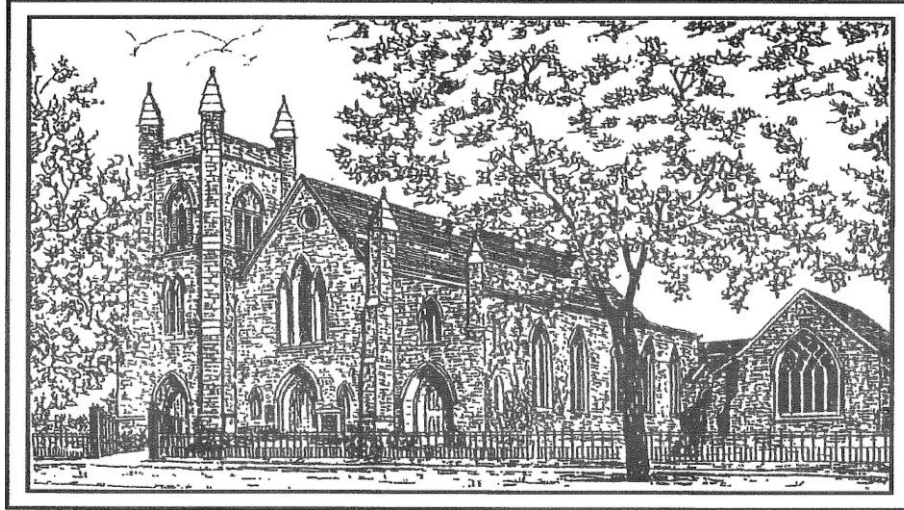


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 24, 2024 ~ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude

“Give Thanks”

D.Cruey

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

*Call to Worship

One: From the eagles’ aerie, to the fishes’ deep—from the color drenched leaves, to the rain drenched street with our lips, with our hearts, with our hands, with our feet, we sing out:

Many: ALLELUIA!

One: We laugh out:

Many: HOSANNA!

One: We shout out:

Many: THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!

One: For all that was. For all that is. For all that shall be.

Many: Alleluia. Hosanna! THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!

One: For all that we were. For all that we are. For all that we could be!

Many: Alleluia. Hosanna! THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!

One: So, together we sing:

Many: Let it be.

One: Together we say:

Many: May it always be so.

One: Together we shout:

Many: AMEN!

***Invocation**

At this time of the harvest, we bring our gifts to you, O God. You have brought us into this place and shared with us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land flowing with maple syrup. Bless this thanksgiving offered now to you! In Christ's name, we ask it. May it be so. Amen.

***Hymn**

“We Gather Together”

PH #21

The Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:21-27

Grace Steere

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God, who has given the early rain for your vindication and who has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

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 Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:25-33

Grace Steere

[Jesus said,] “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly God feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your God knows that you need all these things. But strive first for God’s realm and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

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!

Children’s Moment

***Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

NCH #28

A Sermon Message

“When All Else Seems to Fail—Give Thanks!”

Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Moment of Silence

Sharing of 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.

Prayer Response

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory

“Three Shaker Songs”

S. Kirchber

***The Doxology PH #515**

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**

This is a time for giving thanks, a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us. Friends and family encourage and care, and this community shows us God's loving ways. We find a home in God's creation, and the earth gives us good food to make us grow. The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal. Thank you, God, for all you have given us! Amen.

***Hymn**

“God, We Thank You for Our People”

NCH #376

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

*Amen, amen,
Amen, amen, amen.*

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

***Postlude**

“Simple Gifts”

J. Tonioli

*~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~
~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ Our lay liturgist today is Grace Steere~
~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~*

Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship



Prayer List for Sunday, November 24, 2024

As a congregation, we lift up prayers today and throughout the week for the following people.

For concerns in the world:

Our nation during this post-election transition

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Gail Carney

Annette Moren, who is having surgery

Jeannine Marshall, Charlotte Burnham's cousin, who has cancer but is improving

Jane Texada, a childhood friend of Sug Grant, who is mourning the loss of her husband

Fred Thornton, a Friend of the Burnham Family

Stephen

Jacob Johnson in Seattle and his Girlfriend Emma who is Under the Sea in a submarine.

Bob Wilson

Residents of Asheville, NC, especially Sue Morettini's sister-in-law and nieces

Judy Ellinwood, Grace Wilson's cousin, who continues to recover from a broken femur

Kathy, Beverly Larson's cousin, who is recovering after a hospitalization

A friend of Lynne Ramos who needs prayers for their health

Charlie

Ken Latham in Leicester, MA, who started chemo last Thursday for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma

Fred Z. in CT

Those who have lost their way that they may have wisdom, courage, and strength

Harriet

Lola, Carolina Bailey's sister with stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer

Sally Irwin

Ryan

Donna Castiglicgo, who is recovering from surgery

Mark E., who has an aggressive form of prostate cancer

Luybov, Nikita's grandmother

Fred Davis, who has stomach cancer

Jim Sapp

Muriel Smith

Charlotte Griffith

Bob and Sally Evans

Sue Moreira

Jack Ringland

Kellie and Juan Morales's daughter

Bruce C., who is in physical rehab, and Pat P. and her husband Tom, all friends of Ed Wiacek

Peter Leiche, a friend of Sue Moreira, who has cancer

Jamie's health and for his mother Katelyn

Simone Silveri

Caregivers in our congregation

Upcoming Birthdays:

Ann Roussel Nov. 25
Mark Johnson Nov. 27

Autumn Quezada-Grant Nov.26
Janine Beausoleil Nov. 27

Beverly Larson Nov. 30

Susan Brosnihan 12/07
Melissa Fournier 12/09
Susan Butler 12/18
Ruth Fisher 12/21

Dave Sartrys 12/07
Barbara Ringland 12/10
George Roach 12/18
Diane Swire 12/22 Rev.

Susan Morettini 12/08
Eleanor Ingraham 12/13
Meriel Smith 12/21
Nancy Soukup 12/27



What's on the Church Calendar

Nov. 24, 2024 **Sunday Worship 10:00am**

Nov. 27, 2024 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)

Nov. 28, 2024 Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 29, 2024 Church Office Closed

Nov. 30, 2024 Saturday Flower Committee Christmas Decorating

December 01, 2024 **Sunday Worship: First Sunday of Advent 10:00am**

December 03, 2024 Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm

December 04, 2024 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)

December 07, 2024 Saturday, Bristol Christmas Festival Crafts Fair 11:00am-6:00pm
(DeWolf Room, Christian Education Wing)

December 08, 2024 **Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Advent 10:00am**

December 08, 2024 Sunday, Bristol Christmas Festival Crafts Fair 12:00am-5:00pm
(DeWolf Room, Christian Education Wing)

December 10, 2024 Facility Meeting 7:00pm DeWolf Room

December 11, 2024 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)

December 12, 2024 Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm

December 15, 2024 **Sunday Worship: Third Sunday of Advent 10:00am**

(dedication of Keith Reynolds print in the DeWolf Room following the service)

December 17, 2024 Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7:00pm

December 18, 2024 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)

December 22, 2024 **Sunday Worship: Christmas Pageant 10:00am**

December 24, 2024 **Christmas Eve Worship 6:00pm**

December 29, 2024 **Sunday Worship 10:00am**

Please visit our website for more information about the Church
And Events go to fccbristol.org



“Invitation to Share Time, Talent, and Treasure”

When you give to First Congregational Church, you make possible our ministries that serve all God’s people. Your gifts share the love of Jesus all year long. The act of giving is our personal expression of worship and also keeps our church financially healthy. Stewardship is not payment for services rendered. It is an act of faith and devotion to God. You may go to the following link to give now:

<https://fccbristol.org/support-us/>.



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

Office e-mail address: office@FCCBristol.org

OFFICE Closed Friday Nov. 29, 2024

Pastoral Office Hours Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 1pm

You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Nancy.

Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail office@FCCbristol.org

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.

*Sources: Prayers for this liturgy were written by or adapted from the following: Richard Bott, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2012/10/04/366/> and <http://liturgy.richardbott.com/>, re:Worship: Thanksgiving Call to Worship; Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann* (Fortress Press, 2002), <http://houseblendministries.com/blog/permalink/gratitude-challenge-day-3/>, re:Worship: Thanksgiving Prayer: Boundless Generosity; Rev. Quentin Chin, <http://uccfiles.com/pdf/FeedmySheepEaster3April14.pdf>, re:Worship: Prayer for the Offering; Iroquois-Matilda Pastoral Charge, http://www.iroquoismatildapastoralcharge.org/uploads/2/8/6/1/28613371/october_11_2015_bulletin.pdf, re:Worship: Intergenerational Call to Worship: Thanksgiving; and Christine Longhurst, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, <http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/>, re:Worship: Benediction: Matthew 6: 25-34.*

“Remembering Sisters”

Quilt Raffle

78” x 91”

Tickets sell for \$1 each

or 6 tickets for \$5



On sale at the First Congregational Church office, after Sunday services, at the Harvest Moon Bazaar Nov. 23rd, and by many church members.

This quilt was made by Sandra Reynolds, a member of the First Congregational Church in Bristol RI.

Fabrics in this Quilt were purchased in Sisters, Oregon, a town known as the “Quilting Capital” of the Northwest and the host of one of the largest Quilt shows on the west coast every July. Sandra and her husband Keith had headed to the Northwest as Keith had grown up there.

The fabric colors chosen reflected the beautiful colors of early fall that Sandra saw. Thus, the name reflects that wonderful town of Sisters in Oregon!

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