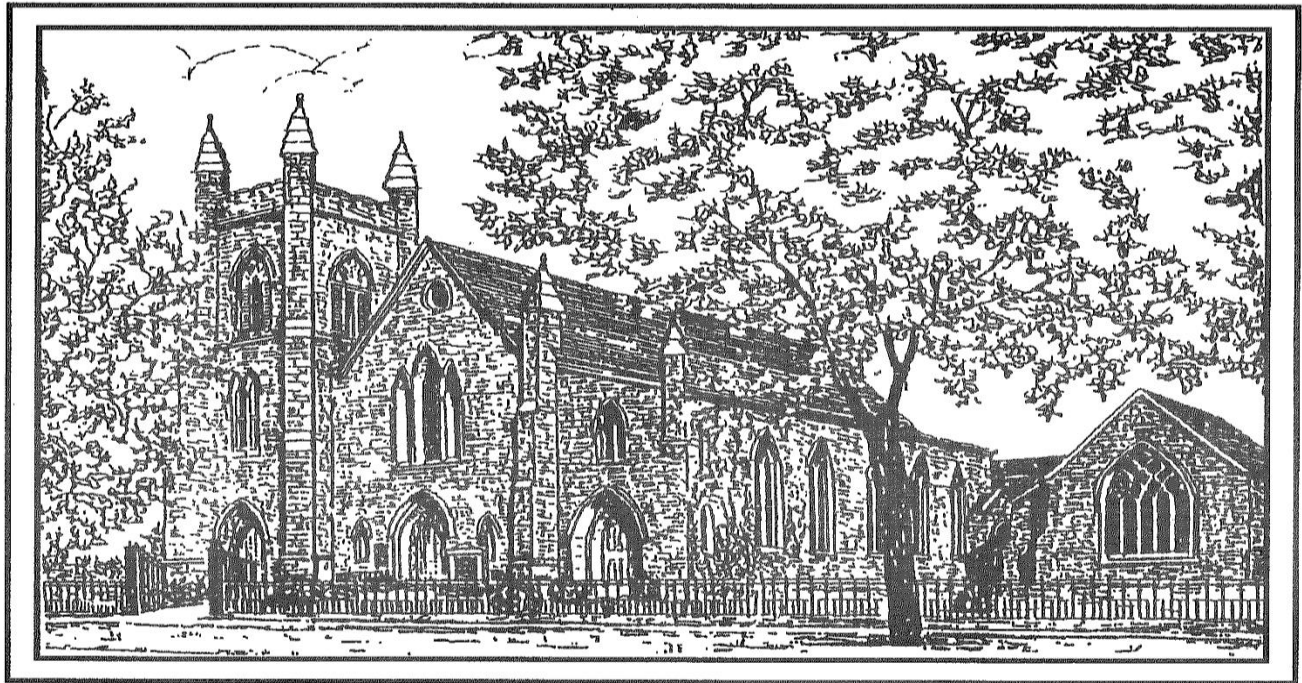


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

**HOLY COMMUNION
LAST SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY
March 2, 2025 ~ 10:00 am**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“I Woke Up This Morning”

African American Spiritual

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Beyond our busyness, above the cold winter floor, there is a glory rising born of heaven and reaching out to each of us:

Many: a light that shines through the clouds, an invitation seeking all of who we are to transfigure the world;

One: that transforms darkness into hope, that brings life from a cross where old life ends, and new life is born.

Many: In glory, Jesus meets us here raising us from depths of the valley to the height of the mountain and carrying the weight of our humanity to the heights of heavens glory.

One: Let us worship from the mountain and hear again God’s pronouncement: “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” **Amen.**

***Invocation**

Not all is as it seems: there is a glory hidden in everything waiting to be revealed to those who believe beyond what seems inevitable and those who do not want to live with the status quo. As we turn to Lent, help us to hold onto the vision and walk the more difficult path. There is a greater glory still to be revealed. Be at peace. Live in hope. Hold each other in love. Amen

***A Prayer for Transformation**

Holy God, it has been easy to live with our eyes veiled. Too often, we have hidden from the hard realities within us and around us. We have shielded your light of love, instead of sharing it. Something deep within has often hardened our hearts leading to inertia, but there is a deeper longing within. We hunger for the forgiveness and renewal you revealed in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Holy One, and unveil our eyes and our hearts. With your shining love, light a path of forgiveness for us that we may share it with others. By this, we may know the freedom of new life you revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.

***Assurance of God's Love**

***Hymn**

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

NCH#182

The Old Testament

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the God had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, but whenever Moses went to speak with God, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see that the skin of Moses's face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with God.

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 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying.

While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to

look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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!

***Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

PH#391

Message

“The Bright, Blinding Light that Reveals All”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Soukup

Sharing our Joy and Concerns

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

**Hear our prayer, O LORD,
hear our prayer, O LORD;
incline thine ear to us,
and grant us thy peace.**

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory

“What A Friend”

Nancy Price and 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 Spirit of Life, shine on us again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to your holy mystery and your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

NCH#293

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Communion Anthem

“One Bread, One Body”
(Soloist - Katherine Harcourt)

John B. Foley

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus, lead us to that mountain place of stronger light and sure sound, where we may see your glory. Light and truth, bright as blinding snow, whom Peter, James, and John saw,
“Bring us to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place.” Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

NCH#183

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

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

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Arr. John Carter

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

~ ~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

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

Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship



Prayer List for Sunday, March 2, 2025

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

For concerns in the world:

All those whose employment is uncertain and for whom the way forward is unclear, especially here in Rhode Island

All victims of violence and the threat of violence

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Scott, Brenda, and Cameron, who are in need of divine guidance and strength to follow God's path for them

Jeannine Marshall, Charlotte Burnham's cousin, whose has had a recurrence of cancer

Max, for healing and freedom, and for his Mom

Barbara Gwynn, Beverly Larson's sister, who recently had surgery

Kristen Conway, who is recovering from long-awaited knee surgery.

Kristen

Robin Vestal, who has Stage 4 Duodenal Cancer, and her husband Ulysses, who are friends of the Grant family

Peter MacDonald, who has Lung Cancer

Rusty, who has Lung Cancer
 Benevides Family, who lost their home to a fire here in Bristol
 Autumn Quezada-Harrison
 Ellie's Dad, who she misses
 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
 Mark
 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 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 thanksgivings

Evalyn, Bella's little sister, so that she may have an amazing birthday

Upcoming Birthdays:

Lynne Ramos	03/10	Alma Ivor-Campbell	03/11	Sandie Campbell	03/11
Sasha Temple	03/12	Camille Pansa	03/14	Shawen Williams	03/14
Justin Riccio	03/16	Jennifer Johnson	03/19	Steven Brosnihan	03/22
John Tyler	03/25				

What's on the Church Calendar

March 02, 2025 **Sunday Worship and Holy Communion: Transfiguration Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am**

March 04, 2025 **Shrove Pancake Supper** 6:00pm (DeWolf Room)

March 04, 2025 Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm

March 05, 2025 **Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Circle 4-6pm (DeWolf Room)**
Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm (DeWolf Room)

March 09, 2025 **Sunday Worship: First Sunday of Lent 10:00am**

March 10, 2025 Monday Lenten Book Club 7pm (Guiteras House)

March 11, 2025	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7pm
March 12, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
March 13, 2025	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7pm (Deacons Meeting)
March 14, 2025	Friday Trivia Night 7pm
March 16, 2025	Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Lent 10:00am Haiti Taskforce Presentation 11am (DeWolf Room) (rescheduled from February) Private Party 2pm (DeWolf Room)
March 18, 2025	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7pm
March 19, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
March 22, 2025	Saturday Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm
March 23, 2025	Sunday Worship: Third Sunday of Lent 10:00am
March 26, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
March 28, 2025	Friday Special Speaker Ken Nomiyama 7pm (DeWolf Room)
March 30, 2025	Sunday Worship: Fourth Sunday of Lent 10am ANNUAL MEETING, 11am (Sanctuary) (rescheduled from March 16)
Match 31, 2025	Monday Lenten Book Club 7pm (Guiteras House)

Please visit our website for more information about the Church
and its events: 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 10:00am – 2:00pm
Office e-mail address: office@FCCBristol.org

Rev. Nancy away March 17, to March 24

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 for this service are written by or adapted from the following: Prayers from re: Worship: Transfiguration Sunday—Rev. Rob Smith; Roddy Hamilton, <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>; <https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>; Victor Hoagland, <http://vhoagland.wordpress.com/>; Rev. Gord, Worship Offerings, <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>. Prayers from Worship Ways, www.ucc.org, Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, *On the Mountain to Pray: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday Year C, Transfiguration Sunday C - March 2 - United Church of Christ.**

Tuesday MARCH 4, 2025



**Annual Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**

at 6:00pm.

Come and enjoy our fabulous pancakes with all the fixings! This is always a great time to dine with family and friends and to prepare ourselves for the Lenten season.

There will be a free will offering to help offset the cost of the supper.

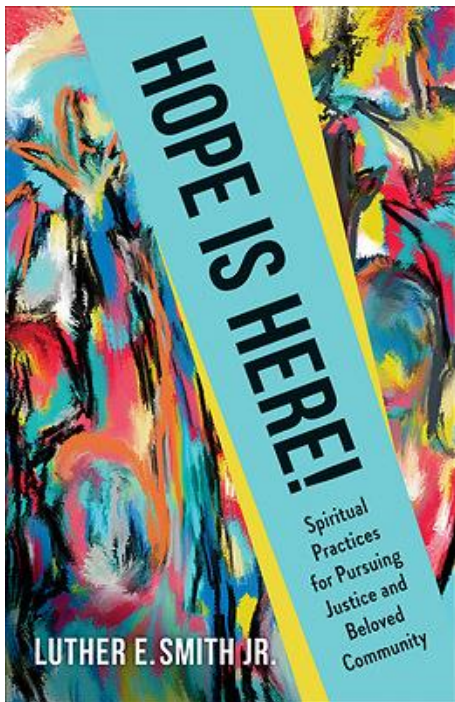
2025



March 5, 2025

**ASH WEDNESDAY
LABYRINTH WALK &
SERVICE**

**Labyrinth walk 4pm - 6pm
Worship Service 6pm -7pm**



Lenten Book Discussion Series, Mondays, March 10, March 30, April 7, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. (Guiteras House Dining Room)

During Lent, Rev. Nancy will lead a book discussion on *Hope Is Here: Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community* by Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr., This is the book was the focus of her Advent sermons. March 10 will be the introduction. The next meeting will be March 30, giving all the time to read the book. Books will be made available for those in the discussion group. Please contact Rev. Nancy at nhsoukup@gmail.com if you are interested in taking part in the series. All are warmly welcomed.

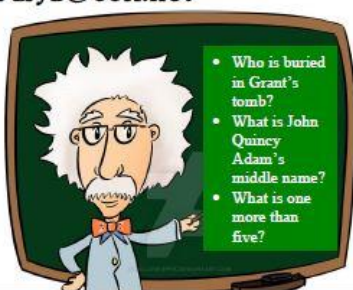
First Congregational Church

Team Trivia Night

Friday, March 14, 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*



Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents

An Evening of Country and Bluegrass Music Featuring Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters



Saturday, March 22, 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.

