

FY 2025 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

**First Church of Christ in Saybrook
(Congregational)
United Church of Christ**

**366 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475**



**Annual Meeting
September 28, 2025**

The Annual Meeting of the First Church of Christ in Saybrook (Congregational, UCC) will be held Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 11:15 a.m. (after the 10:00 am worship) in the sanctuary, for the following purposes:

1. To discuss and accept the 2024-2025 Treasurer's Fiscal Year Report.
2. Receive and accept the yearly reports of officers, ministry groups, teams, committees and organizations (2025 Church Annual Report).
3. To receive and approve the names of those being nominated for elected church offices.
4. To transact any other business that is necessary and proper for this meeting.

By order of the Leadership Board
 Alan Ringen Moderator
 Old Saybrook, CT

Agenda

The First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational Annual Meeting

September, 28, 2025, at 11:15 AM

In the Church Sanctuary

Call the Meeting to Order	Alan Ringen, Moderator
Reading and Approval of the Meeting Call	Alan Ringen, Moderator
1. Opening Prayers and Remarks	Rev. Kitty Coyne
2. Treasurer's 2024-2025 Year-End Report	Charlie McSorley, Treasurer
3. Acceptance of the 2024-2025 Annual Report	Alan Ringen, Moderator
4. Acceptance of the Nominating Team's Recommendation for Elected Leadership Positions	Alan Ringen, Moderator
5. Acceptance of the Leadership Board's Recommendation for Search Committee Positions	Carolyn Lyle
6. Recognition of 2024-2025 New Members, Deceased Members, and 50 plus year Members	Carolyn Lyle
7. Discussion of any new business	Carolyn Lyle
8. Adjournment	Carolyn Lyle
9. Closing Prayer/ Benediction	Rev. Kitty Coyne

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Membership Report

Membership as of June 30, 2024	200
Baptisms (In fiscal 2024)	4
Weddings (In fiscal 2024)	0
Funerals	3
Average Sunday In-Person Attendance	50
Christmas	
Eve 5 p.m.	112
Easter	
10:00 a.m.	110
Average Sunday Online Attendance Via Facebook	Approx 70 clicks

Special Recognition: 50 Year + Members

Lou	Bombaci	1961	Catherine	Lambrecht	1972
Janis	Esty	1964	Catherine	McEwen	1946
Frederick	Fitch	1955	Rosemary	McLaughlin	1970
Gloria	Fogg	1943	Suzanne	Millspaugh	1965
Herman	Gernhardt	1974	Gloria	Sparaco	1963
Lillian	Gernhardt	1974	Ellen	Stone	1968
Barbara	Harvey	1971	Christine	Suntheimer	1966
Valerie	Jacobsen	1967	Leonard	Suntheimer	1966

Member Deaths

Marilyn Cade: 1/28/25

Ruby Gagne: 2/15/25

Richard Bourne: 8/31/25

Bruce James Forbes: 2/22/25

Bruce Lumsden Forbes: 9/9/25

Baptisms

Austin James Huebner: 1/19/25

Henry Demers: 3/23/25

Samuel Gamble: 4/13/25

Morgan Valentine: 5/18/25

Welcome New Members

Bruce Bardos

Karen Deziel

Ron Deziel

Elected Leadership Board Members

For Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Moderator:	Carolyn Lyle
Vice Moderator:	_____
Church Clerk:	Robert Zenga
Treasurer:	Susan Esty
Trustee Chair:	Rick Allen
Trustee Vice Chair:	_____
Worship Support Chair:	Paul Liberty
Outreach Chair:	Alan Ringen
In-reach Chair:	_____
Communications Chair:	_____
Stewardship Chair:	Alan Ringen
Personnel Chair:	Bob Herrick
Personnel Co-Chair:	_____
Nominating:	Elaine McSorley
Volunteer Development Chair:	_____
Deacons Chair:	_____
Christian Education Chair:	Ali Foligno

Search Committee

Ali Foligno
 Diane Hilyer
 Nancy Chupak
 Dave Lyle
 Laura Colebank
 Alan Ringen

Moderator's Report

Leadership Board – July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

We have been working hard to move forward as a church, but sometimes we need to step back and reflect. Last year our Pastoral Discernment Committee recommended we call Rev. Dr. Todd Yonkman to be our settled pastor, and the congregation unanimously agreed at that point in time. At this point in time, we find ourselves beginning another search for a settled minister. I'm pleased to report we have a strong group of volunteers for our search committee. So far Ali Foligno, Diane Hillyer, Nancy Chupak, Dave Lyle, Laura Colebank, and I have stepped up, but we welcome any additional members that would like to participate in this process.

During our search process we will have pulpit supply and congregational care provided by Jeff Birch at least through the end of the year. The Association and Conference will be supporting us during our search and call process. They will coach us through the process, provide potential candidates, etc. We are not alone during this time of transition. As we continue with our single Sunday morning service, our choir, our Choir Director, Filippo Santoro, and our Jazz Band, will continue our wonderful music program. Similarly, nursery care and Sunday School classes started up again this fall. Many thanks to our board of Christian Education headed by Ali Foligno, and our Director of Children's Ministry, Kitty Coyne, who manage our Nursery and lead our Sunday School.

We continue to have many opportunities to volunteer at the church. Please offer your talents where you feel most called. Deacons, Christian Education, Trustees, Stewardship, Scholarship, Nominating, and other important missions are all available. If you are willing to help, please contact me, or better yet nominate yourself at the annual meeting. I'm sure we can get you connected.

The church facilities continue to be well utilized by Shoreline Early Learning Center, NA, Al-Anon, Circle of Strength, Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantry, Heat & Eat, Cub Scouts, a Bridge group, WISP, Con Brio, and Capella Cantorum.

As this is my last annual report as your Moderator, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the members of our Leadership Board and hard-working staff. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Moderator for the last four years. It is my hope we can all move forward Making Joy and Faith Real, while finding the fellowship and blessings in our church community.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Ringen
Moderator

Rev. Dr. Todd Yonkman – Settled Pastor Report

This is my final annual report as your settled pastor. For an appreciation of our time together I refer you to my farewell letter. 2024-2025 was a productive year. Many new initiatives including prayer and meditation group, Men's Breakfast, S.A.L.T. restart, and VBS with St. Paul Lutheran. Again, you can find a comprehensive list in

the farewell letter. I also increased my networking and visibility by joining the Rotary. Looking back at my 2023-2024 report I notice that some of the issues I identified there remain. Some have intensified, particularly financial anxiety as we face the possibility of spending up the Seward Fund, which we've been relying on for many years to cover budget shortfalls. Some might find it helpful to look back at that report for perspective.

FCC Saybrook continues to have a wonderful staff team that will serve the congregation well in the days ahead. I'm also grateful for the countless volunteer hours that make this congregation possible. In 2024-2025 the basic functions of congregational life continued: baptisms, funerals, wedding plans, 3 new members were received, pastoral care offered and received, weekly worship and holiday celebrations, building maintained. We will continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as FCC Saybrook writes the next chapter of its storied history.

Pastor, Parish & Worship Support

Deaconate Report

As we look to invigorate the deacons' role at First Church, we thank our new deacons that served 2024-2025: Erica Nierendorf, Ron Deziel, Bob Herrick, and Robert Zenga. Moving forward to 2025-2026, we have determined that our focus will be primarily on meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our congregation to the extent we as individuals and as a body can do so.

To that end, we have started to assist our members by making meals for those recovering from surgery and sickness, praying for those we are aware are in need of special prayers, and signing up to help a committee that has an upcoming church activity.

If there is some way that we can help you, please contact Kelly in the church office or email Kitty at kittycoyne@firstchurchsaybrook.org

The Deacons:

Nancy Chupak

Charlie McSorley

Erica Nierendorf

Ron Deziel

Bob Herrick

Robert Zenga

Parish Care

The Parish Care Team has worked closely with the pastor to provide pastoral and spiritual care to the members of the church who are in need of care. Home visits, assisted living visits, and hospital visits have occurred where one on one contact and support has been given. Active listening, administering communion, and praying together has provided beneficial, confidential support to those in need.

The outreach has included the delivery of flowers at Easter and Christmas time, homemade holiday cookie plates delivered individually, phone calls, and handmade cards (thank you Sue Jones!) sent out on an ongoing basis. The Parish Care Team has reached out to those who are homebound, ill, bereaved, or undergoing life changing events that impact the quality with which they are experiencing life.

The Parish Care Team puts the Christian values of love, compassion, and care into action. Demonstrating and living these values uplifts the congregation as a whole and gives particular focus on individuals in need.

The members of the team are Nancy Chupak, Diane Hillyer, Susan Jones, and Kathy Ridgway.

W.I.S.E.

First Church of Christ W.I.S.E. team annual report June 2024 – September 2025

The congregation of First Church of Christ in Saybrook approved our WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health) Covenant during the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 2, 2024, leading to certification by the UCC Mental Health Network (MHN) as a WISE Congregation. Bishop Allyson Abrams, President of the MHN and Deborah Ringen, MHN Board Member sent a congratulatory video that was viewed by the congregation during worship in August 2024. A certificate was received to be displayed at church.

The WISE Team including Pastor Todd Yonkman, CE Director Kitty Coyne, Ann Shea and Debbie Ringen have met monthly to plan programs, articles and ways to engage within the congregation and the community.

Postcards were printed to communicate our commitment to mental health at the Pet Blessing, Pumpkin Patch and Celebrate Saybrook. Bulletin board displays, midweek articles and ministry moments with Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services were some of the ways the covenant became real. In September 2024 we hosted Andrew Penna from BHcare behavioral health clinic to provide Narcan training. Debbie Ringen secured free Narcan from the CT Health Department to be placed in our First Aid and AED locations. Pastor Todd Yonkman regularly include mental health in sermons and initiated a Shoreline Meditation Group in the Spring of 2025 that continued until his departure in July. Mental Health Month in May was celebrated by weekly bulletin boards defining each of the WISE words. Handouts were available to increase awareness of local resources, 988 and practices to reduce stress and promote well-being. Mental Health Sunday was celebrated on May 18th which included a video during coffee hour geared toward helping children express their feelings. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Debbie Ringen, or call the church office to get the details.

Music Ministry Report

First Church Jazz Band Annual Report

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

In July of 2024 we find the First Church Jazz Band, comprised of John Gage on Drums, Mark Gehret on Bass, Ron Murray on Guitar, and Jeremy Taylor on Saxophone, in full summer swing. Our threshold moment song "Surely the Presence" lead our Independence Day worship service, with Pastor Todd Yonkman presiding. (Subsequently followed by "Spirit Draw Near" as the threshold moment song for the six-week worship series titled "Sacred Earth: Sacred Work".)

Though the Jazz Band is primarily known to play jazz music, this year we also tried our hand at 'Praise Music.' Songs such as "A Thousand Hallelujahs", "10,000 Reasons", "Heart of Worship", "God of Wonders", "I'm Trading My Sorrows", "Your Grace is Enough." And in September of 2024 we even used a praise song as our threshold moment, with "Why We Sing."

In the Summer of 2024 our choir director Curtis Serafin resigned. Thank you to the tireless talents of our substitute accompanists who graciously worked with the Jazz Band and Choir (not a common occurrence in church music!) while we searched for a new choir director. Those accompanists were Jackie Belmonte and Susan Higgins. Also, thank you to the Huebners who filled in for the Jazz Band in August 2024.

On Sunday, September 2, 2024 we welcomed our new and current choir director, Filippo Santoro, to First Church. Filippo not only graciously works with the Jazz Band, but occasionally plays with the Jazz Band on piano, trumpet, and saxophone! Welcome, Filippo!

Other highlights of 2024 included the Pet Blessing, which took place at the OS town green in August (playing in the newly refurbished gazebo). On December 22nd we held our annual Holiday Carol Sing with our First Church Choir, the First Church Jazz Band, and the Old Saybrook High School Choir (Dr. Jeremy Milton, director). We also had guest jazz pianist Carter Bryan that evening. The room could not have held more people! To round out the year, at our Christmas Eve service we had our very own Kelly Hurrell as special music on clarinet.

The end of December also marked the retirement of our original First Church Jazz Band drummer, Mr. John Gage. John was with us since our first Sunday at First Church back in 2018. We wish to acknowledge his dedication and his talent that he shared with us those six years. In the months following John's departure we have been blessed to have the talents of Dakota Singerline and Steve Tavares on drums as they are each available.

Starting in January of 2025, thanks to negotiations from Church Leadership, the Jazz Band began recessing the first Sunday of the month, providing both a break for the Jazz Band, and a more traditional church experience for the holy ritual of Communion.

We also began our Sundays in 2025 with weekly changing themes, but our threshold song was "Siyahamba." Then for the Lenten season which began in March, our threshold song was "Open the Eyes of My Heart" for

the worship series “Purveyors of Awe.” Lastly, for the Easter season, it was “Lord I Lift Your name on High” for the worship series “Resurrection Story.”

When it comes to the songs the Jazz Band chooses to play each Sunday, we try best to support the theme of said Sunday, be it sermon-based, series-based, or holiday-based. Examples include “Abraham, Martin, and John” for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, “Song For My Father” for Father’s Day Sunday, “Up Jumped Spring” for the start of Spring, or “Autumn Leaves” for Fall’s arrival. The Jazz Band appreciates the support of First Church in its continuing mission to spread the joy of jazz.

Faithfully submitted,

Mark Gehret

Worship Design Team

Worship Design Team Report – 2025

Our 2025 season of Worship Design was ushered in by the Advent and Christmas series, “*The Gift of the Present*,” which began in December 2024 and carried us into a wonderful new year. This series went off without a hitch, offering the congregation a deeply meaningful and visually stunning worship experience. A beautiful glass nativity scene was displayed on the chancel, serving as the heart of the season. Behind it, a breathtaking backdrop of shimmering glass bottles, generously donated by members of our community, was arranged to imitate the night sky. Handcrafted bows were carefully strung around the Sanctuary, transforming the space into one that was both festive and reverent. The series also provided the perfect backdrop for our very first **Breakfast with St. Nick**, which brought families together in fellowship and joy, and offered a beautiful setting for cherished photographs.

Following Christmas, we moved into the **Epiphany series**, highlighted by a striking light installation table.

Our **Lenten series**, “**Purveyors of Awe**,” invited the congregation to reflect more deeply on God’s presence in our everyday lives. Using the imagery of a camera lens, with various lenses highlighting different perspectives, the series encouraged us to “zoom in” and discover the ways God is revealed in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.

Our **Resurrection series**, which carried us through the Easter season, was anchored by the powerful imagery of keys. Each week, a large key was carried into the Sanctuary to symbolize the act of opening ourselves to God and allowing God’s presence to enter fully into our lives. This bold and simple visual created a strong and lasting impact for the congregation.

The summer months brought with them a homegrown worship series unique to First Church: “*Jazz and Joy*.” This lively series combined the talent of our jazz band with the rich tradition of spiritual jazz music, filling the Sanctuary with rhythm, energy, and praise. The joyful atmosphere created by this series allowed the congregation to experience God’s goodness in a fresh, celebratory way.

In addition to these major series, we also incorporated **special one-off services** and smaller design elements throughout the year. These worship “touches” varied depending on who was preaching or what the weekly focus required, ensuring that the Sanctuary remained a dynamic and engaging space for worship.

A special note of gratitude is due to **Kitty Coyne**, whose creativity and dedication have been invaluable. Kitty has consistently offered her artistic vision and input, picked up responsibilities for smaller services, and contributed beautiful elements to our larger designs. Her willingness to collaborate while also encouraging creative freedom has strengthened the ministry and allowed Worship Design to continue thriving.

At present, our ministry is in a season of pause, as our pastor has received a new call. Even so, we remain hopeful and prayerful, looking forward to incorporating new creative elements that will support and enrich the ministry of whoever God calls to serve with us next.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ali Foligno

Worship Design Team Leader

Trustees Group

Board of Trustees

The trustees are responsible for balancing the budget each fiscal year. We are also responsible for the Church property including the parsonage. We have to hire contractors, landscapers and repair companies to keep the Church in good repair. The largest expense in our budget is that of employees. Insurance is another item that is included in expenses. At this point, our expenses far outweigh our income. As a result, we must use our investments to balance the budget.

This year the ramp room door was finally installed. We still have to repair the damage in the ramp room itself.

We have had some parsonage expenses this year. The largest expense was a new dishwasher. The parsonage is an old house and as such will occasionally need repairs. At the present time, we have a wonderful tenant who does a lot of repairs himself.

Last year we discussed getting a discernment commitment together to determine whether we want to sell the parsonage or continue to rent it. That didn't happen, but we do need to get an easement separating the parsonage property from the Church property so that we can sell the parsonage if we decide we want to.

Once again, I must caution the congregation that we need to increase pledges and find different forms of income for the Church to continue into the future.

Elaine McSorley

Investments

FY 24-25 Investments Team Report:

The Investment Committee is responsible for managing six church funds – Legacy, Seward, Blair, Capital Improvement, Bell Choir and Varley/Barnes music. Currently the members of the Team are Craig Fanning, Alan Ringen & Charlie McSorley from the church and Bob Marcinek and Dave Delfino from our advisor Essex Financial Services. Additional volunteers willing to participate are welcome, see either Charlie, Alan or Craig.

Traditionally we take a moderately conservative approach to the investments overall, however we do have specific guidelines for managing the Legacy Fund. We also have several constraints for withdrawals from Legacy and Blair Funds. We meet after the end of each quarter during the year to review current performance and take any actions necessary to improve our investments. Primary investments are well established mutual funds such as Vanguard Wellsley and Wellington funds, as well as S&P Value and S&P Growth ETF's, US Treasury Bills and Fidelity Cash Reserves, etc.

The performance of our investments somewhat follows market trends, and for the 12 months ending June 30,2025 we faired pretty well considering withdrawals totaling \$93,005.45. We made several adjustments throughout the year to achieve a return slightly ahead of our chosen 65/35 Benchmark.

	June 30 2025	June 30 2024	% Change	
14000 · Restricted				
14010 · Legacy Fund	1,532,103.45	1,408,125.21	8.09%	* \$- 53,005.45
14020 · Seward Fund	42,536.93	77,684.00	-82.63%	** \$ -40,000.00
14030 · Bell Choir Fund	12,677.17	11,084.09	12.57%	
14040 · Capital Improvements	38,077.38	31,617.91	16.96%	***
14050 · Blair Fund	315,151.95	281,311.73	10.74%	
14060 · Varley/Barnes/Johnson Music Fun	30,641.49	27,343.82	10.76%	
14065 · Mem. Garden Investment Acct.	17,457.84	17,457.84	0.00%	
Total 14000 · Restricted	<u>1,988,646.21</u>	<u>1,854,624.60</u>	<u>6.74%</u>	

*

Withdrawn from Legacy to support Budget \$53,005.45

**

Withdrawn from Seward to support Budget \$40,000.00

-\$5,000.00 Ramp Room Door, + \$10,000.00 Donations

Charles McSorley, Alan Ringen & Craig Fanning

Stewardship – Giving Team

1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

The Giving Team of Jane Johnson, Craig Fanning and Paul Liberty (with significant assistance from Cathy Logiudice, Sarah Fanning, and Sue Liberty) wish to thank all those Members and Friends who are currently Giving and Pledging.

The Pledge drive this year resulted in 58 pledges totaling \$ 148,236. This is a decrease of 8 pledges and \$ 4,000 vs last year.

Over the last several years, we have been drawing dollars from the Seward fund, which was a bequest made many years ago is part of our investment accounts. But, the Seward Fund will be exhausted during the current fiscal year, so we can no longer rely on it to "plug holes" in our budget.

We have other invested accounts. But, many of them are directed, meaning the folks who generously provided these funds stipulated how they can be used. We also have The Legacy Fund, which is not directed, but the congregation voted some time ago that we would only use 4% per year for the Operating Budget, thereby ensuring that we would not exhaust it as was done with the Seward Fund.

So, where do we go from here? We can grow membership. We can increase the percentage of the congregation that is currently pledging and providing financial support. We can ask members that are currently pledging to increase the amount they're pledging. One avenue that we've explored and, most probably exhausted, is cutting expenses.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas that you'd like to share, please reach out to a member of the Leadership or Giving Team.

With thanks to all and thanks to our Lord.

Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden has added 4 new azaleas to its colorful Spring and Summer shrubs. In addition, a new granite stone is in place marking the fourth Grid "D."

There have been 241 interments to date. "Perpetual Care Fund" stands at \$40,569

Truman Jones continues to lead the work force, spending many hours maintaining the numerous plants and shrubs in the Garden. He also spends many hours caring for the front lawn and gardens, as well as the adjacent green across the street. Thank you, Truman!

The Memorial Garden is always looking for new members to lighten the load. If you are interested, please contact a current member.

Members: Cameron Bourne, Truman Jones, Norm and Sandy Swanson

Board of Christian Education

Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education offers oversight and guidance for Faith Formation and Christian Education. CE fosters opportunities for life-long learning and living as disciples in Christ. FCC's CE Programming strives to help young people to be themselves while learning about discipleship, faithlife, and forming community connections through serving others in a welcoming and affirming space. We take on this work in both Church School, children's worship programming, as well as family programming.

As a learning church we strive to be interactive, intentional, playful, and welcoming as we explore our faith together with our young people.

The Board of Christian Education is currently chaired by Ali Foligno. Christian Education programs are directed by Kitty Coyne.

Children's Ministries:

During our 2023/24 programming year we revived our tradition of blessing backpacks on Rally Sunday. We've continued with that tradition since then. CE (and families) supported our First Church Pumpkin Patch We held a Children's musical Christmas pageant, an ice cream social, hosted our Cub Scouts for Scout Sunday, continued to offer our Children and Youth Acolyte Guild, and had an Advent Wreath making workshop for all ages. Many of these activities have been ongoing since the 2022/23 programming year and we are very grateful for the support of both the CE team and families as well as the wider support of the congregation.

As we moved into spring we held our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on our front lawn for the third year. More than fifty children from our community came out to hunt for eggs for a second year. Community service projects in Church School included card making, and note writing to local veterans, and some care packages for distribution to local veterans.

New events we added during the 2024/25 program year include the Breakfast with Saint Nick event, and our Family Fun Friday nights. We were also delighted to launch a VBS program this year with the joint cooperation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church here in Old Saybrook. We hope to continue these events going forward.

We've also been working on a faith formation mentoring program where we help young people prepare for leadership roles in their faith lives. This includes older children helping younger children in classrooms, high school aged youth supporting classroom activities and lesson plans, and where there's a desire to prepare or deliver "guest" all ages/children's time worship content.

Average attendance for our church school has been 7 children, our highest attendance has been 14. Children come every week that Church School is offered. Average attendance is four children in Church School and three in our nursery.

Nursery Programming:

Our Nursery programming continues to grow. We currently have five families using the nursery with regularity. Peak attendance was six children in the nursery space during worship though the average holds at 3.5 for the 2024/25 year.

Shout out to Worship Design for helping CE with visioning the sets, scenescapes, and props that made our VBS launch so magical.

Deepest Blessings,
Kitty Coyne

¹ This year community projects were distributed with the help of a local chaplain with Hartford Health.

Teen Ministry

Our inter-church Youth Group serves high schoolers attending the congregational churches in the greater Valley Shore area. Currently we are made up of teens from Essex, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook.

Our teens typically meet two Sundays a month at the Westbrook Congregational Church, from 5:00-7:00pm. Our gatherings are filled with fun games, meaningful activities, deep learning, and hearty discussions (we've also been known to have some pretty cool snacks). Our goal is to find ways of showing kindness while living out our faith in practical ways. So, if your teen is looking for a safe place to hang out, meet some other great kids, and find meaning in their spiritual life, we're the group for them!

Our leadership team is headed by Becky Stambaugh, who also serves as the Director of Children and Youth Ministries with the Westbrook Congregational Church. She comes to this role with over 25 years of professional experience working with youth in public schools and in ministry. Rounding out the team are incredible pastors and lay people from our churches who supply additional sets of hands, hearts, and brains!

***Throughout the year, there are also opportunities for service projects, retreats, mission trips and periodic confirmation programming. Please reach out to Becky with any questions at becky@creativeCEolutions.com.*

In Reach

Vitality Team

We hosted and/or participated in several community events this past fiscal year.
 Pet Blessing-approximately 100 attended.
 Successful Celebrate Saybrook event with over \$300 sales
 Revived SALT women's group
 Pumpkin Patch
 Breakfast with Santa
 Braver Angels series centered around a Christian response to political polarization.
 Witness Stones Project to honor Phillis Jackson enslaved by the Hart family
 Supporting Saybrook Youth and Family services (school supply drive)

Men's Group

We started a new Men's Group (Fellowship), as of 1st of year. We have approximately 12 active members. Our focus is God in our daily life and experiences. Throughout the year we have meet and experienced different views on life journey, with God in our life and our families.

We have done different projects throughout Church as followed;

- 1.) scrap sand and painted interior windows in School area.
- 2.) resecure recess lights hanging in School area.
- 3.) repaired 6-doors in Fellowship hall, as well as Kitchen.
- 4.) we repair upper and lower Kitchen cabinets, to open and close properly.
- 5.) we repaired Fellowship Hall cabinets, to open and close properly.

We have had several Hikes planned and executed.

We have spread large piles of wood chips throughout trails rear of Church.

We have appropriated funds, to move forward on removing remaining wood pile, rear of Church.

We had 3-Church members volunteer to help pay for wood chipper.

We would like to thank and appreciate these members and their Families, for reaching out and supplying funds so we can move on to complete this project. We are continuing to advance with additional events established.

We meet the fourth Saturday each month from 8-10 am, with a free will offering for breakfast.

At this time I would like to take this opportunity to thank Todd Yonkman, Paul Liberty, Allen Ringen and our chef Zachary Deziel for cooking and setup each and every month. I would like to thank all the rest of Men's Group (Fellowship), for all their hard work dedication and fellowship. Without them none of this could be accomplished.

Yours in Christ Ron D

Outreach

Heat & Eat

Heat and Eat is a non-denominational organization that meets once a month at First Church to prepare, cook, and package then disperse healthy meals to the pantry system clientele. The organization meets the third Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m. til around noon. This year we gave out meals all but one month due to a staffing issue. These meals are always different. The numbers were 6,250 packaged meals and 250 quarts of homemade soup during the colder months. Desserts are donated by a small group of bakers each month to accompany the meals. The average cost of providing meals to approximately 130 clients is \$150.00 per month. Paper goods run close to \$100 per month. We have tried cheaper alternatives but they do not hold up well. We try to capitalize on things on sale at our local grocers but buy the rest in bulk from BJ's, Costco, and Restaurant Depot. The current balance is \$2103.

Respectfully submitted Tina Kozlowski Heat & Eat

Scholarship Team

Scholarship committee report - 2024-2025

The First Church Scholarship team awards three different scholarships: The Reginald Blair Scholarship, The Lolly Bassett Music Scholarship, and the First Church of Christ Scholarship. The Blair Scholarship is awarded to graduating Old Saybrook High School seniors who have proven themselves to be hardworking and dedicated students and demonstrate a financial need as established by the Blair Fund. Congratulations to Savannah Durand, she is a graduating senior at Old Saybrook High School is this year's recipients of the Reginald Blair Scholarship. Savannah will be attending the Southern Connecticut State University of Connecticut, majoring in Nursing. Congratulations to Drew Demers, a graduating senior at Old Saybrook High School. Drew is the recipient of the Lolly Bassett Music Scholarship. This scholarship was established in honor of Lolly's extraordinary contribution to First Church music programs. It is to be awarded to a deserving student pursuing advanced music education. Drew will be studying psychology, with a minor in music at the University of Vermont.

Prayerfully submitted,

Alan Ringen

Congratulations to both scholarship recipients--we wish you all the best in this coming year!

Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report FY 2024-2025

Thanks be to God that we have anonymous benefactors that came through with generous donations when most needed. We ended the year with operating income an amazing +7.13% above budget. That allowed us to reduce the amount needed to be withdrawn from the Seward account and savings. Pledge receipts were 96.36% of expectations, totaling \$149,359.84 while we budgeted for \$155,000.00.

Expense control was a life saver for us. Overall, our expenses were 8.12% below budget, \$329,787.39 vs \$358,902.75 budgeted. The largest over budget expense was our electric bill. We now have our solar working consistently and saving us 50% +/- . I am trying to recover the amounts that we were overcharged while the electric meter was not operating properly. Also, significantly over budget was our payments for nursery child care. On the saving side, we over budgeted for the Administrator's salary, Fire/Burglar alarm system and the splitting of the minister's health insurance package with Windsor Congregational and Clinton Congregational was very helpful by about \$5,529.20 in savings.

We continue to operate in a fiscally prudent manner and as with any "small business" cash flow management is very important. Going forward, with the vacancy of the minister, we do not have to pay his compensation package for now. I have prepared a proposal to revise our current 'unbalanced' budget with a balanced budget based on our current pledge level. I will provide our search committee with an estimate of what is sustainable to pay a new minister.

There is a lot of our future that depends on the participation of more people in committee work and especially by increasing the number of people pledging to support the church.

Charles McSorley
Treasurer

First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational
 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 2024 through June 2025

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 07/15/2025

	Jul '24 - Jun 25	Annual Budget	Cash Basis \$ Over / - Under Budget	
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
40000 · Operating Income				
40010 · Pledges	149,359.84	155,000.00	-5,640.16	96.36%
40020 · Plates	8,998.82	15,000.00	-6,001.18	59.99%
40030 · Special Collections	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.00%
40050 · Annual Trust	2,462.81	2,500.00	-37.19	98.51%
40060 · Donations-Bldg Facilities	18,270.00	15,000.00	3,270.00	121.80%
40065 · Parsonage Rent	38,700.00	33,000.00	5,700.00	117.27% * need to move
40074 · Donations-Flowers/Visual Arts	80.00			
40080 · Miscellaneous	21,814.00	2,500.00	19,414.00	876.56% Misc. Anonymy
40100 · Fund Raising Initiatives (Net)				
60620 · Fundraising Expenses	-14,300.52			
40100 · Fund Raising Initiatives (Net) - Other	20,377.86		20,377.86	Gross Receipts
Total 40100 · Fund Raising Initiatives (Net)	6,077.34	6,000.00	77.34	101.29% Net Proceeds
Total 40000 · Operating Income	245,862.81	229,500.00	16,362.81	107.13%
45000 · Transfers from Invested Funds				
45300 · Transfers from Legacy Fund	53,005.45	53,005.45	0.00	100.00%
45400 · Transfers from Seward Fund	40,000.00	75,000.00	-35,000.00	53.33%
45000 · Transfers from Invested Funds - Other	93,005.45	128,005.45	-35,000.00	72.66%
From Savings (To Balance)	5,000.00	7,415.30		67.43%
Total 45000 · Transfers from Invested Funds	98,005.45	135,420.75	-37,415.30	72.37%
Total Income	343,868.26	364,920.75	-21,052.49	94.23%
Expense				
50000 · Professional Staff				
50100 · Senior Minister				
50110 · Senior Minister Salary	63,993.08	64,049.39	-56.31	
50120 · Senior Minister Housing	23,285.46	28,200.00	-4,914.54	
50125 · Social Security Offset	6,360.15	7,010.95	-650.80	
50130 · Annuity Payments	10,796.63	12,914.91	-2,118.28	
50150 · HealthDental/Vision Insurance	11,626.30	17,155.50	-5,529.20	Split with Clinton
50170 · Professional Expenses	2,933.43	3,500.00	-566.57	
Total 50100 · Senior Minister	118,995.05	132,830.75	-13,835.70	
50300 · Music Staff				
50310 · Organist-Sr Choir Dir Salary	16,153.84	20,000.00	-3,846.16	
50315 · Organist FICA	58.84			
50318 · Early Service Music	17,650.00	20,000.00	-2,350.00	
50320 · Jazzs Band Director	5,000.00	0		

	<u>Jul '24 - Jun 25</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over / - Under Budget</u>
Total 50300 · Music Staff	38,862.68	40,000.00	-1,137.32
50400 · Youth Ministry/CE Staff			
50401 · Minister of Children & Families			
50401B · CE Youth Coordinator	14,626.60	15,000.00	-373.40
Total 50401 · Minister of Children & Families	14,626.60	15,000.00	-373.40
50402 · MCF FICA	90.49		
50430 · CE Nursery School Salaries	6,035.00	3,000.00	3,035.00
Total 50400 · Youth Ministry/CE Staff	20,752.09	18,000.00	2,752.09
50500 · Church Administration			
50510 · Administrator's Salary	30,687.50	39,000.00	-9,712.50
50515 · Administrator's FICA	86.06		
50530 · Financial/Payroll Services	799.20	1,400.00	-13,630.80
Total 50500 · Church Administration	31,572.76	40,400.00	17,142.76
50600 · Property/Maintenance Staff			
50610 · Sexton Salary	13,981.43	14,430.00	13,981.43
Total 50600 · Property/Maintenance Staff	13,981.43	14,430.00	9,981.43
Total 50000 · Professional Staff	224,164.01	245,660.75	222,664.01
60000 · Church Property			
60005 · Oil/Gas-Church/CE Building	6,665.95	4,000.00	2,665.95
60010 · Water-Church/CE Building	2,396.01	1,500.00	896.01
60015 · Electric-Church/CE Building	13,865.81	7,000.00	6,865.81
60020 · Snow Removal and Lawn Care	8,995.00	10,000.00	-1,005.00
60025 · Fire Alarm System	360.00	3,000.00	-2,640.00
60026 · Burglar Alarm System	216.00		216.00
60030 · Building Maint. & Supplies	5,044.57	6,000.00	-955.43
60035 · Property & Liability Insurance	13,567.00	18,000.00	-4,433.00
Total 60000 · Church Property	51,110.34	49,500.00	1,610.34
60100 · Parsonage			
60105 · Parsonage Expenses	3,288.65	3,000.00	3,288.65
60115 · Water-Parsonage	78.38		
Total 60100 · Parsonage	3,367.03	3,000.00	367.03
60200 · Church Administration			
60205 · Administration Supplies	2,597.87	4,700.00	197.87
60215 · Telephone & Internet Expense	2,626.06	3,000.00	1,126.06
60220 · Copier Lease and Supplies	2,956.80	3,600.00	2,756.80
60225 · Technology & Software Expense	2,999.60	2,400.00	2,999.60
60230 · Worker's Comp Insurance	1,394.00	1,500.00	-14,006.00
60235 · Safe Church/Staff Training	0.00	200.00	0.00
60200 · Church Administration - Other	373.93		
Total 60200 · Church Administration	12,948.26	15,400.00	12,448.26
60300 · Worship and Support Ministry			

	<u>Jul '24 - Jun 25</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over / - Under Budget</u>
60305 · Sub Organists	0.00	0.00	-6,300.00
60310 · Music - Choir Supplies	844.00	500.00	344.00
60315 · Music Equip Maintenance	1,120.00	1,260.00	1,120.00
60340 · Audio/Visual Technical Support	5,814.85	6,300.00	-2,745.15
60345 · Visual Arts Team/ Flowers	233.50	500.00	233.50
60350 · Movement Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 60300 · Worship and Support Ministry	8,012.35	8,560.00	3,012.35
60400 · Board of Christian Education			
60410 · Children's Ministry Team	21.00	0.00	21.00
604100 · Youth Ministry	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
60411 · Teen Ministry	0.00	1,000.00	-500.00
60425 · Family Ministry	322.02		
60435 · Cradle Roll Team	92.91		
60450 · Confirmation	452.73	500.00	-6,547.27
60460 · Supplies	410.13	500.00	410.13
60400 · Board of Christian Education - Other	45.38		
Total 60400 · Board of Christian Education	6,344.17	7,000.00	6,344.17
60500 · Ministry Support Teams			
60505 · Stewardship Team	0.00	250.00	-1,000.00
60510 · Audit Team	0.00	0.00	0.00
60530 · Communications	0.00	750.00	-100.00
Total 60500 · Ministry Support Teams	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
60600 · Inreach Member Care Mission			
60605 · New Member Team	0.00	100.00	0.00
60610 · Hospitality	741.56	1,000.00	741.56
60615 · Parish Care Team	0.00	400.00	0.00
60650 · Events Planning	40.56		
60720 · First Church Scholarships	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00
60600 · Inreach Member Care Mission - Other	54.43		
Total 60600 · Inreach Member Care Mission	1,886.55	1,500.00	1,886.55
60700 · Outreach Ministry			
60721 · Heat & Eat	434.20		
60770 · Community Outreach	660.55		
60780 · Social Action Committee	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
60700 · Outreach Ministry - Other	532.84		
Total 60700 · Outreach Ministry	1,627.59	2,000.00	1,127.59
60800 · Miscellaneous			
60805 · Contingencies	0.00	1,500.00	-800.00
60899 · Bank Service Fees	420.35	500.00	-4,379.65
60950 · CT Conference Donation	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
60955 · Middlesex Association Dues	537.75	800.00	437.75
Total 60800 · Miscellaneous	2,958.10	4,800.00	1,958.10

* From Savings

	<u>Jul '24 - Jun 25</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over / - Under Budget</u>	
60900 · Deacons				
60905 · Communion	26.49	100.00	-73.51	
60920 · Worship Supplies	986.90	1,000.00	786.90	
60930 · Pulpit Supply	750.00	1,000.00	-1,650.00	
60940 · Pastor & Parish Support	0.00	100.00	0.00	
60960 · Deacons - Other	0.00	200.00	-9,000.00	
Total 60900 · Deacons	<u>1,763.39</u>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>-736.61</u>	
66000 · Payroll and Accounting Expense				
66010 · FICA taxes	9,145.02	9,000.00	-6,354.98	
66020 · Medicare taxes	2,138.76	2,500.00	-461.24	
66000 · Payroll and Accounting Expense - Other	1,750.00	4,000.00	1,750.00	
Total 66000 · Payroll and Accounting Expense	<u>13,033.78</u>	<u>15,500.00</u>	<u>-345,886.97</u>	
66025 · Payroll Expenses	2,577.51	2,600.00	-114,012.44	
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	-5.69			
Total Expense	<u>329,787.39</u>	<u>358,920.75</u>	<u>-29,133.36</u>	8.12%
Net Ordinary Income	14,080.87	116,589.95	14,080.87	
Other Income				
70000 · Non-Operating Income				
70560 · Misc. Income				
70560-1 · Mission Trip Deposits	93.00			
70560-2 · Wedding Deposits	1,020.00			
70560-5 · Special Collections	12,554.88			
70560-9 · Family of the Month Collections	100.00			
7056010 · Urgent Care Fund Income	223.79			
7056011 · Memorial Garden Receipts	650.00			
7056013 · Misc. Income - Funerals	2,225.00			
70560 · Misc. Income - Other	150.00			
Total 70560 · Misc. Income	<u>17,016.67</u>			
Total Other Income	17,016.67			
Other Expense				
80000 · Non-Operating Expense				
80550 · Blair Fund - Social Concerns	2,500.00			
80560 · Misc Expense				
80560-2 · Special Music - From Savings	100.00			
80560-3 · Property Repairs - From Cap Imp	8,647.45			
80560-5 · Special Collections	5,319.05			
80560-9 · Family of the Month Payments	100.00			
8056010 · Urgent Care Fund Distributions	650.00			
8056011 · Memorial Garden Expenses	731.58			
8056013 · Misc Expenses - Funeral expense	2,375.00			
80560 · Misc Expense - Other	376.00			
Total 80560 · Misc Expense	<u>18,299.08</u>			

Total 80000 - Non-Operating Expense

<u>Jul '24 - Jun 25</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over / - Under Budget</u>
20,799.08		

**First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational
Balance Sheet**

07/15/2025 3:27 PM
Cash Basis
Jun 30, 25

As of June 30, 2025

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

10000 · Cash

10010 · General Budget-Liberty-x574	2,818.84
10040 · Urgent Care Checking x2739	1,420.08
10060 · Blair Fund Checking	10,749.79
10161 · Mission Trip Checking x782	3,456.49
10000 · Cash - Other	-2,493.00
Total 10000 · Cash	15,952.20

10050 · Benevolent Fund -x027

	1,089.57
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10100 · Reserve

10160 · Liberty - Savings Account x648

101601 · Miscellaneous	11,192.04
101602 · Wedding Deposits	1,210.00
101604 · Davies -- CE Music Dirs	2,433.00
101607 · Special Music	1,267.59
101608 · Bell Choir	417.42
101612 · Ministry Prep & Training	3,000.00
101613 · Christian Education	5,092.12
101614 · Vacation Bible School	1,949.32
101616 · Pre-paid Funeral	50.00

101620 · Lolly Bassett Music Scholarship

	2,300.00
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101625 · Scholarship Account

	1,631.00
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101630 · Parish Nurse Hold

	1,191.99
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101650 · Sub Use Disorder

	562.90
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101660 · Grand Piano

	1,821.00
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1601665 · Parsonage Maintenance Savings

	1,800.00
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10160 · Liberty - Savings Account x648 - Ot

	-17,122.18
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Total 10160 · Liberty - Savings Account x648

	18,796.20
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Total 10100 · Reserve

	18,796.20
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10170 · Memorial Garden x9777

	5,683.27
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10172 · Memorial Garden CD xx9992

	17,385.27
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35,918.38
withdrawls
7/31/2024
10/1/2024
5/31/2025
6/24/2025

-\$1,050.00 2024 Scholarships
-\$10,000.00 Budget emergency
-\$5,000.00 Emergency incase Seward \$ is late
-\$1,000.00 Lolly Basset Scholarship

Total Checking/Savings	<u>58,906.51</u>			-\$17,050.00
Accounts Receivable				
11000 · Accounts Receivable	-0.01			
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-0.01</u>			
Other Current Assets				
10200 · Petty Cash	472.90			
10500 · *Undeposited Funds	2,229.59			
Total Other Current Assets	<u>2,702.49</u>			
Total Current Assets	<u>61,608.99</u>			
Fixed Assets				
Other Assets				
14000 · Restricted				
14010 · Legacy Fund	1,532,103.45	1,408,125.21	8.09%	* \$ -53,005.45
14020 · Seward Fund	42,536.93	77,684.00	-82.63%	** \$ -40,000.00
14030 · Bell Choir Fund	12,677.17	11,084.09	12.57%	
14040 · Capital Improvements	38,077.38	31,617.91	16.96%	
14050 · Blair Fund	315,151.95	281,311.73	10.74%	
14060 · Varley/Barnes/Johnson Music Fun	30,641.49	27,343.82	10.76%	
14065 · Mem. Garden Investment Acct.	17,457.84	17,457.84	0.00%	
Total 14000 · Restricted	<u>1,988,646.21</u>	<u>1,854,624.60</u>	<u>6.74%</u>	
Total Other Assets	<u>1,988,646.21</u>			
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>2,050,255.20</u></u>			

* Withdrawn from Legacy to support Budget \$53,005.45

** Withdrawn from Seward to support Budget \$40,000.00

Agenda

The First Church of Christ in Saybrook, Congregational

Annual Meeting

September, 28, 2025, at 11:15 AM

In the Church Sanctuary

Call the Meeting to Order	Alan Ringen, Moderator
Reading and Approval of the Meeting Call	Alan Ringen, Moderator
1. Opening Prayers and Remarks	Rev. Kitty Coyne
2. Treasurer's 2024-2025 Year-End Report	Charlie McSorley, Treasurer
3. Acceptance of the 2024-2025 Annual Report	Alan Ringen, Moderator
4. Acceptance of the Nominating Team's Recommendation for Elected Leadership Positions	Alan Ringen, Moderator
5. Acceptance of the Leadership Board's Recommendation for Search Committee Positions	Carolyn Lyle
6. Recognition of 2024-2025 New Members, Deceased Members, and 50 plus year Members	Carolyn Lyle
7. Discussion of any new business	Carolyn Lyle
8. Adjournment	Carolyn Lyle
Closing Prayer/ Benediction	Rev. Kitty Coyne