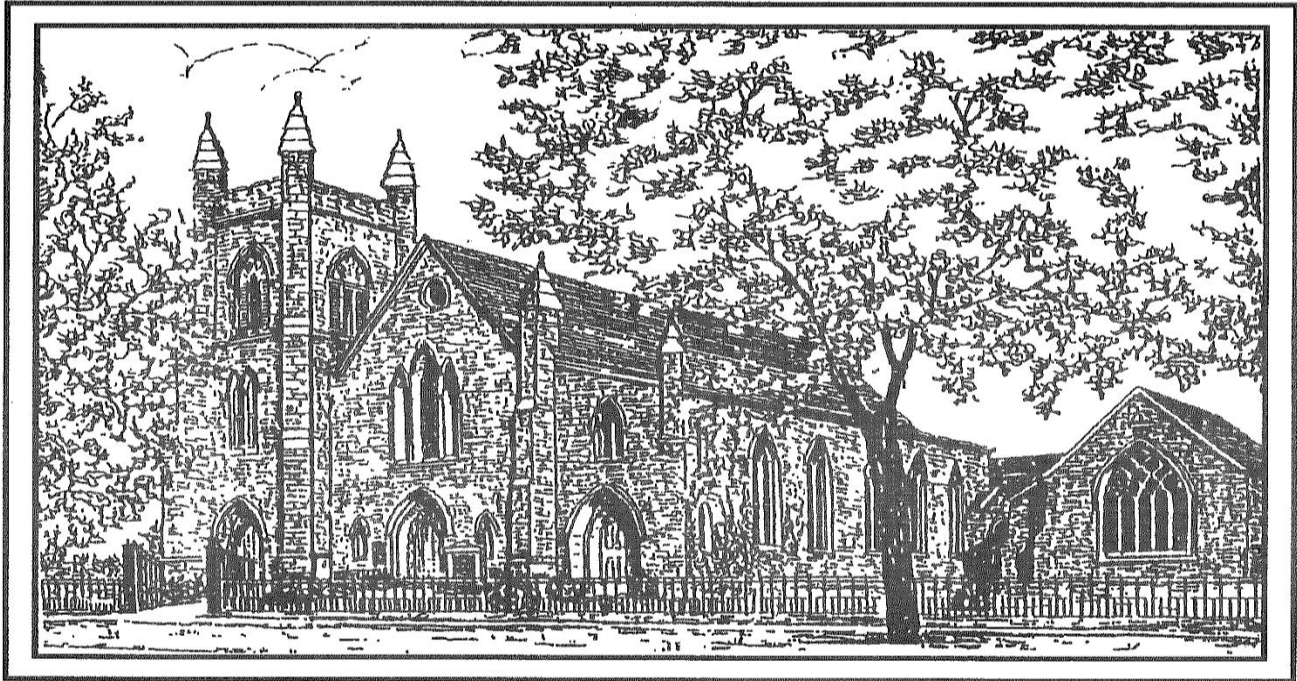


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

*“This Is The Day”*

L. Garrett

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

One: After he was baptized by John,

**Many: Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.**

One: Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted

**Many: to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.**

One: Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent,

**Many: which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.**

One: Let us worship God and walk the journey together,

**Many: seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way. Amen.**

## \*Invocation

**God, you know our hearts. You have knitted our inmost being, and you know our deepest desires, fears, and worries. Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you. Amen.**

## \*Hymn

*“O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free”*

NCH#209 (vs.1-3,6)

## Children’s Moment

### The Old Testament

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Jen Johnson

“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for the Lord’s name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty, and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors. The Lord heard our voices and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders, God brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.”

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 4:1-13

Jen Johnson

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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**

*“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

NCH#193

**Message**

*“When the Devil Gets You by the Tail”*

Rev. Dr. Nancy H. 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**

**O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer:  
when I call answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer;  
come and listen to me.**

**Offertory Invitation**

**The Offertory**

*“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”*

P. Monachino

**\*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 for Lent**

**Almighty God, your Son fasted in the wilderness and faced human temptations. Give us courage to face and name our own temptations, and to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit. You know us better than we know ourselves; may we know you and grow closer to the vision you have for us, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*“Be Not Dismayed”*

NCH#460

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

*“Awesome God”*

R. Mullina

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

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

*Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship*



### **Prayer List for Sunday, March 9, 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 aggression and betrayal

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

For Kathy, Jen Johnson's cousin, who is recovering from brain surgery and has a long recovery ahead of her

Scott, Brenda, and Cameron, who need 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  
 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

**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**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>March 09, 2025</b> | <b>Sunday Worship: First Sunday of Lent 10am</b>                               |
| 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  |
| <b>March 16, 2025</b> | <b>Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Lent 10am</b>                              |
|                       | Haiti Taskforce Presentation 11am (DeWolf Room)<br>(rescheduled from February) |
|                       | Private Party 2pm (DeWolf Room)  |
| March 18, 2025        | Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7pm   |
| March 19, 2025        | Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)                                |
| <b>March 22, 2025</b> | <b>Saturday Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm</b>                     |
| <b>March 23, 2025</b> | <b>Sunday Worship: Third Sunday of Lent 10am</b>                               |
| <b>March 26, 2025</b> | Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)                                |
| March 28, 2025        | Friday Special Speaker Ken Nomiyama 7pm (DeWolf Room)                          |
| <b>March 30, 2025</b> | <b>Sunday Worship: Fourth Sunday of Lent 10am</b>                              |
|                       | <b>ANNUAL MEETING, 11am (Sanctuary)</b><br>(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](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 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Office e-mail address: [office@FCCBristol.org](mailto: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](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: © Chris Heckert, <http://chrisheckertblog.com/>, re:Worship: Lent 1: Call to Worship & Prayer; Gill Le Fevre, re:Worship: Lent 1 C; Rev. Ruth Garwood, Famished: Service Prayers for the first Sunday in Lent, UCC Worship Ways, Lent 1C – March 9 - United Church of Christ; Presbyterian Church of Canada, <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>; re:Worship: Prayer: Facing Our Own Temptations; and Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>, re:Worship: Lent 1 C*

### A Community Partners Program with Clements Marketplace



As many know, Clements Marketplace has opened a third location at 1150 Hope Street in Bristol. As they have in Portsmouth and Manomet in Plymouth, MA, Clements is extending their Community Partners Program to their new location. Twenty-seven years ago, they began this effort to support organizations and groups in the area.

Where do I drop off my receipts?: At the Frist Congregational Church in an envelope marked receipts will be pinned to one of the bulletin boards in the Wardwell Room near the church kitchen or in the Narthex, starting Sunday, October 27. Or you can drop them off to the office. . We have already received back \$63.14 from Clements’.

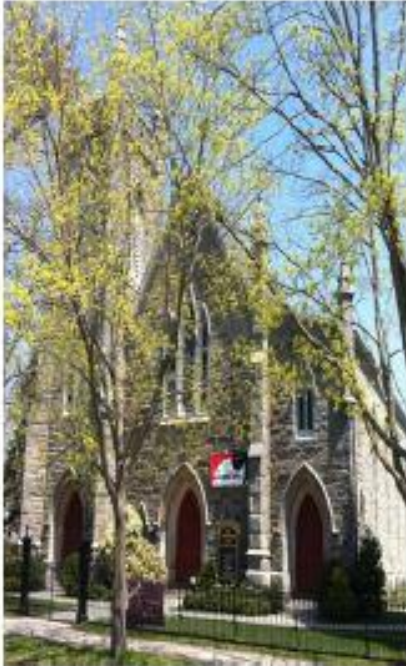
**Plases save those Clements’ receipts** and join with us in their Community Partners Program to benefit First Congregational Church! Please.

# ***Lent & Easter Services***

## **First Congregational Church**

300 High Street  
401-253-7288  
Bristol, RI 02809

Welcome to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Bristol. We are an open and affirming congregation and believe that God is still speaking. Wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome here!



### ***March 9<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

*Daylight Saving turn your clock ahead 1 hour*

### ***March 10<sup>th</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*7pm (Guiteras House)*

### ***March 16<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

*SNEUCC Haiti Taskforce Presentation*

*11am (DeWolf Room)*

### ***March 23<sup>rd</sup> Third Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

*The Rev. Jametta Alston, Guest Minister*

### ***March 28<sup>th</sup> Friday***

*Special Guest Speaker Ken Nomiya*

*7pm (DeWolf Room)*

### ***March 30<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

### ***March 31<sup>st</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*7pm (Guiteras House)*

### ***April 5<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

### ***April 7<sup>th</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*7pm (Guiteras House)*

### ***April 13<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Palm Sunday***

*Worship 10:00am*

### ***April 14<sup>th</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*7pm (Guiteras House)*

### ***April 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday***

*Worship 7pm*

### ***April 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday***

*Labyrinth Walk Circle Noon to 3pm (DeWolf Room)*

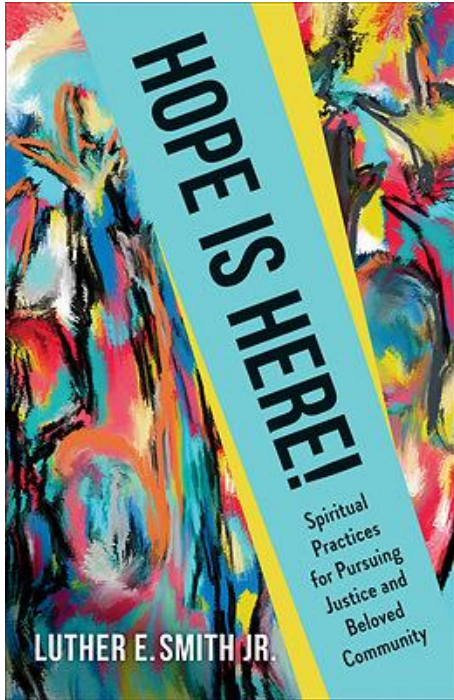
## ***April 20, 2025 EASTER***

***Sunrise Worship at Colt State Park 6:30am***

***Intergenerational Easter Worship 10:00am***

*Officiating all worship will be The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup*

2025



**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](mailto:nhsoukup@gmail.com) if you are interested in taking part in the series. All are warmly welcomed.

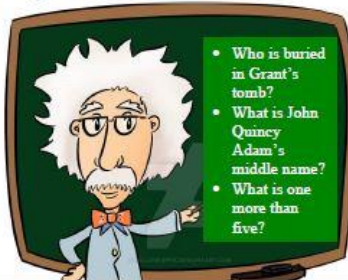
**First Congregational Church**

*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](mailto:dubordrjd@cox.net)*



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

**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

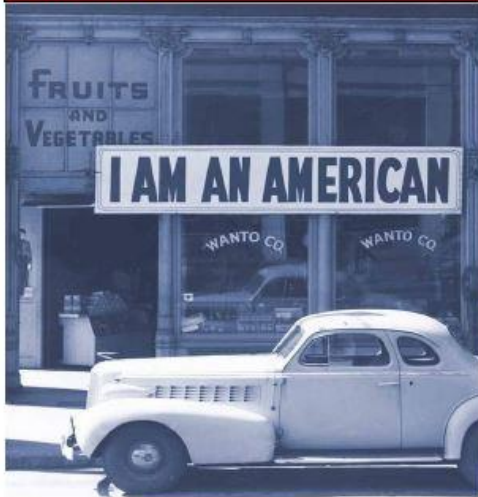
Tickets are \$25.00; Students are Half Price; Children 5 and Under are Free  
 Seating is Limited and Early Reservations are Recommended.  
 Please Call 401-253-4813 for reservations or ticket information.





Two months after Pearl Harbor, a presidential executive order rounded up more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans and Japanese Nationals living in the United States and sent them to incarceration camps.

By learning about our history, we can ask effective questions about the past and understand better the choices we make for the future.



First Congregational Church in Bristol RI welcomes Ken Nomiya on March 28 at 7pm in the DeWolf Room 300 High Street.

Come hear him tell the story of the U.S. government incarcerating the Japanese in America during World War II. Ken was born in the Tule Lake CA incarceration camp and will talk about how this government action affected his life and the lives of the Japanese community long after the war.

Call (401) 253-7288 or email [office@fccbristol.org](mailto:office@fccbristol.org) if you have any questions. Seating is limited. Admission is free.

*"It shouldn't have happened to us.*

*And it certainly shouldn't happen to anyone else."*

*- Bob Fuchigami, Incarcerated at the Amache camp, Colorado*



**WHAT  
CAN  
WE  
LEARN  
FROM  
THE  
PAST?**

Easter is April 20, 2025

Time to order your  
Easter flowers

All order **MUST** be in  
by March 14<sup>th</sup> **PLEASE**

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