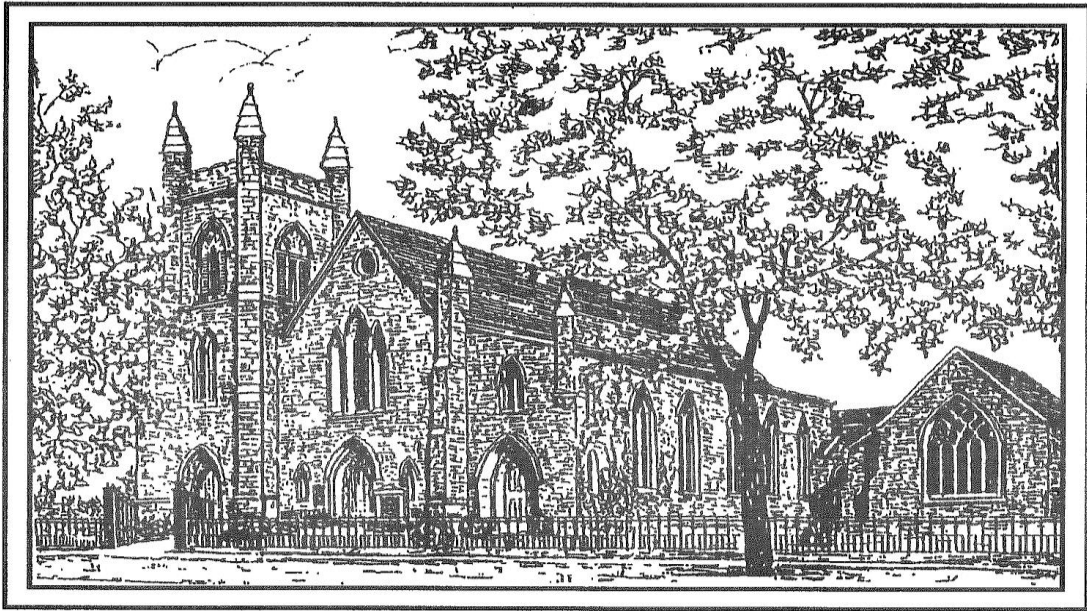


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
The 31<sup>st</sup> Groundhog Band Celebration

February 2, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

## Gathering Music

## Welcome and Announcements

## Ringing of the Bell

## Prelude

## Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

## \*Call to Worship

One: Come, let us sing to Yahweh;

**Many: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

One: Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving;

**Many: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

One: It is good to give you thanks, O Yahweh;

**Many: To sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

One: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

**Many: and your faithfulness by night,**

One: to the music of the lute and harp,

**Many: to the melody of the lyre.**

On: For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

**Many: at the works of your hands we sing for joy. Amen.**

## **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Holy, Creative God, we sing from the depths of our sorrow. We sing from the abundance of our joy. We sing in voices separate and unique. We sing with one voice as your body. May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song, and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry, be pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn**

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Three”*

NCH#4 (v. 1,2,3)

## **The Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 92:1-5,10,12-15

Steve Brosnihan

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!... You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil. The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright; God is my rock in whom there is no unrighteousness.

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 Lesson**

Luke 2:41-52

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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!**

## A Celebration of Band, Voice, and Hymns

*“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”*

NCH#307 (v.1,2)

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

PH #251 v.(1,2)

*“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”*

PH#348 (v.1,2)

*“America the Beautiful”*

PH#440 (v.1,2)

*“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”*

NCH#433 (v.1,2)

*(At this time the Deacons will collect your prayer cards)*

## Sharing our Joy and Concerns

### The Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People

#### 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.**

#### Hymn

*“Happy Birthday”*

#### Invitation

#### The Offertory

#### \*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

**Dear Evolving God, we are so grateful that you love creativity and are still making masterpieces: the universe is a work in progress. Help us to see and appreciate the diversity, beauty, and transformative powers of all music and the arts as they lift our spirits and send us on our way rejoicing. Amen.**

#### \*Closing Hymn

*“O When the Saints Go Marching In”*

*Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.*

*Oh, when the sun refused to shine,  
Oh, when the sun refused to shine,  
Oh Love, I want to be in that number  
When the sun refused to shine.*

*Oh, when they crown Him Lord of all,  
Oh, when they crown Him Lord of all,  
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number  
When they crown Him Lord of all.*

*Oh, when they gather 'round the throne,  
Oh, when they gather 'round the throne,  
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number  
When they gather 'round the throne.*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

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

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

**Postlude**

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



**Thanks and  
Appreciation to our  
31<sup>st</sup> Groundhog Day Band  
Performers of 2025.**

They are:

- ❖ **Flute:** Ruth Fisher, Eliza Thornton & Amy Holt
- ❖ **Clarinets:** Candy Alessandro, Nick Burnham, Bob Arsenault,  
Gabe Crouse & Fred Thornton
- ❖ **Bass Clarinet:** Tom Peterson
- ❖ **Trumpet:** Paul Temple, Andrew MacKeith, Hope MacKeith, Bennett Burnham  
& Gavin Stegall
- ❖ **Trombone:** Brad Hanson, Jon Pomerleau & Brian Caromile
- ❖ **Percussion:** Brady Harcourt & Jen Johnson
- ❖ **Violins:** James Caraligno, Veronica Metiros, Janna Peterson & Bella Crouse
- ❖ **Viola:** Clair Thornton & Sylvia Thornton
- ❖ **Cello:** Tom Thornton
- ❖ **Bass Viola:** Steve Mastriano
- ❖ **Piano:** Nikita Zabinski
- ❖ **Conductor:** Bennett Burnham

*Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship*



**Prayer List for Sunday, January 2, 2025**

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

**For concerns in the world:**

For the ceasefire between Israel and Gaza

For the victims of the airplane and helicopter crash in Washington, D.C., and their families

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

Benevides Family, who lost their home to a fire here in Bristol

John Miller who had ankle surgery

Amanda and Raymond, who have been affected by the fires in Pasadena

Autumn Quezada-Harrison,

Ellie's Dad, who she misses

Becky, Sue Moretinni's friend, who had surgery

Carol, Karen's cousin, who had brain surgery

Carrigan and Tyler, who have cancer, and for Carrigan's nurse, Kristen, who is also being treated for breast 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

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

Veronique, a friend of Lilly Kilvert, who died recently

### Upcoming Birthdays:

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>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> Private Party 4:30pm – 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
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: Seventh 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

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](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: Prayers used during this service were either written by or adapted from the following: Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>, re:Worship: Call to Worship, Prayer: Psalm 92 (re-worship.blogspot.com); Carol Penner, Musical Congregational Prayer - leadinginworship (typepad.com); Rev. Dr. Barb Hedges-Goettl, PC(USA), <https://bjhlog.wordpress.com/2020/02/19/nl-mark-1017-31-the-rich-young-man-march-1-2020/>, re:Worship: offering (re-worship.blogspot.com); Frederic Brussat, January 19, 2015, A Prayer for New Audiences for Visual and Performing Arts | Praying the News | Spirituality & Practice (spiritualityandpractice.com); and Maureen Killoran, As we listen to the blessing of music | WorshipWeb | UUA.org.*

## 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.*



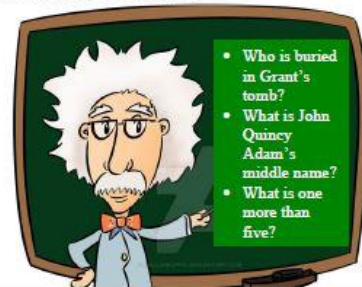
## First Congregational Church

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)*





**Seniors Just Want to Have Fun!**

January 21, 2025

Dear Friends,  
The FCC Board of Deacons is delighted to invite you to our Annual Senior Luncheon. Spend a part of Valentine's Day with us.

This year's event will be held on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the De Wolf Room.

The event will be catered by CP's Catering and promises to be a good time for all.

Come join us for fun and fellowship. The only requirement is that you bring your appetite. We'll do the rest.

Please reply to:

Grace Steere: (203) 217-7054  
[gracesteere52@gmail.com](mailto:gracesteere52@gmail.com)

Or

Bob Evans (508) 496-4752  
[corkysDad1@comcast.net](mailto:corkysDad1@comcast.net)

Please respond no later than Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.  
If you need a ride please contact Grace or Bob and we'll do our best for you.

**Bristol's Stone Church  
Coffeehouse Presents**  
*An Evening of American Roots Music Featuring*  
**The Meadows Brothers**



"... jack-of-all-trades instrumentalists who have come together to create a truly amazing musical experience. Their sound is a throwback to all of the great folk/country/bluegrass/blue..."  
- CHIP MCCABE, LONESOME NOISE

journey...  
50THIRDAND3RD.COM



**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

Doors open at 6:45 pm  
Music starts at 7:30 pm

**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.



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