

**ST. FRANCIS IN THE FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

2081 Husband Road ♦ Somerset, PA, 15501 ♦ 814-445-7149
www.saintfrancisinthefields.org

A Prayer for the Election of a New Minister

Gracious and loving God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide the Discernment Committees, Vestries, and people of St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches through this time of transition and discernment.

We pray that your Holy Spirit continues to open our hearts and minds to new opportunities and ideas; so that we may follow where you lead — knowing that Jesus Christ walks with us each step of the way. Empower each and every member of the Discernment Committees and Vestries to use their gifts for ministry to the fullest; to share their thoughts openly and honestly; to respect the opinions of others; and to encourage humility, patience, and joy.

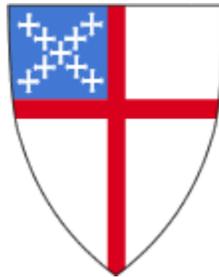
Finally, instill in all the people of St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields a glorious vision of the future; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we may be united in love — with warm hearts, enlightened minds and open arms — so that we may gladly accomplish the mission to which you are calling us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



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Note: The quotes that appear in text boxes throughout this parish profile are taken from the 2023 Parish Survey and Self-Study completed by St. Francis in the Fields congregants.



Welcome to St. Francis in the Fields

We have prepared this parish profile to help those interested in serving as our priest in charge to learn about us, understand who we are, how we worship, and how we serve God. Our faith and relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a life-long journey; one we hope our new priest in charge will reverently and eagerly join in. It is a time of both excitement and disquiet as we move forward in our journey of faith as members of the body of Jesus Christ.

We consider ourselves a small church with a strong history of commitment to each other and the community. We welcome others with open arms and hearts to worship with us and to be a part of the family of Christ. We are a community of people, following Jesus who are committed to being grounded in faith, filled with hope, called to love, open to mystery, and engaged in mission. We are a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Episcopal Church USA, and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

“Welcoming group of people who are active in helping those in need in the community. As Jesus did, we strive to include and be a space for those who are excluded or might feel forgotten.”

St Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church was founded in 1958 and began meeting for worship services in the New Centerville Grange Hall on December 28th of that year under the name of *Somerset County Protestant Episcopal Church*. This mission church officially adopted the name *St. Francis in the Fields* on October 13, 1959. Groundbreaking and laying of the cornerstone for the new church and parish hall was held on July 23, 1961. Easter Sunday, April 22, 1962, was the first worship service in the new church. Soon after, a rectory was commissioned and built on the church grounds in 1963. This year we celebrate our 65th anniversary and pray that God will bless us with many more milestone celebrations in the years to come.

We know that much has changed since our humble beginnings, presenting our parish with both new challenges and opportunities. Two challenges of note were the tensions that arose within the Episcopal church resulting in the loss of our own rector and a significant number of members; and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on traditional forms of worship and fellowship. Both, however, provided new opportunities to grow in God's love and carry forth His mission within our church family, the community, and the world. We know that, with God's guidance, we will find a new priest in charge who will walk with us on our journey of faith and lead us forward.



Approach to Transition

Our priest in charge, with the support of our parish and the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, entered into a period of discernment beginning January 2023 and concluded that process with the announcement in June that God had called him to serve Him along a different path. The Diocese approached our parish and another church in the geographic area to consider sharing a priest. A June 2023 meeting was convened by the Bishop and open to all parishioners of St. Francis and St. Mark's (Johnstown, PA) to discuss the opportunities sharing a priest would provide to the two congregations, as well as the challenges the 25-mile distance between the two parishes would present. After prayerful and thoughtful consideration, a Covenant of Explorative Partnership was signed by the two parishes and approved by the Bishop.

Each parish has its own Transition and Discernment committees. The Transition Committee at St. Francis in the Fields will coordinate activities to celebrate our departing priest, organize supply clergy and lay ministers to continue worship services until a new priest is identified, and welcome our new priest in charge. The Senior Wardens of the two parishes are in communication with each other and the designated diocesan Canon liaison. The Discernment Committee at St. Francis was tasked with the preparation of this parish profile drawn from historical and current church documents, 2023 Parish Survey and Self-Study, and publicly available information. The co-chairs of the two respective Discernment Committees coordinated their respective surveys and self-study to align on core questions about characteristics of the priest we seek, importance of in-reach and outreach ministries, preferred worship practices, and thoughts regarding sharing a priest.

We recognize that part of the transition process will be the need to work through the multiple challenges inherent in sharing a priest with another parish that is geographically distant from our own church. Those challenges include Sunday worship times; scheduling of High Holy and Feast Day services, as well as fellowship activities, community events and Vestry meetings; and availability and location of the priest for pastoral guidance. As the process continues, we also expect other challenges will be identified, however, the core issue will be learning to share. We further acknowledge that there should be opportunities that partnering with another parish may achieve. For example, a mutual exchange of new ideas, sharing of successful *Faith in Action* activities and parishioner expertise, and possibly additional hands to assist with individual parish projects.

Following 6 months of explorative work under the Covenant of Explorative Partnership signed in July 2023, St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields notified the diocese of our respective desire to jointly seek a shared, full-time priest. To that end, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was mutually prepared by the diocese and two parishes to extend the partnership between St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields. The MoU affirms the Parishes' commitment to search for and call a shared, full-time priest to serve both communities as their Priest-in-Charge. The MOU also defines key aspects of how the Parishes will work together.

Guided by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we seek to be united in love for each other — with warm hearts, enlightened minds and open arms — so that together, we may gladly accomplish the mission to which each of us and our new priest are called to serve.



St. Francis in the Fields Parish and Family

Somerset County was left with no Episcopal Church in the 1930's when the Protestant Episcopal Church in Meyersdale, PA closed its doors. Efforts were made to revive the church with no success until the mid-1950's when Bishop Austin Pardue informed representatives from Somerset they must find 5 individuals interested in establishing a church. In the spring of 1958, permission was granted to advertise for prospective members with 12 people responding. Together those individuals contacted Bishop William Thomas (Pittsburgh diocese) to present their interest in establishing a Protestant Episcopal Church in Somerset. A November 1958 meeting at the New Centerville Grange Hall garnered the attendance of 60 people which led to the formation of an Executive Committee to begin formation of this mission church, temporarily known as *Somerset County Protestant Episcopal Mission*.

The first Eucharistic service of the newly formed mission church was held on December 28, 1958 in the New Centerville Grange Hall. Services continued at the Grange Hall for the next two years. The name St. Francis in the Fields was adopted by congregants on October 13, 1959. One year later, the vestry announced the purchase of 8½ acres of land 1½ miles west of Somerset borough chosen as the site of the new church building. Groundbreaking and laying of the cornerstone for the new church and parish hall occurred on July 23, 1961. The first service in the new sanctuary occurred Easter Sunday, April 22, 1962 with an afternoon dedication service of the church and parish hall on September 30th of that same year. Later that year the plans were approved for the new Rectory to be built on the church property; and the rectory was completed March 1963. The Pavilion located behind the parish hall was erected in 1971. The Memorial Garden was added in the late 1990's followed by the addition of the Columbarium and patio in 2001.

The parish's commitment to extending its mission through community-based fellowship activities began in 1964 with the first annual Peach Festival and the proceeds also helped the congregation meet its diocesan assessment. Though the festival is no longer held, the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper begun in 1968 continues to today. Over the years, multiple different community-based outreach activities have been initiated and several are still held on annual basis.

We are very thankful for our beautiful and well-maintained buildings and grounds; however, it is the congregants who express their faith everyday through their *"care and concern for each other and the local community in a Christ inspired manner"* that are our greatest blessing.

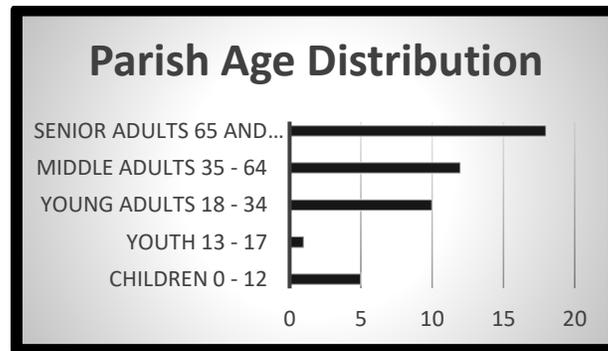


"A friendly community with good worship service; active fellowship; and helping some good community services."

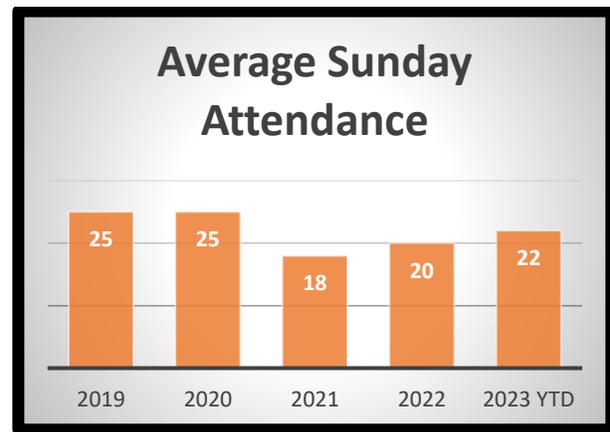
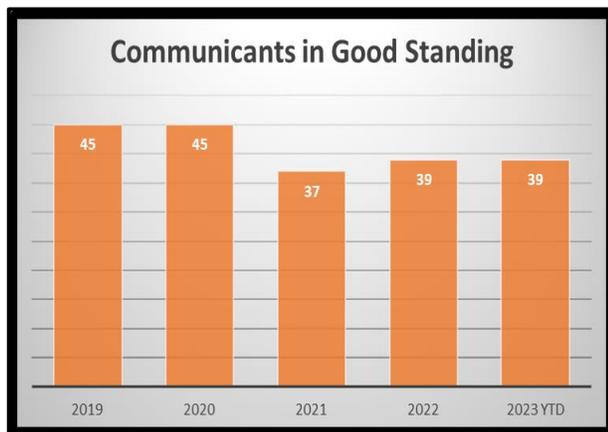
Demographics

St Francis in the Fields draws its members from primarily throughout rural Somerset County with most congregants living in the borough of Somerset and the remaining parishioners traveling from outlying boroughs. Somerset County has a total area of 1,081 square miles with the centrally located borough of Somerset serving as the county seat. The county has an aging population with the median age within a 10-mile radius of the parish being 45 years old. There is minimal diversity with only 3% identifying as Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Multi-racial or Other.

Our congregants reflect the age and diversity demographics for our area.



Our member rolls have changed in recent years as our parish has aged. Our average Sunday attendance (ASA) trended down during the pandemic, but with the addition of live streamed worship services and recruitment of new members the ASA is returning to pre-pandemic levels.



The 2023 Survey and Self-Study respondents self-identified as follows.

- 80% are ≥ 65 years old
- 60% are married and the remainder are widowed/divorced/separated
- 85% are retired/retired active professionally
- 55% are "Cradle" Other Christian denomination, 30% are "Cradle" Episcopalian
- 55% have been members ≥ 26 yrs, 45% are evenly spread across 1-25 years

(60% of surveys distributed were completed and returned)

Our Values, Our Vision

We are people of faith. We ground our trust in God in Holy Scripture, summarized in the historic Creeds of the Church, received through faithful tradition, and understood and experienced through redeemed reason.

We are people of hope. We look forward to the fulfillment of God's promises outlined in the Lord's Prayer and expressed in our worship - particularly cherishing the Book of Common Prayer that shapes us in a lifestyle of prayer.

We are a people of love. We seek to live out the 10 Commandments in the light of Jesus' Great Commandment to love God and to love our neighbor.

We are people who are open to mystery. Convinced of the reality that God works spiritual grace through physical means - especially through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion - we open ourselves to the various ways Jesus seeks to reveal himself to us that we might be transformed and made more like him.

We are a people in mission. We take seriously God's call to serve others and to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real to all; so we commit our time, talents, and treasure to make God's love known in practical ways as God calls us, whether lay person or clergy.

*We are a community of people following Jesus,
who are committed to being grounded in Faith,
filled with Hope, called to Love,
open to Mystery, & engaged in Mission.*

The above Vision Statement was adopted more ten years ago and aligns with the Mission Statement adopted in 1993. The 2023 parish survey and self-study of the St. Francis congregants asked if the above Vision Statement continued to reflect our parish. Seventy-five percent (75%) responded that it did, with another fifteen percent (15%) undecided, and ten percent (10%) felt it was time to evaluate the Vision statement.

The results of the survey identified that the welcoming, friendly God-centered environment brought people to the church; and the sermons, liturgy, music and strong fellowship within the parish and community is what led them to stay.

"Each individual phrase still describes our parish."

"All important in living a Christian life"

St. Francis has a history of resilient parishioners who have worked hard to make us what we are today. The 2023 Parish Survey and Self-Study identified four main areas of strength noted below. In addition, there were recurring comments that highlighted our perseverance and commitment to the church.

- **Welcoming and Friendly Church Family**

St. Francis is a church family that is welcoming and caring not only for its own members but for the Somerset community at large. Coffee hour each Sunday provides time for fellowship and connecting with each other as well as getting to know new parishioners and visitors.

- **Living Their Faith**

The St. Francis parish members are active in the community. We give our time and talents to organize events for the community including an ecumenical Vacation Bible School each summer and a free Community Dinner. We also have an active group who participate in the Beloved Community sponsored by the Pittsburgh Diocese. Others give their time to prepare and distribute to those in need (Women & Children's Shelters) Grateful Heart Purses filled with personal care items and other necessities.

- **Buildings & Grounds**

St. Francis in the Fields Church, Parish Hall and Rectory sit on 8½ acres along a main country road just outside the Borough of Somerset. The Church seats 175 and has a connected Parish Hall with full kitchen. The Memorial Garden and Columbarium are next to the Parish Hall patio. The 2-story cottage style ~2700 sq. ft. Rectory contains 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths plus a full partially finished basement, enclosed 3 season room, and attached 2-car garage. Pictures throughout this document depict the building and grounds.

- **Sermons, Liturgy and Music**

Our Sunday services are a source of fellowship and comfort. We have enjoyed sermons that are relevant to everyday life and others that explain the historical significance of the Gospel and Lessons. Our small but dedicated choir is led by the organist. Anthems are offered on holidays, special celebrations and periodically throughout the rest of the year.



Our Challenges and Opportunities

Our challenges are the outcome of several sentinel events in the last 15 years that have caused our parish to be in an idling mode. The 2008 split in the Episcopal Church of America caused a traumatic and painful division in our thriving and growing parish, including the loss of our Rector. Disruption in worship and fellowship activities created the need for innovative ways to address the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. These two events significantly affected the atmosphere and growth of our parish.

When questioned regarding growth and changes that would be welcomed, parishioners indicated that we need to focus on new members of all ages, especially young adults; and to be flexible and open to new ideas.

- **Numbers – New Members / Focus on Young People**

Many of our members are of retirement age though we are a very vibrant and active congregation. Several of our younger members have married in the last 3 years and some have begun families of their own. We aspire to keep these families engaged and to also attract other young adult members. An important byproduct of adding new members is the availability of more hands to help with outreach. **Our challenge** is to increase the number of members regardless of age.

- **Growth and Change – Flexibility / Open to New Ideas**

As we age there is comfort in the familiar that tends to limit a willingness to be open to change. One growth area repeatedly cited in the 2023 Parish Survey and Self-Study is the provision of a room for small children during worship service that includes activities of interest and support. The parishioners also desire programs such as children's sermons and the reinstatement of Sunday school to strengthen our faith as we continue on our Christian journey. Another growth opportunity noted would be the occasional inclusion of contemporary liturgy and music. **Our challenge** is to retain our openness to change.

- **Opportunities – Return to Fellowship Activities from Pre-Covid-19 Pandemic**

The 2020-2022 Covid-19 pandemic stopped most face-to-face fellowship activities. Our parish once again offers several in-reach and outreach activities. Examples include our annual (free) Summer Community Dinner, Parish Advent Dinner, Election Day Sausage Sandwich Sale, and Sips, Savories & Sweets summer gathering. There are however multiple activities that are no longer offered that may provide renewed opportunities if reinstated. Some examples are Rhythms of Grace (ministry to individuals with special needs), Frank's Friends (ministry to children of the community), Healing Ministry, and parish outings to celebrate congregant birthdays and anniversaries.

We desire a priest who will infuse the congregation with energy and enthusiasm; and who will strengthen us as we move forward to address our challenges and embrace our opportunities.

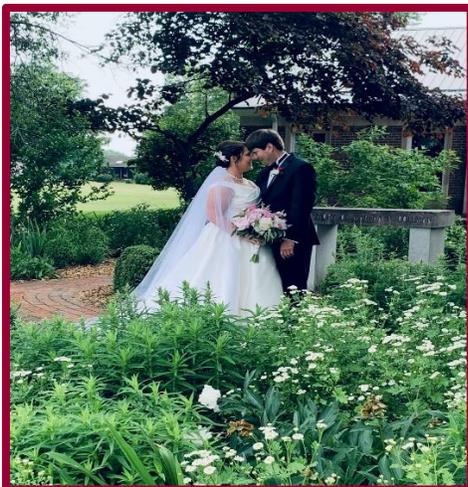
How We Grow in Our Faith

Sunday services are important to our parish. Services are a time for fellowship with each other and growing together in our faith. St. Francis' liturgical style is Traditional. There is one service on Sunday that celebrates Rite 1 from the Book Common of Prayer. Hymns from the 1982 Hymnal are accompanied by piano or organ music.

Parish services are supported by the members who serve as lay readers, acolytes, organist/choir director, substitute pianists, and choir members. Altar flowers and Christmas/ Easter potted flowers are donated by parish members or supported by the parish budget. A weekly Fellowship/Coffee Hour is coordinated and provided by the parish members. A sample of services offered in addition to the Sunday Morning Eucharistic Service are noted below.

- Morning Prayer – 11 am on Fridays.
- Ash Wednesday – Eucharistic Service with Imposition of Ashes.
- Holy Week – Maundy Thursday & Good Friday liturgies at 7 p.m. Stations of the Cross is generally done during this week either on Wednesday or Friday.
- All Saints – Eucharistic Service with reading of the Necrology.
- Thanksgiving Eve – Evening Prayer
- Lessons and Carols – One Sunday in Advent, members volunteer to read lessons or provide special music followed by the Parish Advent dinner.
- Children's Christmas Pageant – Children of the parish and extended families are invited to participate. The Pageant is held on a Sunday during Advent.
- Weddings – Pre-marital counseling classes are provided by the priest. The Parish Hall and Memorial Garden are available for receptions.
- Funerals – The organist generally plays preludes, postludes and hymns. ECW members are available to coordinate a meal in the Parish Hall following the service if the family desires.

St. Francis in the Fields began to provide virtual services using WebEx for our congregants during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We continue to live stream our services for parishioners who are not able to attend in person. The services are recorded and then made available through the parish's You Tube channel. [Saint Francis Episcopal Church - YouTube](#) A weekly parish e-newsletter is prepared and distributed to our parish family and friends.



Our Faith in Action

The parishioners of St. Francis are generous in giving of their time, talent, and treasure both locally and internationally.

- Monthly contributions are collected for the priest's discretionary fund.
- Pleas for international aid are generally addressed with collections for the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.
- Each summer the local food pantries are canvassed and those with food insecurity are invited to a chicken barbecue provided by the parishioners and served on our grounds.
- St. Francis joins with another local church to provide an exceptional Vacation Bible School for the community each summer.
- Our Episcopal Church Women organization spearheads many of our outreach activities.
 - Faith in action is evidenced by our homebound ministry; honoring veterans; Meals on Wheels dessert provisions; and the sponsorship of 2 World Vision orphans.
 - Each Easter Saturday an Easter Egg Hunt and children's service for our parish family and the community is held on the parish grounds.
 - We also participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service by preparing meals for Next Step Center residents and Habitat for Humanity workers.
 - Our Grateful Purse project provides gently used purses filled with personal care items and necessities for those in need.
 - The United Thank Offering is collected twice each year.
 - Every year a theme for the ECW is chosen and outreach programs are matched to the theme. Frequently, the monthly speaker's charity (such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library) is the recipient of funds donated to them by the ECW.

These are but a few of the many ways God's people at St. Francis in the Fields put their faith into practice.

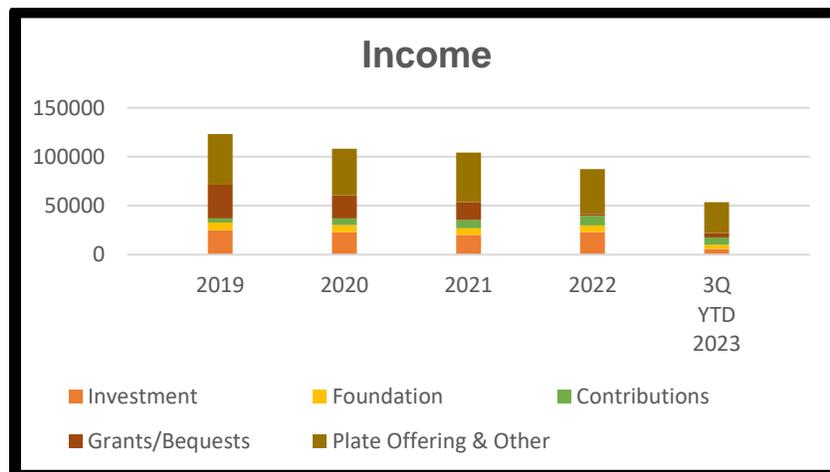


Investments and Cash Flow

We are blessed to have a long-term investment account that has provided funds to supplement our plate offerings, foundation distributions, and fundraisers in support of the parish.



Our Vestry, Treasurer and Investment Manager thoughtfully and consistently monitor the needs of the parish against funds available so we meet all diocesan obligations and operating expenses. We have been the fortunate recipient of numerous grants and donations over the past 65 years, especially at the outset of our mission parish. More recently we have received a grant to fully fund replacement of the roof of the church and parish hall; a PPP (Covid-19) loan that was forgiven in total; a diocesan technology grant; and a grant to supplement the replacement of the church and parish hall gutters. The following tables reflect our income and expenses for the past 5 years (2023 is current through 09 30 2023).





As result of the discernment process undertaken by our priest, our expenses for clergy compensation decreased by half in 2023 (the diocese provided additional financial support for this endeavor). Our priest had also served as the permanent supply clergy for another parish some distance from Somerset. St. Francis had a Letter of Agreement with that parish which funded his services to that parish. The loss of that income began in July 2023. Both are reflected in the above table.

Stewardship

Stewardship reflects the Time, Talent and Treasures given by the parish members in support of the mission of the church, locally, nationally, and globally. We are blessed to have a committed and active group of volunteers who freely and consistently give their time and talent. For example...

- Provision of music and choir direction for all services
- Maintenance of 8 ½ acres of grounds, including mowing and landscaping
- Provision of administrative, financial and investment functions
- Participation in Diocesan activities such as the United Thank Offering and Beloved Community
- Support of the parish’s Episcopal Church Women which selects and provides monthly outreach to its members and local groups/organizations, in addition to the support of two Rwandan children through fundraisers and member donations

The Vestry uses an estimate of giving based on the recorded plate offerings and other contributions from immediate past years to prepare the annual budget. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, plate offerings and other contributions remained consistent with minimal fluctuations from one year to the next. The confluence of the impact on individual parishioners because of the pandemic and the aging of other parishioners has caused the vestry to adjust the estimate of giving for 2024.

Our Local Community

Nestled on the eastern end of the [Laurel Highlands](#) of western Pennsylvania, the Borough of [Somerset](#) is the county seat and largest community in Somerset County. Historic Uptown Somerset sits on a high point overlooking the surrounding landscape and offers small, locally owned shops, restaurants, and other businesses. Both the Somerset County Courthouse and UPMC Somerset, part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center network, are within walking distance from the “Diamond,” the main square in town.

Basic demographics of the county include:

- Population - 73,627 (estimated 2021)
- 4.1% Non-English language spoken at home
- 12.9% poverty rate
- Other larger boroughs - [Meyersdale](#), [Stoystown](#), [Berlin](#), [Rockwood](#)
- Institutions of Higher Education: [Somerset County Technology Center](#), [Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Somerset Center](#)

This region of the state is renowned for its recreational opportunities, available all four seasons. Several state parks and a state forest ([Forbes State Forest](#)) are located in Somerset County, and the activities residents and visitors enjoy include skiing, snowboarding, bicycling, kayaking, hiking, boating, bird watching, geocaching, camping, fishing, hunting, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, skeet shooting, golfing, zip lining, and ATV riding. Recreational (and employment) hubs in the area are: [Seven Springs Mountain Resort](#), [Hidden Valley Resort](#), [Laurel Hill State Park](#), [Mount Davis](#), and [Kooser State Park](#). The [Great Allegheny Passage](#) trail runs through the southern part of the county.



As part of the Allegheny plateau, the Laurel Highlands experience all four seasons, each with its beauty and benefits. The fall is particularly beautiful with many visitors coming to see the colorful leaves and enjoy the fall harvest. During the winter, the area hosts skiers and snowboarders from all over the east and the midwest at the three principal ski areas: Seven Springs, Hidden Valley, and Laurel Mountain (in neighboring Westmoreland County). Importantly, Somerset County is also rich in agriculture with small family farms located throughout the county. The region is well known for its maple syrup production, as well as other food products (like Snyder of Berlin potato chip).

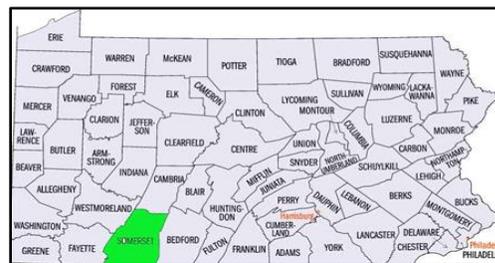
In addition, the county is steeped in history, beginning with colonial and early American settlements in the 18th Century, as highlighted by the [Somerset Historical Center](#), to more recent sites of historical significance, such as the [Flight 93 National Memorial](#) in Shanksville and Somerset's [Quecreek Mine Rescue Site](#). The historic [Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor](#) also runs through the region. Some of the annual festivals and events hosted include:

- January: Fire & Ice Festival (Somerset)
- April: Pennsylvania Maple Festival (Meyersdale)
- July: Seven Springs Rib & Wings Festival (Seven Springs),
- August: Somerset County Fair (Somerset)
- August: Laurel Hill Bluegrass Festival (Somerset)
- August: Seven Springs Wine Festival (Seven Springs)
- September: Farmers and Threshermens Jubilee (Rockwood)
- September: Mountain Craft Days (Somerset)
- October: AutumnFest at Seven Springs (Seven Springs)
- November: Light Up Somerset (Somerset)

Travel to and from the region is convenient. The Borough of Somerset is located adjacent to Exit 110 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 70/76), and the Pittsburgh International Airport is a 1 hour 45 minute drive to the west. [Amtrak](#) has stations in nearby Greensburg and Latrobe (in Westmoreland County) that allow passengers to travel by train east to New York City and west to Chicago and beyond. A public airport in Latrobe, [Arnold Palmer Regional Airport](#), has daily flights on Spirit Airlines to and from Myrtle Beach and Orlando, Florida.

Somerset County is flanked by Bedford County to the east and Westmoreland and Fayette Counties to the west. All three counties are also rich in recreational activities, cultural institutions, and historical sites.

While Bedford County is smaller in population (47,461 in 2021), it has an active arts scene that includes the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Bedford, the Off Pitt Street Theater Company, and the Bedford Fine Art Gallery. The Borough of Bedford, also known as a spa town, is the county seat and features several important historical centers: [Old Bedford Village](#), [National Museum of the American Coverlet](#), and [Fort Bedford Museum](#).



Westmoreland County to the west—and to the east of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County—is much larger with a population of 364,663 (2020 Census). Greensburg, the county seat, has a number of renowned cultural institutions, including the [The Westmoreland Museum of American Art](#) and the [The Palace Theatre](#). The county's many historical sites include [Fort Ligonier](#), [Historic Hanna's Town](#), [Bushy Run Battlefield](#) and the [Compass Inn Museum](#). The county also holds several important institutions of higher education: the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Seton Hill College (Greensburg), Westmoreland Community College (Youngwood), and St. Vincent College (Latrobe). The historic amusement park, [Idlewild & SoakZone](#), beloved by many people from the Pittsburgh area and beyond, is located in Ligonier.

Fayette County (2021 population estimated at 126,931) is southwest of Somerset. [Uniontown](#) serves as the county seat and is famous for the original McDonald's Big Mac. The county is home to [Ohiopyle State Park](#)—popular for whitewater rafting, [Fort Necessity National Battlefield](#), Frank Lloyd Wright's [Fallingwater](#) and [Kentuck Knob](#), [Laurel Caverns](#) and the nationally renowned [Nemacolin Resort](#).

The Leader We Seek

St. Francis parishioners seek a priest who wants to be a part of our church family and grow in faith with us. The 2023 Parish Survey and Self-Study identified three essential core qualities that we feel are important in a new priest and to being a good fit with our parish family.

- **Strong spirituality and role model for our parish and the community**

St. Francis' parish would like to engage a priest who is passionate about sharing knowledge and the love of Jesus. We seek someone who communicates well from the pulpit and provides sermons that the entire congregation will understand. This communication includes not only vocabulary and Biblical knowledge, but volume and cadence as well.

- **Open to new ideas**

St. Francis' parish would like a priest who helps to lead and expand our current activities; and who seeks new and creative ways to grow our faith and increase our numbers. The congregation is open to innovative ideas and new initiatives.

- **Communicates well and builds trust in the community**

St. Francis has a long history of fellowship, worship and outreach through many community events and congregational programs that promote healing, hope, and inclusion. Our congregation consists of vocational and professional individuals, whose personal and professional interests have helped to create parish focused community programs. Regardless of size, St. Francis has a tradition of annual community dinners and ministries geared toward a variety of participants. We are a people with a mission and strive to live each day representing our hope, faith and love through our parish activities. These events are held in the Parish Hall and our parishioners willingly volunteer their time to advertise, set up, cook, make deliveries, serve meals, and clean up. The congregation would like a priest who is not only a presence at the events, but who enjoys participating in the activity and socializing with patrons.



The survey also identified the following characteristics as strongly preferred in our priest.

- Thinks strategically about church direction and initiatives.
- Conducts hospital and homebound visits.
- Provides visits &/or phone calls to parishioners who are absent from Worship services.



Useful Links

St. Francis in the Fields – Home Page

<https://www.saintfrancisinthefields.org/>

St. Francis in the Fields – Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094242776792&sk=followers>

Entertainment Landmarks

Dressler Arts Center
Somerset

<https://laurelarts.org/>

Mary S. Biesecker Public Library
Somerset

<https://maryslibrary.com>

Jean Bonnett Tavern
Bedford

<https://www.jeanbonnettavern.com>

Green Gables Restaurant
Jennerstown

<https://greengablespa.com>

Jennerstown Speedway Complex LLC
Jennerstown

<https://www.jennerstown.org>

Children's Amusements:

Menser's Mini Golf
Somerset
On Facebook

Jake's Mini Golf
Somerset
On Facebook

Terrace Lanes Bowling Center
Somerset

<https://www.terracelanes.net>

Star-Lite Roller Skating Center
Somerset
On Facebook

Curious Creations Studio
Somerset

<https://curiouscreationsstudio.com>

Boutiques:

Kindred Soul Apparel
Somerset

<https://www.kindredsoulapparel.com>

One Free Spirit Boutique
Somerset

<https://www.onefreespiritboutique.com>

Ivory Buck Boutique
Salisbury

<https://www.shopivorybuck.com>

Fig and Ivy Market
Somerset
On Facebook

The Lace Sparrow Boutique
Rockwood

<https://thelacesparrow.com>

Fitness:

Somercycle Limited
Somerset

<https://www.somercycle.com>

Mystic Moonlight Yoga Studio
Somerset

<https://mysticmoonlightyoga.com>

Crossfit Revival Fitness
Friedens

<https://crossfit-revival.com>

Rockwood Biking and Hiking Trails
Rockwood

<https://gaptrail.org/where-to-go/sites-amenities/trailheads/>

Specialty Food and Bakery Options

Cascio's Fruit Market

Somerset

<https://www.casciosfruitmarket.com>

Great Day Juice Company

Somerset

<https://www.greatdayjuice.com>

Heirloom Pines Farm Coffee shop and Bakery

Somerset

<https://www.heirloompinesfarm.com>

SoCo Farmers Market

Somerset

<https://soco farmersmarket.com>

Moo Echo Dairy

Somerset

On Facebook

Health and Wellness

Jar the Zero Waste Store

Somerset

<https://www.jarzerowastestore.com>

Duella Fern Co.

Online store

<https://www.duellafern.net>

Mindful Body & Wellness, LLC (Includes
Reflexology, Reiki)

Somerset

<https://www.mindfulbodyandwellness.com>

Bloom

Somerset

<https://bloombytoni.com>

Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries

Glades Pike Winery

Somerset

<https://www.gladespikewinery.com>

Stone Villa Wine Cellars

Acme

<https://stonevilla.com>

Bella Terra Vineyards

Bedford

<https://www.bellaterravineyards.com/bedford-1>

Greendance The Winery at Sandhill

Mt. Pleasant

<https://www.greendancewinery.com>

Rusty Musket Distillery Co.

Boswell

<https://www.rustymusketdistilling.com>

Tall Pines Distillery

Salisbury

<https://tallpinesdistillery.com>

Stone Bridge Brewing Company

Johnstown

<https://www.stonebridgebeer.com>

Whitehorse Brewing

Berlin

<https://www.whbrewing.com>

Forbes Trail Brewing Co.

Stoystown

<https://www.forbestrailbrewing.com>

Trailhead Brewing Company

Rockwood

<https://drinktrailhead.com>

Many national dining options (Ruby Tuesdays, Starbucks, Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Pizza Hut, etc.) as well as locally owned restaurants (Rey Azteca, Pine Grill, Summit Diner, My Girls, etc.) are also available in Somerset County.



Saint Francis in the Fields

1958 – 2023

**65 Years of Sharing God's Love with
Our Parish Family and Friends**