We are a church, not a building! Central to our life together is the altar, which represents the offering of our lives in the service of our Lord and Savior. The candles represent the power and presence of God’s Holy Spirit, bringing life and inspiration when we gather. The loaf reminds us of the central role of communion in binding us together. As Jesus’ body has been broken for us, so too do we feed the world and share the bread of life with all who wish to gather around the table. A prayer shawl, flowing through the scene like the water of baptism, represents our commitment to those in need and comfort to those that are hurting.”



In the New England tradition, both the town and schools hold annual meetings in February/March of each year. Our town government is headed by an elected Board of Selectmen and a hired Town Administrator.

Excellent health care is available nearby with a wide choice of physicians, services and hospitals.

Rindge is also a social community. Its many active civic organizations include a Chamber of Commerce, the Woman’s Club, the Historical Society, The Pumpkin Organization of Rindge, as well as the Rindge Athletic Men’s Social Club (RAMS), a non-profit organization striving to enhance social and recreational facilities and programs for all ages.

We have a volunteer fire and ambulance department that is headed by a professional fire chief.

Mission Statement

We the First Congregational Church and Society of Rindge, New Hampshire, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, strive to answer God’s call to follow Jesus Christ. Sharing Christ’s love and peace, we live our faith through service to God. In our worship, we seek spiritual growth and fellowship. In the Spirit of Christ, we welcome all, valuing every person, and encouraging freedom of thought and mutual respect.

Our Community

Rindge is a quaint, picturesque New England village of approximately 6000 people located in the Monadnock region of southwestern New Hampshire. It is a rural recreational area, offering swimming, boating, hiking, biking, and all sorts of winter sports. Every year thousands of people climb Mount Monadnock, a truly beautiful mountain which dominates the view for miles and gives the region its name.

Rindge is centrally located in New England. It is approximately 70 miles to Boston, MA and 60 miles to Concord, NH, our state capital. Three major airports are within a 90 minute drive.

Rindge is home to the Cathedral of the Pines, a national Shrine dedicated to America's war dead. Thousands of worshipers of all faiths are drawn to this wooded sanctuary and its majestic view of Mount Monadnock. Easter sunrise service is especially popular. There are six other churches located in Rindge.

Our fine public school system is in cooperation with neighboring Jaffrey, one of a few "non-regionalized" school districts in the state. Several private schools are located in Rindge and surrounding communities. Franklin Pierce University, a four year liberal arts and graduate level university with an enrollment of 1600 students is also located in Rindge. Its extensive library and recreational facilities are offered to all area residents.



Cathedral of the Pines: Altar of Nations overlooking Mount Monadnock

Our History

The First Congregational Church and Society of Rindge was founded in 1764. After outgrowing the original building, the Second and Present Meeting House and Church was erected in 1797. It is one of only two remaining structures in New Hampshire that still serve the community as both a "meeting house" and church. Our beautiful sanctuary on the second floor has been renovated and features the simple beauty of colonial times. The Stevens Tracker Organ was built in 1871 with 1,500 pipes at a cost of \$2,500. The organ, considered among the finest in existence, was completely restored in 1996.

The First Congregational Church and Society has remained a vital force in the town of Rindge, striving to meet the needs of the people in religious, social and outreach programs.

Our Congregation

Our congregation is a diverse group representing a wide variety of theological backgrounds. We are united by our belief in the Trinity and our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. We believe our commitment to work together strengthens us and helps us develop a strong, hardworking, and caring lay leadership.

Our church is guided by its constitution, bylaws, mission and vision statements. The Church Council, the main governing body of the church meets monthly, as do most committees of the church. The Church Council consists of the Pastor, Moderator, Treasurer, Collector, Clerk, and representatives of the following committees: Trustees, Diaconate, Delegates, Christian Education, Missions, Music, Nominating, Pastoral Relations, Historian, Membership, Men's Club and Ladies Vestry Association/Evening Circle.

Our Church is an active member of the Cheshire Association and the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Sunday morning worship and coffee hour are an important part of the fellowship life of our congregation. Following the children's sermon in the sanctuary, our preschool through sixth grade youth go downstairs to Sunday School classes.



Children taking part in Sunday Service

Music is an important part of our worship service. Our adult choir participates in worship from September to June. Communion is held on the first Sunday of each month.

We have two adult fellowship groups: the Ladies Vestry Association/Evening Circle and the Men's Club. The church sponsors several fund raising fairs and suppers. Our youth activities include outings, overnights and youth-led Sunday services.

We are blessed with a friendly, dedicated group of 87 active members and approximately 15 youth of various ages. We seek to relate our faith to our everyday life. Christian education for all ages is an important part of our faith tradition.



Children's 2010 Christmas Pageant



Adult Choir