

Finesville Church is the community church of Finesville, NJ and impacts on the greater Pohatcong Township located in New Jersey's Warren County. On the west the village is bordered by the Delaware River and Riegelsville, PA. North of Finesville is the more highly populated towns of Alpha, NJ and Bloomsbury. Across the beautiful Musconetcong River to the south is Holland Township and Milford, NJ. Once a community that thrived on the nearby Fibermark Paper Mills, Finesville is now a peaceful village enjoyed by many who find the beauty of restored farm houses, mills, church and general store nestled beneath long standing timber to be perfect for their lifestyle. On the outskirts of town several of our congregants farm the land on beautiful homesteads while others work in various businesses nearby. The area is peaceful, quiet, a haven for its inhabitants.

The church itself effectively ministers to about 45-50 each week. This group is a cross section of the community and the median age is representative of the community surrounding it. The same goes for race, ethnicity, economic and educational diversity. Though the congregation generally consists of mature adults, when families with members under 21 do attend they are warmly welcomed and childcare is provided. Finesville Church is definitely *not* a "spectator" group but rather an involved congregation who love being together and serving side by side.

The joy of a smaller church is relationships. The people care for each other, welcome new folks of any age, are not cliquish or territorial, and serve anywhere they see a need. Gathered worship is gently celebratory, simple, follows a regular cadence including the clear reading and teaching of the Scriptures, classic hymns, worship songs, meaningful shared prayer, and a unique "liturgy" where the Doxology, sometimes the Lord's Prayer or Apostles Creed, and the Benediction are included. Lest we forget, every service concludes with a beautiful Finesville tradition: The singing of "God Be with You Till We Meet Again;" a hymn written in the 1800's by a worshiper at Finesville for the congregation. It is a precious way to end each gathering.

We are seeking a caring Pastor. For the past 26+ years Finesville Church has been blessed with a loving Pastor and his wife and family who effectively ministered to the congregation. Ministers are often called to be preachers, pastors, leaders, counselors, visionaries, and more. While Pastor Widger provides clear biblical teaching and preaching, gentle leadership, and counsel to the flock, his primary role and clear calling has been to shepherd the flock. A Finesville pastor will feed the sheep, guide the sheep, guard the sheep, bring healing when needed, share in the lives of the congregation and community. In essence he will love the sheep. We are not seeking to replicate Byron's ministry but *will* be seeking a man with a Pastor's heart.

Finesville Church is a Bible Fellowship Church that ministers in accord with the Faith and Order of the BFC. Our highest allegiance is to the Scriptures. Recognizing and appreciating the autonomy of the local church, we seek to be biblically sound in our teaching, polity, and functioning as we live out our faith in community. We have elders and deacons and call a pastor

in accord with the BFC. We function effectively as a body without more structure than is necessary. The elders serve as the BFC required Pastoral Relations Committee. The church family uses their gifts to care for the overall ministry of the church

Finesville is committed to world missions and our giving reflects that commitment. Locally we host a regularly used Food Bank housed in the lower level of the building. Over the years we have supported missions in Africa and Mongolia, handicap ministries in the United States, college campus ministries in Pennsylvania, and more. We maintain contact with our supported missionaries and annually evaluate our giving with missions as a priority.

The church is financially stable, provides a well-appointed and maintained parsonage for our pastor in nearby Alpha, spends carefully but generously, gives priority to local and foreign missions, cares for its property, is debt free and pays for our needs as they arise. The salary and benefits provided for our pastor are generous and the elders and people are responsive to providing as needed for their shepherd.

Our facilities are well cared for and currently more than adequate. The grounds are beautifully maintained and include a restored train depot that was rebuilt by residents in conjunction with the local Historical Society. During the warmer months we enjoy worship outdoors beside the Depot beneath large shade trees. The Sanctuary is well maintained and welcoming. Although it is not handicapped accessible, for those who cannot use the stairs, a "live feed" is available on the ground level. The church kitchen is adequately equipped and used regularly. It is a country church that is well suited for the people we serve.

The community appreciates and respects the church ministry. Even those who don't attend are often included in our prayer times. There is no other church nearby, evangelical or otherwise. We provide space as needed for outside groups including the Food Bank and local Historical Society. Finesville is clearly a "village church."

Opportunities and needs to strengthen our church include provision of ministry to individuals and families of all ages as the congregation expands. Handicapped access is concern that is being addressed. Parking is adequate for the immediate future, but could present challenges in days to come. As the population of the area grows, Finesville Church is committed to effectively share the Gospel and minister to the community in which they have been planted.

A man of God, whether single, married, or with a family, will be warmly welcomed and cared for by a loving church community. A wonderful country church, we believe Finesville will continue to thrive under the leadership of a loving Pastor who is committed to being an integral part of the congregation and nearby community.

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