

**ELLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
HISTORICAL PASTORATE**

**PASTORS**

John McKinstry	1733-1749
Nathaniel Huntington	1749-1756
Seth Norton	1756-1762
John Bliss	1764-1780
Joshua Leonard	1791-1798
Diodate Brockway	1799-1829
Lavius Hyde	1830-1834
Ezekiel Marsh	1835-1844
Nathaniel H. Eggleston	1845-1850
George I. Wood	1850-1854
Thomas W. Fessenden	1855-1864
Hiram B. Woodworth	1865-1869
John C. Moses	1871-1872
Shearjashub Bourne	1873-1875
David S. Holbrook	1876-1880
Sylvanus C. Kendall	1881-1886
William T. Hutchins	1886-1892
Lyman P. Hitchcock	1892-1897
David E. Jones	1898-1917
James T. Carter	1917-1922
John T. Nichols	1922-1935
Roscoe F. Metzger	1935-1939
Theodore S. Darrah	1939-1943
Glenn T. Eno	1943-1945
John C. Miller	1945-1951
Kenneth E. Johnson	1952-1956
Wayne R. Sandau	1957-1965
Donald P. Inglis	1966-1973
Sheldon T. Smith	1974-1989
Michael S. Bennett	1990-2002
Don Bailey-François	2003-2017
Jay M. Terbush (Designated Pastor)	2017-

**ASSOCIATE PASTORS**

Don Bailey-François	1996-2003
Claudia F. Muro	2003-2006
Karen Bailey-François	2012-2018

**INTERIM PASTORS**

Alison Ray Heaps	1956-1957
	1965-1966
Russell E. Camp	1973-1974
Sue Prichard	1989-1990
Sandie Benjamin	1997
Marsha Lynn Cox	2002-2003
Jay Terbush, Associate	2003
Jean McCusker, Acting Associate	2007-2008
Sue Prichard	2008

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE PASTORS OF ELLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Ellington Church has been fortunate in having pastors of marked ability and unusual spiritual development.

The Rev. John McKinstry, the first pastor, was born in Ireland of Scotch parents in 1677. He graduated at the University of Edinburgh in 1712. Six years later he came to this country and was ordained as pastor of the Congregational Church of Sutton, MA in 1720. He was dismissed in September 1728 and in 1730 came to Ellington, which, at that time, was part of ancient Windsor and contained but eleven families. He became pastor of this Church in 1733 and continued as such for 16 years, remaining in town until his death, January 20, 1754 at the age of 77. He preached on the Sunday preceding his death. He was buried in a family burying ground beside our library.

The Rev. Nathaniel Huntington, a native of Windham, CT, was the second pastor. He graduated from Yale College in 1747, where he later received his second degree. He served as pastor here for six and a half years until his death on April 28, 1756 at the age of 31. He was greatly loved.

The Rev. Seth Norton, a native of Farmington, CT, was the third pastor. He graduated from Yale College in 1751, from which, as well as from Harvard University, he afterwards received the degree of Master of Arts. He died at age 30.

The Rev. John Bliss, the fourth pastor, was a native of Longmeadow, MA, and graduated from Yale College in 1761 where he afterwards received his second degree. He was ordained as pastor of this church in October 1764 and was dismissed in December 1780.

Rev. Joshua Leonard, the fifth pastor, was born in Raynham, MA, and was graduated at Brown University. His ordination as pastor of this Church took place September 7, 1791 and he was dismissed in 1798. He received his second degree at Yale College in 1792.

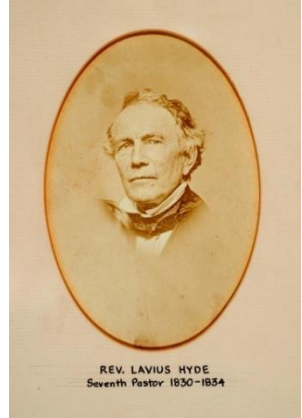
The Rev. Diodate Brockway, the sixth pastor of this Church, was a son of the Rev. Thomas Brockway, the pastor of a parish in what is now the town of Columbia, CT. He graduated from Yale College in the class of 1797 and studied theology with his father and the Rev. Mr. Parsons of East Haddam, CT. He was ordained as pastor of this Church September 18, 1799, his father preaching the sermon.

He married Miranda Hall, a daughter of Deacon John Hall and a native of Ellington. In July 1804, while the second meeting house was being built, he had occasion to ascend to the belfry. A nail drew out of a board which he was grasping, causing him to fall backward sixty-five feet. After a long illness he recovered, although he was lame for the rest of his life and preached for some time sitting in a chair. Ill



health compelled him to give up the active duties of the pastorate in May 1829, the next three ministers being colleagues with Mr. Brockway. Mr. Brockway gave his life to this community, living and laboring here for fifty years. He died January 27, 1849. Rarely has a pastor been more beloved and respected by all classes than was Mr. Brockway.

The Rev. Lavius Hyde, the seventh pastor, was born in Franklin, CT. He graduated from Williams College in 1813 and three years later completed his studies at the Theological Seminary at Andover, MA. He came to Ellington in 1830 as colleague pastor with the Rev. Mr. Brockway and served until 1834.



The Rev. Ezekiel Marsh, the eighth pastor, was born in Danvers, MA in 1808. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1831. He studied theology at Andover, MA and New Haven, CT. In April 1835 he was ordained as colleague with the Rev. Mr. Brockway. On the ninth anniversary of his coming to Ellington he was dismissed at his own request because of ill health and he died the same year at age 36.

The Rev. Nathaniel Hillyer Eggleston, the ninth pastor, was born in Hartford, CT. He graduated from Yale College in 1840 and studied theology at New Haven, CT. He was ordained as colleague with Mr. Brockway February 19, 1845 and was dismissed at his own request February 13, 1850. After leaving here he supplied pulpits in various places and for some years was engaged largely in planting new churches to the west. It was to Mr. Eggleston that the people of later years were indebted for the beautiful trees in the park. After preaching an arousing sermon on the duty of beautifying the place of God's abode (the second church which was across the street from our present church) he asked all who had teams, spades, etc. to gather at the church the next morning and accompany him to the woods. The trees were brought back and set out around the church and were sometimes jokingly referred to as "Eggleston's Woods."

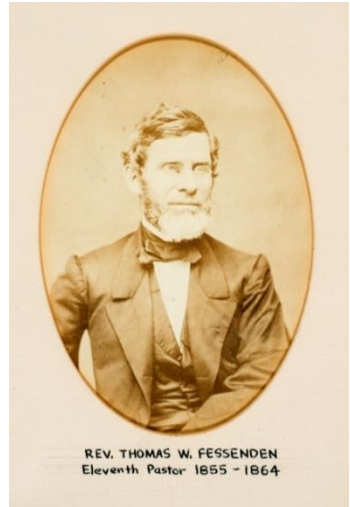




REV. GEORGE I. WOOD  
Tenth Pastor 1850-1854

The Rev. George I. Wood, the tenth pastor, was born at Stamford, CT. He graduated from Yale College in 1833. After studying law for two years, he began his study of theology in New Haven, CT and completed his course at Union Theological Seminary, NY in 1838. In 1850 he was called to this Church. Early in 1854, because of ill health, he requested his dismissal which was reluctantly granted.

The Rev. Thomas W. Fessenden, the eleventh pastor, was born at Brattleboro, VT. He received his education at Williams College and studied theology at Andover, MA and at New Haven, CT. After pastorates at Norwich, CT and Homer, NY, he was installed as pastor of this Church in 1855 and was its faithful pastor until he requested his dismissal in 1864.



REV. THOMAS W. FESSENDEN  
Eleventh Pastor 1855-1864

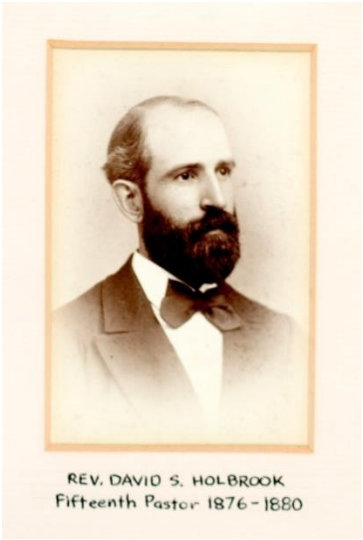


REV. HIRAM B. WOODWORTH  
Twelfth Pastor 1865-1869

The Rev. Hiram B. Woodworth was born at Chelsea, VT. He was educated at Dartmouth College and studied theology at Andover, MA and at East Windsor, CT. He was ordained at Hebron, CT, in 1862 and came to Ellington Church, being installed its twelfth pastor in 1865 and remaining here until 1869.

The Rev. John C. Moses, the thirteenth pastor, was born at Ticonderoga, NY. He received his education at New York State Normal School at Albany, NY and at Auburn Theological Seminary. After pastorates at Dundee, NY, where he was ordained in 1863, and at Lennox and Fowlersville, NY, he came to Ellington Church in 1871. He was dismissed in October of the following year. For a considerable period of time after that he was a member of the Presbytery of Cedar Rapids, IA.

The Rev. Shearjashub Bourne, the fourteenth pastor, was a native of Bristol, RI. He was educated at Yale College and Andover Theological Seminary. He was ordained at Flushing, LI in 1854. After pastorates there and in Harlem, NY until 1871, he came to Ellington in 1873 and was acting pastor until 1875.



The Rev. David S. Holbrook was born at Chester, MA. He studied at Yale College and Yale Theological Seminary. He was ordained and installed the fifteenth pastor in 1876, after having supplied as acting pastor for one year. His health failed and at his request he was dismissed in October 1880 and died in New Haven the following January. He most earnestly loved his work and his people and was greatly beloved by them.

The Rev. Sylvanus C. Kendall, the sixteenth pastor, was born at Searsmont, ME. He was educated at Amherst College and Andover Theological Seminary. He was ordained and installed at Webster, MA in 1854. After pastorates there and several other places, he was installed as our pastor in 1881, serving the Church until 1886.



The Rev. William T. Hutchins, the seventeenth pastor, was a native of Springfield, MA. He received his education at Yale College and Yale Theological Seminary. He was ordained and installed at Westchester, CT in 1876. He was called to the Ellington Church as acting pastor in December 1886. He was installed as pastor in June 1888 and remained in this office until 1892, when upon his resignation he was dismissed.

The Rev. Lyman P. Hitchcock was born in Middlesex, NY. He was educated at Syracuse Seminary and Hartford Theological Seminary, class of 1892. He became acting pastor in February and was ordained in November of the same year. He was our eighteenth pastor. Mr. Hitchcock left Ellington Church in 1897.



The Rev. David E. Jones, the nineteenth pastor, served this Church for nineteen years. He was born in Wales in 1840 and was graduated from Swansin College, Wales and from Yale Divinity School in 1871. Before coming to Ellington in 1898 he had held pastorates in Roxbury, CT and in Broad Brook, CT. Mr. Jones labored faithfully throughout his long pastorate and was respected and loved by all the parish. He was dismissed in 1917 and died in West Hartford, CT in December 1920.





The Rev. James T. Carter, the twentieth pastor was born in England, coming to this country in 1913. After being in Maine for a few months he came to West Hartford, CT where he assisted in the West Hartford Church, at the same time studying at the Hartford Theological Seminary. He came to Ellington in November 1917 and remained for nearly five years.



In the spring of 1922, Dr. John T. Nichols was called to be the twenty-first pastor of this Church. He was born in Assonet, MA and received his education at Harvard College and Yale Divinity School. In 1890 he and four others formed the Yale-Washington Missionary Band and went out to the Northwest to do missionary work. In 1894 he was called to the Edgewater Church in Seattle, WA, where he remained for about twelve years. He became the first superintendent of the Seattle Church Extension Society. He was then called back East and spent the next ten years as pastor of the Park Avenue Congregational Church in Meadville, PA. Upon retirement from the active ministry in 1935, after thirteen years as the beloved pastor of our Church, he was made Pastor Emeritus.

The Rev. Roscoe F. Metzger, the twenty-second pastor, was born at Randolph, VT where his father was pastor of the Congregational Church. He graduated from Rutgers University and from Union Theological Seminary. Mr. Metzger came to Ellington in June 1935 following his graduation, remaining here until he resigned in 1939 when he accepted a call to the People's Church of Dover, DE. He served as a chaplain in World War II and upon his return to civilian life he accepted a call to the Federated Church of Bloomfield, CT. After serving there for 31 years, he resigned his pastorate in June 1977. Since that date he served as an interim minister in several churches in the Greater Hartford area.





The Rev. Theodore S. Darrah, the twenty-third pastor was born in Boston, MA. He was graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Divinity School in 1939. He commenced his duties as pastor of this Church in June of that year and was ordained in our Church December 5, 1939. He continued as our pastor until May 30, 1943 when he resigned to become pastor of Christ's Church, Salisbury, CT. He left there in 1947 to become Dean of the Knowles Memorial Chapel and Professor of Religion at Rollins College, Winter Park, FL. In 1973 he retired as Dean but continued his teaching. He received an honorary doctor's degree from Rollins College, LHD (Doctor of Humane Letters) in 1973.

The Rev. Glenn T. Eno was born in Belchertown, MA. He studied at the Providence Bible Institute in Rhode Island and was ordained in 1938. He started his work as the twenty-fourth pastor of our Church in November 1943, having had five previous pastorates in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Mr. Eno left Ellington in the spring of 1945.



REV. GLENN T. ENO  
TWENTY-FOURTH PASTOR 1943-1945



REV. JOHN C. MILLER  
TWENTY-FIFTH PASTOR 1945-1951

The Rev. John C. Miller, the twenty-fifth pastor, was a native of Hudson, N.Y. He was graduated from Rutgers University and Theological Seminary and did post-graduate work at Union Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1907. He served churches in New York and New Jersey before he came to Ellington in December 1945. He continued as our pastor until 1951 when he retired from the active ministry and was made Pastor Emeritus of this Church.



The Rev. Kenneth E. Johnson, our twenty-sixth pastor, came to us in July 1952. He studied at the University of Connecticut until his studies were interrupted by World War II, in which he served with the ski troops in Italy. He continued his education at Oberlin College and Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA where he was graduated in 1952 and ordained before coming here. Mr. Johnson left Ellington in June 1956 to accept a call to the Central Union Windward Church in Kailua, Oahu, HI. After two and a half years he returned to the Pacific School of Religion and received his Doctorate in Psychology and Pastoral Counseling. Since that time he has held several positions in this field and has taught graduate courses, all in California.



The Rev. Wayne R. Sandau became the twenty-seventh pastor of this Church, serving it from July 15, 1957 through August 1965. He was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1950 and Yale Divinity School in 1953. He was the Associate Minister of the Community Church in Garden City, NY for four years prior to coming to Ellington. After a pastorate of eight years, Mr. Sandau resigned to accept a call to the First Congregational Church of Cheshire, CT.

The Rev. Donald P. Inglis began his work as our twenty-eighth pastor January 1966. He was graduated from Earlham College, Richmond, IN. He attended Hartford Seminary for two years and finished his studies at Eden Seminary, Webster Grove, MO. Before coming to Ellington he served the First Congregational Church of East Chicago, IN for ten years. Mr. Inglis resigned in January 1973 to accept a call to the United Congregational Church in Little Compton, RI where he served until January 1979 when he left there to go to the First Congregational Church of Woodbridge, NJ.





Dr. Sheldon T. Smith  
Senior Pastor 1974-1989

The Rev. Sheldon T. Smith, our twenty-ninth pastor, is a native of Connecticut, having been born in New Haven and raised in the nearby town of Orange. He is a graduate of Defiance College, Defiance, OH and Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA. He was ordained in the Orange Congregational Church and went to serve the Westmoreland United Church in Westmoreland, NH. In 1974 Mr. Smith accepted a call to become our pastor. On May 18, 1987 he received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Andover Newton Theological School. He resigned in 1989 to accept a call to First Congregational Church, Waterville, ME.

The Rev. Michael S. Bennett, our thirtieth pastor, was born and grew up in Seattle, WA. He graduated from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA and from Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. He was ordained in his home church, Magnolia United Church of Christ, Seattle, WA in June 1986. He began his duties as pastor of Church of Christ Congregational in Granby, MA in July 1986 and resigned to accept the call to our church in August 1990. He accepted a call to be Senior Pastor of the First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, in Longmeadow, MA in 2002.



Rev. Michael S. Bennett  
Thirtieth Pastor 1990-2002



REV. DONALD BAILEY-FRANÇOIS  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR 1996-1998  
SENIOR PASTOR 2003

The Rev. Don Bailey-François, our thirty-first pastor, was raised in Prospect, CT. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT and an M.A. in Religious Studies from St. Joseph College, also in West Hartford. He served as a Director of Religious Education and Youth Minister in the Roman Catholic Church for seventeen years. In 1993, he joined the United Church of Christ and became part-time Director of Christian Education at our church. He attended Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, MA and received his M.Div. degree in May 1998. He was ordained in our church on June 7, 1998. In January 1996, he was called as our first Associate Pastor; on January 12, 2003, he was called to be our Senior Pastor. Pastor Don retired in 2017.

The Rev. Claudia F. Muro was called to be the second Associate Pastor of this church in November 2003. Claudia grew up in Westport, CT and graduated from Villanova University in 1995. After teaching in several foreign countries she attended Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT and graduated in 2002. She was ordained at the Saugatuck Congregational Church, UCC, Westport, CT in 2004. At her request her resignation was accepted in 2006.



REV. CLAUDIA F. MURO  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR 2003-2006



The Rev. Dr. Karen Bailey-François, our third Associate Pastor, grew up in Fairport, NY. She received a B.S. and an M.B.A. from The University of Vermont and then worked in forecasting and integrated resource planning for Green Mountain Power in Burlington, VT. In 1990 she felt called to ministry and attended Andover Newton Theological School where she received her M.Div. in 1994. She continued her studies at Hartford Seminary and received her D.Min. in 2005. Pastor Karen has served in both settled and interim capacities at The First Church of Christ in Hartford; Storrs Congregational Church, UCC and Union Congregational Church of Rockville. She served as our Associate Pastor from 2012 to 2018. In addition, Pastor Karen chaired the Board of Directors for Hands On Hartford and was a Trustee of Hartford Seminary. She accepted a call to be Senior Pastor of the Second Congregational Church of Cohasset, MA in 2018.

The Rev. Dr. Jay Terbush returns to our church pastoral leadership after serving for 8 months as our Interim Associate Pastor in 2003. Jay hails from Michigan but has lived in New England for almost 25 years. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Michigan, his Master of Divinity degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and his doctoral degree at Michigan State University in Counseling Psychology. Jay has served in parish ministry for over 30 years including two settled pastorates of 8 and 10 years. Over the past 15 years, Jay has been doing intentional interim ministry guiding 4 churches through the transition time in between settled pastors in Storrs and North Madison, Connecticut, Keene, New Hampshire and most recently in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

