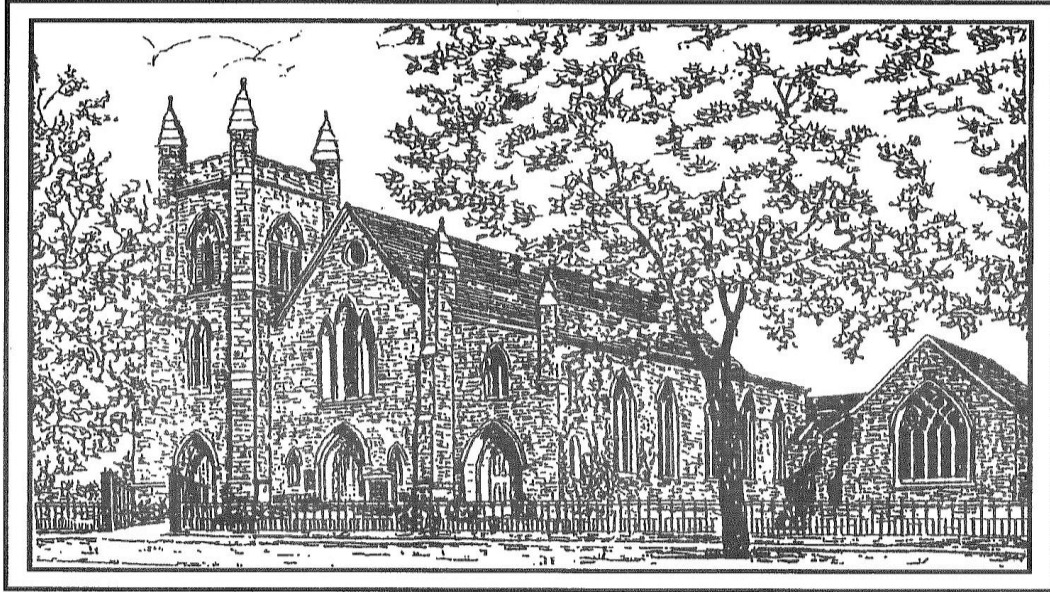


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

BAPTISM OF JESUS FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 12, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude *“Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit”*

Composer: JS Bach

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

People: God in Christ has named us all “Beloved.”

Leader: Yes, here and now, God’s heaven of love is being poured out anew.

People: May the presence of the Holy One shape our hearts and minds.

Leader: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

People: And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world! Amen.

***Invocation**

Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we delight in your beloved Son. As we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us so that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love to transform our common days into beauty never before known. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Welcoming New Members—Celeste Marie Bernadino and Matthew James Benson

Minister: We invite those who wish to join this covenant community of faith to come forward.

Minister: Welcome, you who come in Christ’s name.

Candidates: We desire to become members of First Congregational Church, Bristol.

Minister: Your presence opens us to a wider world.

Congregation: So here, in this sacred space, we welcome you to where path’s cross and pilgrims gather. There is much to share and celebrate.

Minister: Matt and Celeste, hear now our covenant as it has been expressed, affirmed, and practiced from the earliest days of our denomination:

All: We covenant with the Lord and with one another and do bind ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in all the ways which are revealed to us by God, as the Word is made known to us. (Adapted from the Salem Church Covenant, 1629)

Minister: Do you so promise, covenant, and agree?

Candidates: I do, God being my helper.

Congregation: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church following Jesus Christ. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of this church. God grant that loving and being loved, serving and being served, forgiving and being forgiven, offering grace and receiving grace, we may dwell together in love, unity, and hope. Amen.

The New Testament Reading

Acts 8:14-17

Sug Grant

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sug Grant

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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!

Sermon “And the People Were Filled with Expectations and Questions” Rev. Dr. Nancy Soukup

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

(The congregation will respond to the petition, “Lord, in your mercy,” with “Hear our 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

“What a Friend”

Composer: Nancy Price, Don Besig

***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**

O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.

Hymn

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

NCH#563

(We sing this hymn today in honor of the Rev. Dr. Ruth C. Duck, a UCC minister, composer, writer, and adaptor of hymns. She wrote the lyrics for many hymns that appear in our New Century Hymnal, including “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky.” Rev. Duck died at Pilgrim Place, in Claremont, California on December 26, 2024.)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

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

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

***Postlude**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Arr.: Jane Holstein

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~

~ ~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Sug Grant ~

~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~

Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship



Prayer List for Sunday, February 12, 2025

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

For concerns in the world:

For those wounded or killed in the act of violence in New Orleans over New Year's

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Carol, Karen's cousin, who has had brain surgery
Carrigan and Tyler P., who have cancer
Rosa Cermeno, who prays to welcome a healthy baby to their family
Joanne Bergeron
Terry and Pat
Anne, Sarah Albanese's cousin
Jim Morgan
Barbara Malony, Barbara Ringland's mother
Mary Costa, who had surgery at Boston Children's Hospital
Mark
Mary Aberg for her rehab from shoulder surgery
Jeannine Marshall, Charlotte Burnham's cousin
Jane Texada, a childhood friend of Sug Grant, who is mourning the loss of her husband Stephen
Kathy, Beverly Larson's cousin, who is recovering after a hospitalization
Charlie
Ken Latham in Leicester, MA, who is on chemotherapy 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
Ryan
Mark E., who has an aggressive form of prostate cancer
Fred Davis, who has stomach cancer
Meriel Smith
Charlotte Griffith
Bob and Sally Evans
Barbara and Jack Ringland
Kellie and Juan Morales's daughter
Bruce C., who is in rehab, and Pat P., both friends of Ed Wiacek
Caregivers in our congregation

For those who have died

Gordon MacLeod, a friend of the Harcourt family, who died this past week and for his wife Susan, his children, and grandchildren who mourn his loss

Upcoming Birthdays:

Adria Sartrys 1/16	Steve Walsh 1/17	
Lisa Andrade 1/18	Karen Griffith-Dieterich 1/21	Ryan Gamon 1/23
Mikey McGowan- Roach 1/23		Anne Archibald 1/27
Mike Oglo 1/28	Jarrod Riccio 1/28	Meredith Stone 1/29
Anthony Morettini 1/29	Sally Evans 1/31	

What's on the Church Calendar

January 12, 2025	Sunday Worship: First Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after Worship (Diamond Room)
January 14, 2025	Tuesday Facility meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
January 15, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
January 19, 2025	Sunday Worship: Second Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am Informal gathering after worship in the DeWolf Room to discuss the presentation of Rev. Nancy as our Settled Minister at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 26 Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after Worship (Dimond Room)
January 21, 2025	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
January 22, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
January 25, 2024	Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House (DeWolf Room)
January 26, 2025	Sunday Worship: Third Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am Congregational Annual Meeting following Worship Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after Worship (Dimond Room)
January 29, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 2, 2025	Sunday Worship: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am Groundhog Band Sunday
February 4, 2025	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
February 5, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 7, 2025	Friday Trivia Night 7pm



The First Congregational Church Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting will be Sunday January 26, 2025, following
worship in the Church Sanctuary.

All church members welcome.

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 9:00am – 2:00pm

Office e-mail address: office@FCCBristol.org

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: Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Heaven Opened: Service Prayers for the Baptism of Christ, Baptism of Christ C- January 12 - United Church of Christ; Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/10BAPTIS.htm>, re: Worship: Epiphany 1 C; Rick Morley, A Garden Path, <http://www.rickmorley.com/>, re: Worship: Epiphany 1 C; and Jan L. Richardson, <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>, re: Worship: Epiphany 1 C.



The Groundhog is coming. *This is an invitation to join the First Congregational Church 30th Annual Groundhog Day February 2, 2025, Snow date February 9,*

The groundhog is safely asleep in his underground chamber. It is up to us to awaken him on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Snow date is February 9, 2025. The Groundhog Band will start rehearsals every Sunday at 11:15 in the Dimond Room until the performance. The full schedule is below.

If you do not have your instrument or music, please see me. If you need to borrow an instrument, accommodations can be made with help from Mt Hope High and KMS music departments.

All instrumentalists are invited, no matter your experience. If you know someone who plays or played an instrument, give them a shove toward the rehearsal.

When we meet, we will rehearse in the church, play for the gathering music, play the hymns during the service, and then head for the Veterans Home for an 11:45 performance. Vocalists are encouraged to attend and sing with the band for the veterans.

Remember: "Every note you give us is one more note that we have, that we would not have without you."

Bennett Burnham
253-8530 HBur700343@aol.com

Rehearsal and Performance Schedule will be listed

January 19th After Worship in Dimond room
January 26th After Worship in Dimond room
February 1st Saturday at 9:00am in the sanctuary
February 2nd 8:00am before Church
February 2nd 10:00am Worship

Snow Date February 9th Saturday at 9:00am in the sanctuary
February 9th 8:00am before Church
10:00am Worship
11:45am Veterans home.

Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents

*An Evening of Americana Music Featuring
Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem*



Saturday, January 25, 2025

Doors open at 6:45pm

Music starts at 7:30pm

First Congregational Church

300 High Street

(Corner of Bradford and High St)

Bristol, RI 02809

Tickets are \$25.00; Students are Half Price; Children 5 and Under are Free
Seating is Limited and Early Reservations are Recommended.
Please Call 401-253-4813 for reservations or ticket information.

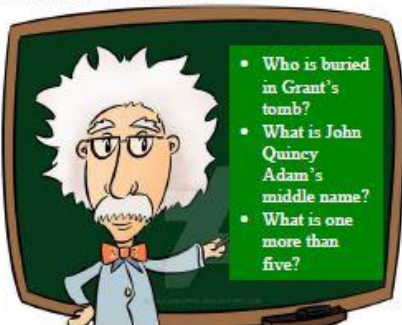
First Congregational Church

Team Trivia Night

February 7, 2025 @ 7PM

**Ask Friends and Family and Come
Join the Fun**

- *Up to 8 per Team*
- *No Charge*
- *Bring Snacks and a Beverage*
- *Light Refreshments and Snacks will be available*
- *Prizes for the Top Finishers*
- *Call (401) 253-4813 to pre-register your team or send an email to dubordrjd@cox.net*



- Who is buried in Grant's tomb?
- What is John Quincy Adam's middle name?
- What is one more than five?

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CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE**
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2007*



Church Office (401) 253-7288 •

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Church location 300 High St. • Office location

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