

Jeff Birch, Seminarian/Student Minister

Jeff Birch is a student at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky where he is in his fourth year in their Master of Divinity program. He is a member of The First Congregational Church in Essex, CT, and is pursuing his Accountable Ministry here with us. He lives in Flanders with his partner, Mike, and their two cats.

Jeff has a degree in Applied Maritime Science from Northwestern Michigan College and is a graduate of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. He was previously licensed as a Mate and First-Class Pilot of ships on the Great Lakes. He also has completed a long career in nuclear power as a submarine Sailor and commercial utility instructor and supervisor.

Jeff was born into a military family in Riverhead, New York, but grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan, a town full of cereal factories and crisscrossed by railroads. He has a fascination with big engineering like trains, ships, and powerplants - the study of all of these is a hobby of his. He also loves photography, hiking, boating, and cooking (his specialties are pumpkin pie, chocolate chip cookies, and soups.) Jeff is a self-avowed church geek. He loves everything about how a congregation functions, from worship to outreach and Bible study to casseroles. He has a particular interest in church governance and small-church ministry. He hopes to eventually be called to serve a congregation somewhere in southern New England.

Jeff already holds a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from the seminary. He is slated to earn his MDiv and graduate in June of 2024.

