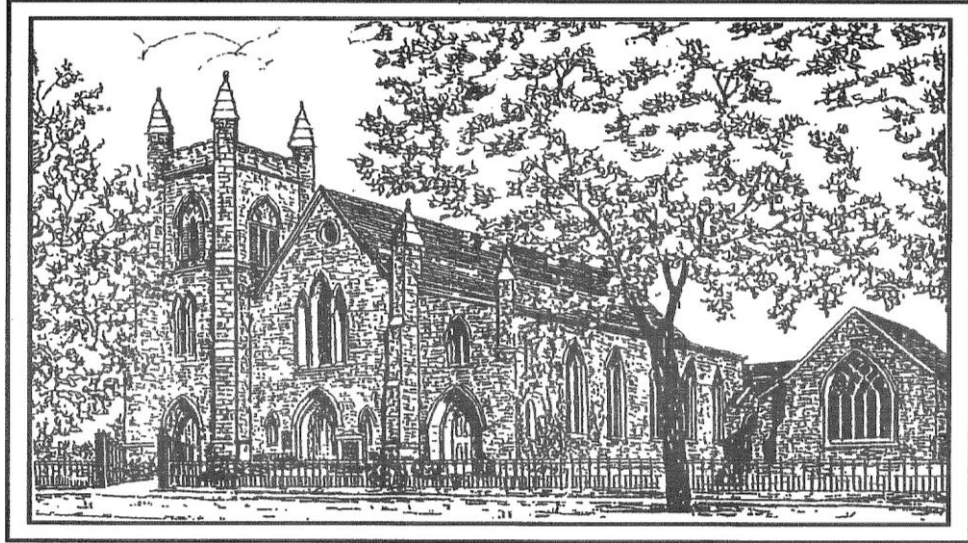


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 26, 2025 ~ 10:00 am**

## **Gathering Music**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Ringling of the Bell**

## **Prelude**

*“Fuga A 2 Voci”*

J Pepusch

## **Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

## **\*Call to Worship**

One: Gift-giver, you call us together with our different gifts,

**Many: our different ideas, our different tastes.**

One: You call us together to share what makes us special,

**Many: to build each other up, to serve each other in love.**

One: You call us together, knowing that we need all parts of the body

**Many: if we are to be whole.**

One: You call us together to sing, to pray, to listen, to speak.

**Many: To be refreshed so that we can go out and serve. You call us together in the name of the One who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.**

## **\*Invocation**

**O God, great, good and generous giver, thank you for making us part of the body of Christ. Thank you for making all parts of your body essential to our faith, which is interconnected and interdependent. We have a variety of gifts from you, but all have the same spirit. We have varieties of service, but all have the same Lord, Jesus Christ. We have many ways of working, but it is you, O God, who inspires all of it. Thank you for all the ways you make yourself known to us in the One Body through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Children’s Moment**

**The New Testament Reading**

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Grace Steere

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work power deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts, and I will show you a still more excellent way.

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 4:14-21

Grace Steere

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because it has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. It has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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**

“Honoring the Gifts in Front of Us”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Soukup

**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**

*“Come Thou Fount”*

H Best

**\*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**

**We thank you, God, for loving us into the freedom of a generous life. Bless these gifts we bring in response to the blessing you have already given us. Form our lives anew into living offerings, sharing your love with a grace that frees others. Amen.**

**Hymn**

*“Praise with Joy the World’s Creator”*

NCH#273

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

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

**Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

**\*Postlude**

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

Arr. J Randy

*~ 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, February 26, 2025**

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

### **For concerns in the world:**

For the wildfires in the Los Angeles area to cease and for the care of all those affected by those fires.  
For a ceasefire in Gaza  
For the undocumented as they face uncertainty and the possibility of being separated from family

### **For those in need of healing on our prayer list:**

John Miller, who is having ankle surgery this week  
Amanda and Raymond, who have been affected by the fires in Pasadena  
Autumn Quezada-Harrison, who is having back surgery this week  
Ellie's Dad, who she misses  
Becky, Sue Moretinni's friend, who is having surgery  
Carol, Karen's cousin, who has had brain surgery  
Carrigan and Tyler P., who have cancer  
Rosa Cermenno, 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

## Prayers of thanksgiving

Emma came home from Under the Sea five days before Christmas, a Christmas miracle for Jacob!

## Upcoming Birthdays:

Anne Archibald 1/27	Mike Oglo 1/28
Jarrold Riccio 1/28	Meredith Stone 1/29
Anthony Morettini 1/29	Sally Evans 1/31
Kate Sparrow 02/01	Andrew Delgado Damiano 02/09
Gina Damiano 02/14	Erika Wheeker 02/15
Alyssa Wheeler 02/15	Jean Cotta 02/22
Sandra Reynolds 02/27	Allison Allen 02/27
Roder Dubord 02/28	

## What's on the Church Calendar

<b>January 26, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: Third Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am</b> Congregational Annual Meeting following Worship Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after Worship (Dimond Room)
January 29, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
<b>February 2, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am</b> <b>Groundhog Band Sunday</b>
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
<b>February 9, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am</b>
February 11, 2025	Tuesday Facility meeting 7pm
February 12, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 13, 2025	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm
February 14, 2025	Friday Senior Luncheon Noon (DeWolf Room)
February 15, 2025	Saturday Pot Luck Supper and Game Night (DeWolf Room)
<b>February 16, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am</b>
February 18, 2025	Church Council Meeting 7:00pm
February 19, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 22, 2025	Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House
<b>February 23, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am</b>
February 26, 2024	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 27, 2025	Thursday Private Event (DeWolf Room) 6:00pm



### The First Congregational Church Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting will be today 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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: The prayers used during this service were written by or adapted from the following: Rev Gord, Worship Offerings, <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>, re:Worship: Epiphany 3 C; Eldon Degge, Heartlight, “The Body of Christ”—1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (Praying with Paul); <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>, re:Worship: Prayers of the People; Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Proclaim: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany Year C, After Epiphany 3C- January 26 - United Church of Christ; and Carlos Fernandez, re:Worship: Epiphany 3 C.*

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • [Office@FCCBristol.org](mailto:Office@FCCBristol.org) •

Church location 300 High St. • Office location 281 High Street  
• Bristol, Rhode Island 02809



**THE GROUNDHOGS  
ARE COMING.  
THE GROUNDHOGS ARE COMING.**

**Next Sunday the Groundhog Band  
Will be here to make their yearly  
appearance. Please come and enjoy  
the Groundhog Band.**

**10:00am Sunday February 2, 2025**

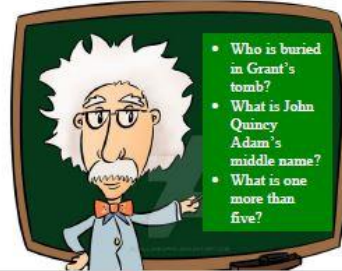
## First Congregational Church

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](mailto:dubordrjd@cox.net)



# SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, February 15

6 pm-Potluck

7 pm-Games

Bring Your Favorite Dish to Share

*Bring Your Own Games or Use One of Ours.*

