

---

## Growing Up & Education

Pastor John grew up in a Christian home in Westfield, NJ where his parents were actively involved in the Presbyterian Church of Westfield as Sunday school teachers, deacons, and elders. Through the ministry of that congregation he learned about who Jesus Christ was and entered into a personal relationship with Jesus at the end of his freshman year of high school.

After graduating from Westfield High School, John went to Union College in Cranford, NJ where he earned an A.A. in Criminal Justice. From there he went to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ and received a B.A. in Sociology. During his college years John got involved in the leadership of local campus ministries. His involvement with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) was a catalyst for significant spiritual growth as a follower of Jesus and as a leader.

It was just before graduation from Rutgers when John, through the encouragement of close Christian friends and family members, sensed God's call in his life to pursue a seminary education. He applied to and was accepted at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS) where he pursued a Master of Divinity degree. It was during John's time at GCTS where several significant experiences shaped who he is today. The first was a summer spent in Pakistan taking relief supplies to Afghan refugees which helped to form John's understanding of the global mission of the Church. The second was a summer participating in Clinical Pastoral Education. As he learned about ministry to patients and their families, John's father passed away with cancer. And, the third was meeting and subsequently marrying his wife Ruthie.

---

## Ministry

Over the course of John's ministry, he has served churches in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in various pastoral roles: executive pastor, associate pastor, pastor, head of staff and fire department chaplain. In addition, John also served on staff with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship as an Area Director and as the Assistant Director of Training and Education at the national level. He has served in NJ, NY, WI, PA, TX, and CT. Most recently John has been the Interim Associate Pastor and then the Interim Senior Pastor at the Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien, CT.

Some of the highlights of John's ministry have included mission trips locally (NJ, ME, PA, and Washington, DC), trips to help clean up and rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, and Harvey, international mission trips to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica; a World Vision trip to Kenya and Ethiopia; and trips to teach in South Africa, Poland, and the former Soviet Union. In addition, John earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from GCTS focusing on Pastoral Skills: Preaching, Pastoral Care, and Leadership, with a thesis project on interim ministry.

---

## John and Ruthie Seiders

John and Ruthie have been serving in ministry, sometimes together in the same congregation and sometimes in different congregations, for many years. This summer they celebrated their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary and reside in Billerica, MA. They have two grown daughters who are public school teachers in the greater Boston area. Bekah teaches middle school math in Framingham and is married to Craig. They have a son, Austin, who is three and a half as well as a daughter Allie who was just born in July. Anna is a high school STEM teacher in Everett, MA.

Ruthie is also an ordained PC (U.S.A.) pastor. It was Ruthie's call that brought them to New England three and a half years ago. Ruthie currently serves as the Pastor for Next Gen Ministries at Grace Chapel in Lexington, MA.

