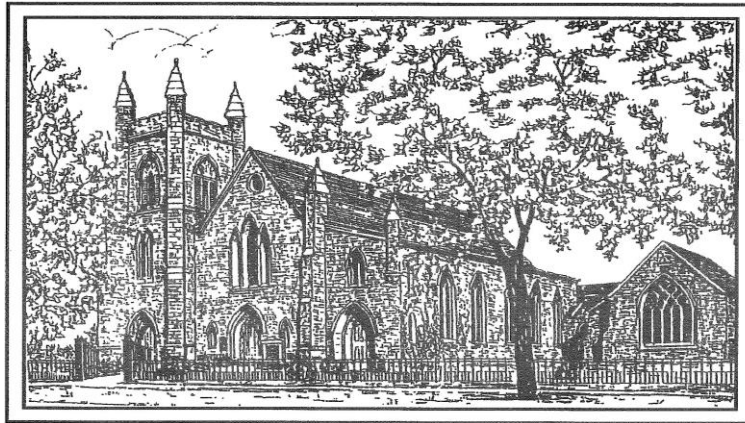


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

Wherever you are on life's journey *You are welcome here!*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

## The Community Gathers

**Meditation**     *"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant."*

*~ Robert Louis Stevenson*

### Gathering Music

### Welcome and Announcements

### Ringling of the Bell

### Prelude

### Bringing forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: The love of God is more splendid than purple mountain majesties.

**People: God's word of grace fills the spacious skies.**

Leader: The amber waves of grain remind us of God's abundant care.

**People: Above the fruited plain is God's eternal joy in anyone who follows the path of truth.**

Leader: In every nation, in every heart, God is working for good.

**People: Let our songs rise and let God's praise be heard from sea to shining sea.**

### \*Hymn

*"How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"*

NCH #594

### \*Prayer of Invocation

**Creator and Ruler of humankind, while songs of our nation's birth ring in our hearts, remind us to celebrate above all, the oneness of the race you have created and the openness of the church you have loved. And help us, your church in this place, to be truly open to all your children and to pray for the coming of the day when all shall be one in him who has broken down all the walls that now divide us, even Jesus Christ, the Lord of both church and world. Amen.**

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Most Merciful God, we confess we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. WE have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

### The Word of God to Us

### Reading of Scripture

#### The Psalter

Psalm 67

Caroline Jacobus

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah* that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah* Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

#### The Epistle

Galatians 5:1, 13-18, 22-25

Rev. Deborah Tate Breault

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**The Meditation  
Hymn**

“The Right Reverend Henry Wight”  
“*Spirit of the Living God*”  
(*At this time the deacons will collect your prayer cards*)

Rev. Deborah Tate Breault  
NCH #283

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**Prayers of the People**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**The Pastoral Prayer**

**Our Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Offering of our Gifts to God**

**Invitation**

**The Offertory**

**The Doxology #515 PH**

Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**O God, your goodness surrounds us, your grace sustains us, your mercy redeems us; by your love we are made whole. We place these gifts before you, as we confess anew our trust in your goodness. Empower us to rely on your grace, and rest in the hands of your mercy as we seek to love others after the example you have revealed in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn of Preparation**

*“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

NCH #347

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to Communion**

Rev. Deborah Tate Breault

**Prayer of Communion**

**The Remembrance**

**The Gifts of God for the People of God**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## We Go Forth To Serve

<b>Closing Hymn</b>	“This Is My Song”	NCH #591
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Sung Benediction</b>	“Halleluja”	NCH #236
<b>Carrying forth the light into the world</b>		Acolytes
<b>Postlude</b>		

~ Our celebrant today is the Reverend Deborah Tate Breault ~  
~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~  
~ Our lay liturgist today is Caroline Jacobus ~  
~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~



*Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship*

*NCH = New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) and PH = Pilgrim Hymnal (red hymnal)  
Sources and Credits: Hymn tune names - as well as composers of the music and authors of the text - are listed in the hymnals with each hymn. CCLI License #1958911 and One License.Net #A-728124.*

### **Announcements**

No Deacon meeting in July next meeting  
July 4, 2023 Church Offices will be closed  
July 6, 2023 PPRC  
July 9 2023 CE meeting after worship  
July 12, 2023 Facility meeting  
July 14 – 20<sup>th</sup> Barbara will be on vacation office closed  
July 20, 2023 Church Council Meeting 7pm  
July 22, 2023 Privet party in DW room  
August 10, 2023 Ice Cream Social with Lawn Games  
August 13, 2023 Deacons meeting after worship

Please visit our web site for more information about the Church and Events go to [fccbristol.org](http://fccbristol.org)

**Church Office Hours** are Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 3pm

**Pastoral Office Hours** Thursday & Friday 9:30am – 1:00pm

You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Deborah directly.

Private office line 401/253-3680 or cell 401/712-2651 or e-mail at [revdtb@fccbristol.org](mailto:revdtb@fccbristol.org)

Church location 300 High Street • mailing address 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 401/253-7288