

<b>Name of Church</b>
First Church of Christ in Saybrook (Congregational)
<b>Address</b>
366 Main St Old Saybrook, CT 06475
<b>Conference:</b>
Southern New England
<b>Association:</b>
Middlesex
<b>Title</b>
Intentional Interim Pastor
<b>Start Date</b>
Dec 16, 2025
<b>Description</b>
First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Intentional Interim Pastor

### Church Contact Information

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860-388-3008 (Church Primary Phone)

info@firstchurchsaybrook.org (Church Email)

### Listing Information

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#### Web Presences

<http://firstchurcholdsaybrook.org> *Type: Professional*

<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchos> *Type: Other*

<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchos/> *Type: Other*

#### Additional Formal Ecumenical Affiliations

NA

#### UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person

**Name:**

Leslie Jackson

**Title:**

Area Conference Minister, South Central Region

**Phone:**

860-761-7188

**Email:**

Jacksonl@sneucc.org

**What we value about living in our area.**

First Church of Christ in Old Saybrook is a historic and caring UCC congregation rooted in worship, music, relationship, and service. The Church was established in 1646 in the Great Hall of Fort Saybrook and has served for over 380 years. We are currently discerning who God is calling us to be in a changing world. We are moving toward becoming a more outward-facing, spiritually grounded, and welcoming church that makes joy and faith real through vibrant worship, deeper discipleship, authentic relationships, and consistent community engagement, especially for children, youth, families, and future generations. To get there, we need thoughtful leadership, honest reflection, and a season of healing and alignment that strengthens our internal systems, clarifies priorities, and builds shared vision. We are seeking an interim pastor who will provide inspiring, biblically based worship services, walk alongside us with compassion and wisdom, love us as we discern our long-term future, and help prepare us faithfully for our next settled minister. We are seeking leadership guidance in revising our bylaws, streamlining and clarifying the roles of our ministries, improving communication, and prioritizing initiatives. We value living in Old Saybrook, a shoreline town known for its natural beauty, strong schools, civic involvement, and vibrant arts and cultural life. We seek to reflect those strengths by being a visible, engaged, and generous presence in our community.

**Current size of membership**

130

**Average in person attendance**

50

**Does your church hold virtual worship services?**

Yes

**Choose platform type(s) and number for virtual worship.****Video Hosting Platform**

On average, how many views are received per service?

300

**Languages used in ministry**

English

**Position Title**

Intentional Interim Pastor

**Position Duration**

Intentional Interim

**Compensation Level**

Other

**Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines?**

Yes

**Link to current Conference guidelines**[Download compensation guidelines](#)**Scope of Work**

Select the expectations of the church's next pastor using the list below and following the Call Agreement Workbook.

Some additional goals for the pastor may also be included here. Expectations should be reasonable based upon the compensation level selected above; for example, a ¼ time pastor likely has time for Worship Leadership, preaching, service preparation, and possibly emergency on-call pastoral care.

**Expectations:**

- Worship Leadership, Preaching, Service Preparation.
- Church Administration, Newsletter, Communications, Staff Supervision.
- Leadership with Church governing body and committees.
- Pastoral care, visitation of hospitalized, homebound, and members in care facilities.
- Special services (weddings, funerals, liturgical year services).
- Maintain collegial and denominational relationships.
- Mission and service involvements.
- Other expectations: please provide a list.
- Help update bylaws

**Compensation and Support**

The salary basis comes from the Call Agreement Workbook, equal to Cash Salary plus Value of Parsonage/ Housing Allowance. The Conference can assist in determining these amounts or provide a worksheet to be used to calculate these values.

SALARY AND BENEFITS OFFERED: SALARY BASIS: ITEM OFFERED	AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE(IF DETERMINED)	IS THIS NEGOTIABLE	PASTORAL CANDIDATE DETERMINES
Salary (Cash basis determined from Conference/ Association Guidelines)	50000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Housing Allowance	21000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any Experiential Difference (Related to years of experience)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salary Basis: 71000			
Pension/Annuity	9940	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security and Medicare Offset	5432	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical/Dental Insurance	12000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Life Insurance	700	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability Insurance	365	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worker's Compensation	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If needed, please comment further on your church's salary and benefits for the minister.

*No response*

The expected living situation for our next minister.

living elsewhere to commute as needed

If a parsonage is provided, will the church offer a home equity allowance to the pastor? (The recommended guidelines for a home equity allowance is equal to 1.5% of the average home value in the community; this is considered taxable to the minister. The Housing Equity Offset should not be calculated into the Salary Basis upon which other Benefits are determined. Churches should consult a tax advisor prior to establishing any account for an equity allowance to ensure compliance with IRS rules on nonqualified deferred compensation plans.)

No

*No response*

How our church will adopt part-time adjustments in the pastoral schedule to support a minister's bi-vocational employment.

Total hours worked is expected to be approximately 30 to 35 hours weekly. We would expect at least one day weekly in the church office. The church office will be available to the minister any additional time if desired.

**Additional reimbursements the next Pastor can expect to receive as part of their employment:**

Conference and/or Association meeting registrations

Criminal background checks.

Community of Practice Participation.

**Peer and professional supports available for ministers in our association/conferences.**

*No response*

## Who Is God Calling Us to Become?

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"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

**Who God is calling us to become as a congregation.**

God is calling us to be more relevant and engaged in our community, to deepen our Christian faith, and grow. We are invited to continue our journey towards being a compassionate, outward-facing, spiritually grounded, and welcoming church that makes joy and faith real through vibrant worship, deeper discipleship, authentic intergenerational relationships, and increased community involvement. We are being called to honor tradition while responding to a rapidly changing and divisive world by extending Christ's love through service, especially to those seeking connection and hope. An important calling to make an impact beyond our walls is to engage people where they are and identify critical human needs in our community and beyond.

To learn more about our ministries, visit <https://firstchurchsaybrook.org/ministries>

**How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation.**

Since 2023, First Church has engaged an experienced external leadership consultant to help the congregation address emerging challenges and opportunities while developing a long-range vision plan. A Vitality Team was formed to strengthen an open and welcoming culture and to create an action plan responding to declining attendance, listening for the pulse of the community, and identifying meaningful mission opportunities. In 2024, a Vision Team was established to guide a structured visioning process. Building on the congregation's 2022 and 2023 Appreciative Inquiry work, the senior pastor led an "I Have Been Meaning to Ask" worship series to clarify our purpose and direction. As a result, First Church adopted a new purpose statement: "Making Joy and Faith Real." Interviews were conducted with local organizations, including Rotary, Youth & Family Services, and the Estuary Council of Seniors. A draft vision statement was in progress when the pastoral transition began, and the congregation looks forward to completing this work with its next pastor.

First Church maintains a variety of active ministries. We host a weekly dinner and Bible study gathering and continue to deepen our commitment to being WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged). While our Christian Education program is currently smaller, church school is offered weekly along with Confirmation and teen programming, including mission trips in partnership with Westbrook Congregational Church.

Additional recent initiatives include Braver Angels workshops on bridging political divides, a spiritual meditation series, partnership with the Witness Stones Project and local schools to honor Phillis Jackson, month community family nights that include a free meal and activity and a Christmas toy drive in which congregants fulfilled every requested gift for Youth & Family Services.

## 11-Year Report

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Download a copy of the 11-Year Report developed with the help of our conference staff and UCC Data Hub.

[🔗 Download 11-Year Report](#)

## Congregation Demographics

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Describe those who participate in your church.

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:	130
NUMBER OF ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS:	15
TOTAL OF CHURCH PARTICIPANTS (SUM OF THE NUMBERS ABOVE):	145

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Describe the total participation of the church:

DEMOGRAPHIC	NUMBER
MEMBERSHIP 5 YEARS AGO:	150
MEMBERSHIP 10 YEARS AGO:	250
WEEKLY ADULT EDUCATION ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	8
YOUTH MINISTRY ATTENDANCE: (IF ANY)	8

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

Number of total participants by age:

AGE	NUMBER
0-11	5
12-17	3
18-24	2
25-34	0
35-44	10
45-54	10
55-64	30
65-74	35
75+	35

ARE THESE NUMBERS ESTIMATES?

Yes

**Staff and Volunteer Leadership**

**List of all current staff:**

STAFF OR VOLUNTEER POSITION	WHO GUIDES THE WORK OF THIS POSITION?	COMPENSATION	LENGTH OF TENURE FOR CURRENT PERSON IN THIS POSITION
Sexton	Minister	part	2 years
CE Director	Minister	part	3 years
Admin	Minister	part	2 year
Nursery (2)	CE Director	part	1 year
Choir Director	Minister	part	1 year
Jazz Band (4)	Band Lead	part	6 years
AV Tech	Minister	part	1 year

**Reflection: What this information reflect about our congregation's overall ministry:**

This information reflects a congregation that is committed, grounded, and hopeful. Like many churches today, we are adapting to shifting demographics and the practical realities of limited time and volunteer capacity. Our ministries are largely volunteer-led, and our staff positions are part-time, which calls us to be intentional about priorities and sustainable rhythms. At the same time, we cherish meaningful worship—especially music—Christian education, and deep community connection. We are eager to partner with a pastor who can help us build on these strengths, strengthen sustainability, and grow our outward-facing ministry.

**Church Finances**

**Current Annual Income**

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	169000
Endowment Proceeds (as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)	53000
Endowment Draw (beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal")	40000
Fundraising Events	8000
Facilities Rent	51000
<b>Total</b>	<b>321000</b>

**Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year):**

*No response*

Attach most recent church budget, spending plan, operating statement, or annual treasurer's report as shared publicly with the congregation, or – if your church does not pass an annual budget—list current budgeted expenses here.

*No response*

**Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church?**

No

**Total amount of loan debt:**

*No response*

**Reason for debt:**

*No response*

**Are capital and other payments current?**

Yes

Does the church currently have any endowments? If so, what are the values of those endowments?

Endowment:

1646000

Endowment:

343000

Endowment:

45000

### Capital Campaigns

Description of any building programs projected or underway.

N/A

### Pictures

Does the church have a parsonage?

Yes

Fair market rental value of the parsonage:

*No response*

How is the parsonage used?

*No response*

Street

376 Main Street

City

Old Saybrook

State

CT

Zip

6475

Finished square footage:

4990

Number of Bedrooms:

4

Number of Bathrooms:

1

Assessed real estate value:

*No response*

Available for minister residence?

No

Expected minister residence?

No

Condition of structure, systems and appliances

*No response*

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs

*No response*

Parsonage pictures

Describe all buildings owned by the church and include pictures:

*No response*

Description of non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church:

*No response*

Accessibility features of our building(s):

Exterior access such as ramps for wheelchair users or people requiring other mobility assistance  
 Accessible parking spaces  
 Interior access to different floors for wheelchair users or others with mobility aids (elevator, chair lift, ramps)  
 Access to worship spaces, including chancel and pulpit, for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids  
 Access to child care spaces for wheelchair users and people with other mobility aids

Listening devices in the sanctuary, or wireless technology to connect to hearing aids  
 Wheelchair access in bathrooms  
 Handrails on all stairs  
 Sound system in sanctuary and other meeting places (fellowship hall, large meeting rooms, etc.)  
 Curb cuts  
 Wheelchair areas in sanctuary (other than "front or back")

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs:

We have had an accessibility audit that is available for review upon request.

## Historical Information

Significant happenings in the history of our church that have shaped the identity of our congregation.

First Church of Christ in Old Saybrook was founded in 1646 and has maintained a continuous presence in the community for more than 380 years, shaping our identity as a congregation rooted in faith, tradition, and civic engagement. Our historic meetinghouse and long-standing role in the life of Old Saybrook continue to inform our sense of responsibility to worship, serve, and care for our neighbors. A significant milestone was the congregation's decision to join the UCC in 2021, to clarify our commitment to inclusivity, thoughtful discernment, and shared covenant. In 2022 FCC became UCC WISE. A behavioral covenant was established in 2018. Over the past decade, the introduction and growth of our jazz worship service expanded our understanding of worship, music, and community connection. We initiated online worship during the pandemic. After the pandemic, our traditional and jazz services were combined into one service.

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**Ministerial History:**

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*Name:* Todd Yonkman*Years of service:* 3

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*Name:* Ed Cornell*Years of service:* 6

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*Name:* Robin Blundon -interim*Years of service:* 1

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*Name:* Donna Cassity-interim*Years of service:* 1

---

*Name:* Ketih Jones - interim*Years of service:* 1

---

*Name:* William Lovin*Years of service:* 10

---

*Name:* John Hay*Years of service:* 2

---

*Name:* Audrey Murphy-interim*Years of service:* 1

---

*Name:* Ed Couch - interim*Years of service:* 1

---

*Name:* Paul Manson*Years of service:* 3

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*Name:* Anita Kaire -interim*Years of service:* 2

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*Name:* Stephen Jones*Years of service:* 4

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*Name:* David DeReveer*Years of service:* 22

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*Name:* Craig Whitcher*Years of service:* 5

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**Community Vision**

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**How the relationships and activities of our congregation extend outward in service and advocacy.**

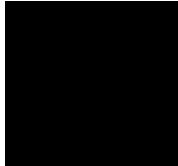
Our congregation is actively extending outward in service and advocacy. Our building serves the community via the Heat & Eat program, Community Food Cupboard, Red Cross Blood drives, Early Learning Center, Scouts, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, and other community groups. WISE is promoted at all our community events. The men's group runs community service events. Our annual Pet Blessing services are held at the town green (this year 100 attendees). Our women's group delivered thank-you cookies to civic orgs. We host well-attended annual St. Nick Breakfasts, Easter Egg hunts, and Family Fun nights. We ran a very successful toy drive for Youth and Family Services. FC has a prominent booth at Saybrook's summer festival and Winter Chili cook-off. Our annual pumpkin patch sales benefit the Navajo Nation. Our Youth Mission trips remain popular, meaningful, and well supported by our community. All church events are shared on social media, inviting the community to join us.

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using language shared with other UCC congregations, through Just World Covenants or affiliations with other groups. Check any of the following partnerships which your congregation has formally adopted, or movements which otherwise apply to your congregation.

WISE Congregation for Mental Health.

## References

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Amy Hollis

Completed: Tuesday, Mar 10, 2026

Role: Rev. Amy Hollis, Executive Director, SSKP

Relationship: SSKP Pantry in Old Saybrook is located at First Church of Christ in Saybrook

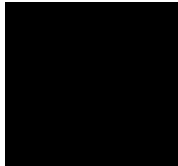
Primary Email Address: ahollis@shorelinesoupkitchens.org

Personal Cell: 8602272599

### Reference Response

As Executive Director of Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) I am grateful for the support of First Church of Christ in Saybrook. Sharing of space free of charge enables neighbors to assess food and fellowship. FCC in Saybrook has provided storage for one of our pantries, and programming space for distribution for many years. With their generous support the SSKP Pantry in Old Saybrook is able to provide groceries weekly to residents in need.

Approximately 6% of our neighbors (6000 people) received ongoing grocery support from SSKP in 2025. Through the SSKP Pantry in Old Saybrook (at FCC OS) more than 200,000 pounds of food is shared annually to more than 850 registered guests. Food & fellowship are common threads linking us in service and humanity. Together we make a difference and can say proudly that all neighbors in our region are welcome and have access to food & fellowship.



Sue Stevens

Completed: Tuesday, Feb 24, 2026

I am the owner/director of Shoreline Early Learning Center in the educational building at First Church of Christ of Saybrook.

Primary Email Address: shorelineearlylearningcenter@gmail.com

Mobile Phone: 2036870173

### Reference Response

I have had a working relationship with First Church since November of 2019, when we first toured the space. Since then, we have worked closely with the church's administrative staff, pastors, and board members. I have seen the church in transition both before, during, and after Covid.

Since becoming the owner in December of 2023, I've worked closely with the church on many projects, including helping secure a reputable contractor to install mini-splits in the chapel, obtain quotes and secure a contractor to redo the concrete patio and railings in the front of the church just to name a few. We've assisted with many community events, as well as coordinating shared use of space so all of the organizations that use the building can co-exist.

First Church is a deeply community-focused congregation and a valued member of the Old Saybrook community.

## Closing Prayer

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We pray for a minister who seeks God with humility and courage, and who trusts the Spirit's guidance in seasons of transition. We hold fast to the promise, "See, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). May our shared journey be marked by grace, listening, healing, and joy, as together we discern God's call and prepare the way for what is yet to come.

## Statement of Consent

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### 1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?

*For example, church council or consistory, transition team, etc.*

In keeping with the covenantal relationship between a church and those called to serve, we affirm that the information in this profile is shared honestly and in good faith, to the best of our knowledge, and is intended to support open and healthy discernment. We understand that candidates may seek additional perspectives and encourage that exchange as part of faithful relationship-building. The contents of this Local Church Profile were developed through the work of the Pastoral Search Committee, with input from church leadership, ministry teams, and congregational discernment processes.

**2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:**

This profile reflects a congregation that is committed, self-aware, and hopeful. Like many churches, we are navigating changing demographics and limited volunteer capacity. Our ministries are primarily volunteer-led, with part-time staff, requiring thoughtful priorities and sustainable rhythms. We cherish meaningful worship, especially music, Christian education, and community connection, and seek a pastor to help us build on these strengths and grow as an outward-facing congregation.

**In Our House You Can Find**

**Spiritual Guidance,**

**Opportunities to Help in  
Our Community,**

**Understanding of the Bible and  
How it Resonates with Today's**

**Life and Experiences,**

**Energetic and Engaging  
Congregation,**

**All Are Welcome!**



**WE BELIEVE  
IN MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE!**

Whether you are looking to volunteer, participate in our programs, or simply to find a supportive community, we welcome you

Find Us On Facebook and Instagram

@firstchurchOS

First Church of Christ

366 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 am - 2 pm

860 388-3008

info @firstchurchsaybrook.org

www.firstchurchsaybrook.org

**First Church  
of Christ  
in Saybrook**



**Making Joy  
and Faith Real!**

**No Matter Where You  
Are in Life's  
Journey, You Are  
Welcome Here!**

**Did You Know We Rent Space  
for small gatherings?**

***Call and Ask about***

**Fellowship Hall and Kitchen**

**The Connector w/ kitchenette**

**The Fireside Room**

**Church Sanctuary**

**Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals.**

# JOIN US

**Men's Fellowship:** to share, connect and serve. 4th Saturday 8 am

**SALT:** women's group to share, connect, and serve. Call for Time

**Shoreline Prayer and Meditation:**

Wednesday at 5:30 pm

**Bible Study:** Every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 6 pm

**Sunday School:** Pre-K to 8th Grade

**Child Care:** up to 3 years. Sunday 10 am



With 380 years of experiences, our church has seen many changes. We are committed to facing the future in a welcoming, inclusive, supportive way, bringing our community together.



We share abundance and joy.



## SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY

### at 10 AM

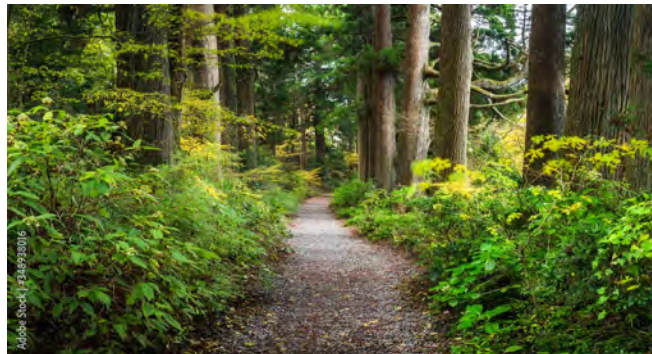
### featuring our

### Jazz Band

### Streaming Live on Facebook



Come to a place that embraces and encourages you to share in His Grace.



## Serenity Path

Is open to everyone. Walk with nature, enjoy the view, sit, relax, meditate, or pray. Entrance is in the rear of the parking lot.