



1
comments

Former Salem City pastor Jonathan H. Smith charged with child sexual assault



File Photo



Print (http://blog.nj.com/salem_impact/print.html?entry=/2013/11/jonathan_h_smith_assault.html)
(<http://connect.nj.com/user/Alex-Young/index.html>) By Alex Young/South Jersey Times
(<http://connect.nj.com/user/Alex-Young/posts.html>)

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#) (<https://twitter.com/TheSJTimes>)

on November 15, 2013 at 9:31 AM, updated November 15, 2013 at 12:58 PM

SALEM (<http://www.nj.com/salem-city>) — The former pastor of a prominent city church has been charged with sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child, according to authorities.

Jonathan H. Smith, 58, who recently resigned after spending nearly a decade as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, was arrested Thursday, according to Salem City Police Chief John A. Pelura III.

The Market Street resident was charged with aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault on a minor and endangering the welfare of a child, according to records.

Further details of the case were not released by police. Smith was lodged in the Salem County Correctional Facility, in Mannington, in lieu of \$150,000 bail. The investigation is being handled by the Salem City Police Department and the Salem County Prosecutor's Office.

Smith was pastor at the church for nine years but suddenly resigned a little over a month ago. The reason for the resignation is unknown but was effective immediately.

0|0|0|0|0



(<http://photos.nj.com/8002621/galleries/index.html>)

South Jersey Times photos
(<http://photos.nj.com/8002621/galleries/index.html>)

The latest photo galleries of South Jersey news, events, sports and more ... **Photos from the South Jersey Times»**
(<http://photos.nj.com/8002621/galleries/index.html>)

Video of the Day

Super Bowl 2014: Peyton Manning talks about his 'legacy'
(http://videos.nj.com/nj/2014/01/super_bowl_2014_peyton_mar)

The former pastor was active in many community organizations and events over the years. Church officials in Salem were preparing a statement on the arrest which expected to be released later this morning.

Check back to nj.com/south (<http://nj.com/south>) for further updates.

Contact staff writer [Alex Young](http://connect.nj.com/user/alex-young/index.html) (<http://connect.nj.com/user/alex-young/index.html>) at 856-451-1000 ext. 550 or alexyoung@southjerseymedia.com (<mailto:alexyoung@southjerseymedia.com>)

South Jersey News In Your Inbox

Get the best of today's South Jersey news, community features and sports in your inbox every day at noon with the South Jersey News Flash eNewsletter.

OPTIONAL

Submit

Check here if you do not want to receive additional email offers and information. See our [privacy policy \(/privacypolicy/\)](#)

Related Stories



(<http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2014/01>)

[/move_yourself_salem_county_walking](#)
Move Yourself! Salem County walking group moves indoors for the winter
(<http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2014/01>)
[/move_yourself_salem_county_walking](#)



(<http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2014/01>)

[/forever_friends_in_pennsville_looks_to](#)
FURever Friends in Pennsville looks to find loving, forever homes for dogs, cats
(<http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2014/01>)
[/forever_friends_in_pennsville_looks_to](#)

Sign in with your NJ.com, Facebook or Google account or sign up

(https://signup.nj.com/register/?return_to=http%3A%2Fwww.nj.com%2Fsalem%2Findex.ssf%2F2013%2F11%2Fjonathan_h_smith_assault.html%23comments)

(https://signup.nj.com/register/?return_to=http%3A%2Fwww.nj.com%2Fsalem%2Findex.ssf%2F2013%2F11%2Fjonathan_h_smith_assault.html%23comments)

Leave a comment...

Please review the [Community Rules](http://www.nj.com/forums/index.ssf?rules.html) (<http://www.nj.com/forums/index.ssf?rules.html>) before posting

Comments (1) ▾

Shared (3)

Popular Topics

pause live updates



Bill Clisham (<http://connect.nj.com/user/wfclish/index.html>)
2 months ago (http://nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2013/11/jonathan_h_smith_assault.html/post/2013-11-15/1384543030-432-743.html)

The good people at First Presbyterian Church, Salem, need our prayers. They have been betrayed, and they are hurting.

[\(http://nj.com/\)](http://nj.com/)

Trending Videos

Most Comments Most Read

988 NJ. Sen. Steve Sweeney: I'll shut down government if Chris Christie reneges on pension payment (http://nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/01/steve_sweeney_says_hell_force_a_government_shutdo)
(http://nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/01/steve_sweeney_says_hell_force_a_government_shutdo)
542 Chris Christie: A Caesar who fell on his own sword in the Bridgegate scandal: Mustine (http://blog.nj.com/njv_paul_mustine)
(http://blog.nj.com/njv_paul_mustine)
474 Saeed Blacknall flips from Rutgers to Penn State (http://nj.com/rutgersfootball/index.ssf/2014/01/saeed_blacknall_flips_from_rutgers_to_penn_state.html#comments)
(http://nj.com/rutgersfootball/index.ssf/2014/01/saeed_blacknall_flips_from_rutgers_to_penn_state.html#comments)
233 More than half of NJ residents believe Christie knew about GWB lanes closures, poll says (http://nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/01/more_than_half_of_nj_residents_doubt_christie_didnt_kr)
(http://nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/01/more_than_half_of_nj_residents_doubt_christie_didnt_kr)
233 Christie used Sandy funds for senior complex in town where mayor endorsed him (http://nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/01/questions_raised_about_christies_use_of_sandy_funds_1)
(http://nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/01/questions_raised_about_christies_use_of_sandy_funds_1)

See more comments > (<http://www.nj.com/interact/>)