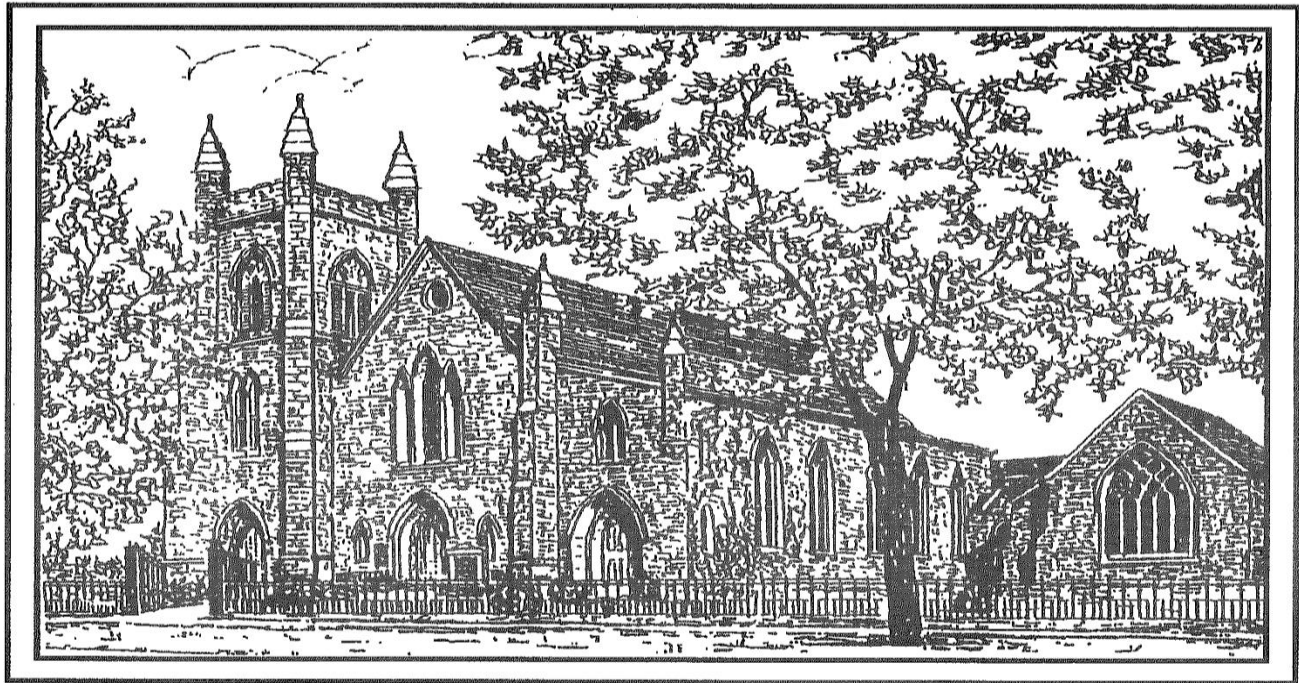


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 6, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“Prelude in E minor”

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“God Is Truly With Us”

G. Tersteegen

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship and Invocation**

One: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness and water the desert.

Many: Help us to recognize your hand-working miracles that are beyond our imagination.

One: Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing,

Many: so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all and its presence in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Invocation**

You are making all things new—a new heaven, a new earth, a new way of thinking, and a new way of being. You are making all things new—no more death, no more mourning, no more crying, and no more pain. You are making all things new—renew our minds to renew the world by living out your commandment of love. You are making all things new. Amen.

***A Prayer for Transformation**

Holy God, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. We need Jesus as much today as in times of old. Many come in with tears and still go out weeping. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, wipe away the tears of despair. As we worship today, we tilt an ear to listen closely. Let the voice of your angels fill our minds with new understandings. We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.

***Assurance of God's Love**

***Hymn** *“Before Your Cross, O Jesus”* NCH #191 (sung to tune for #190)

The Old Testament Reading Psalm 126 Sug Grant

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

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 John 12:1-8 Sug Grant

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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** *“A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost”* NCH #206

Message *“That Precious and Costly Perfume”* Rev. Dr. Nancy H. 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

**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.**

**The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the wellspring of life.**

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

W. Walker

*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

Extravagant God, lavishing your love on our poverty of heart: inspire us to give with generosity, to love life so that we may find it again, and thus the world will be filled with the fragrance of your love; through Jesus Christ, who offers himself for us. Amen.

*Hymn

"Jesus Is Here Right Now"

(sung three times) NCH #348

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving Litany

One: Most generous God, with thankful hearts we rejoice in your goodness towards us and in the many blessings that we receive each day. In love you provide for your people's needs, and you accompany us along the way.

Many: **We give you our thanks for the physical gifts that sustain us and for the added blessings which make life more joyful and full. We rejoice that you freely pour out the perfume of your love, even though we are not worthy to receive it.**

One: We are thankful for those who have been bountiful towards us, giving of their time, their skills and their love. As a token of our gladness, may we also bless others, being generous with all that you have bestowed. **Amen.**

*Hymn

"God Loved the World"

NCH #208

*Benediction

***Benediction Response**

**Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love
Our God is an awesome God**

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

“Piano Sonata No. 14 in C sharp Minor, Adagio Sostenuto”

Beethoven

~ 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, April 6, 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 you are facing employment, housing, and/or food insecurity in our Bristol community or in Rhode Island

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Rosa Cermeno, who prays to welcome a healthy baby to their family

Jack and Barbara Ringland

Lee Newton friends of Charlotte Burnham

Kristen

For Roxanne, who is now dealing with breast cancer, and for Janice who recently passed away.

Claudia and her family, as she enters hospice

Brian Soukup, Rev. Nancy's nephew

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

Max, for healing and freedom, and for his Mom

Barbara Gwynn, Beverly Larson's sister, who is recovering from surgery

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

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
 Terry and Pat
 Anne, Sarah Albanese's cousin
 Barbara Malony, Barbara Ringland's mother
 Mark
 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:

Brittany Cordeiro	04/07	Avery Walsh	04/07	Jennifer Mowbray	04/09
Teddy Brosnihan	04/16	Doug Harrington	04/14	Alan Berry	04/16
Kathryn Anderson	04/18	Lindsey Harrington	04/20	Chuck Ramos	04/23
Bowen Drawbridge	04/25	Joanne Rotondo	04/26	Ellie Donovan	04/29
Leah Dieterich	04/30				

What's on the Church Calendar

April 06, 2025	Sunday Worship: Fifth Sunday in Lent 10am
April 07, 2025	Monday Lenten Book Club 7pm (Guiteras House)
April 09, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
April 10, 2025	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7pm
April 11, 2025	Friday Trivia Night 7pm
April 13, 2025	Sunday Worship: Palm Sunday 10am
April 14, 2025	Monday Lenten Book Club 7pm (Guiteras House)
	DEADLINE for Easter Flower Donations
April 15, 2025	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7pm
April 16, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
April 17, 2025	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
April 18, 2025	Friday Labyrinth Walk Circle Noon to 3pm (DeWolf Room)

April 20, 2025

Sunday Worship: Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am (Location TBA)

April 23, 2025

Sunday Worship: Easter Sunday Service 10am

April 24, 2025

Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)

April 26, 2025

Thursday CE Meeting 7pm

April 27, 2025

Saturday Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm

April 30, 2025

Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Easter 10am

Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)

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

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: Found on re:Worship: Lent 5 C—Revised Common Lectionary Prayers 2002, alt. in “Trial Use Collects and Prayers Over the Gifts for Year C,” <http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Trial-Use-Collects-Lent-1C-through-Lent-5C.pdf>; Monthly Prayers page (now Weekly Worship) of the Christian

*Aid website, <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship/>; and ©Thom M. Shuman, <http://prayersfortoday.blogspot.ca/>. Rev. Penny L. Lowes, *From Tears to Rejoicing: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent.*, *Worship Ways*, re:Worship: *Call to Worship & Prayer: Psalm 126*; Rev. Dr. A.R. Neal Mathers, in *Mary and Martha: Worshipful Work*, <http://presbyterianrecord.ca/2013/06/21/drama-martha-and-mary-worshipful-work/>, re:Worship: *Search results for Mary and Martha*; Rev. Dr. Barb Hedges-Goettl,*

*<https://bjhlog.wordpress.com/2020/02/19/nl-mark-1017-31-the-rich-young-man-march-1-2020/>, re:Worship: *offering; Prayers for an Inclusive Church 2009, alt., “Trial Use Collects and Prayers Over the Gifts for Year C,” <http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Trial-Use-Collects-Lent-1C-through-Lent-5C.pdf>, re:Worship: *Prayer: Extravagant God; Starters for Sunday, <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>, re:Worship: *Prayer of Thanksgiving: John 12: 1-8; and Jan L. Richardson, <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>, re:Worship: *Blessing: John 12: 1-8*****



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,

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

For the month of **APRIL 2025**

THIS SEASON WE'RE
Blooming & Giving



STOP&SHOP

This season, let your purchase do more. Head over to our selected Stop & Shop location this month and purchase a specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet. Every bouquet sold will send us a \$1 donation!

stopandshop.2givelocal.com
Bloomin' 4 Good Program

Benefiting:

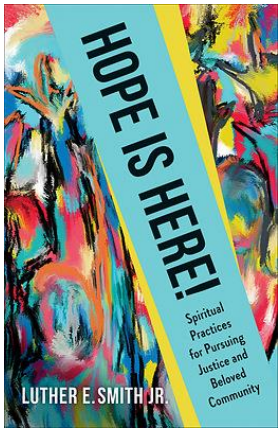


First Congregational Church in Bristol
281 High Street
Bristol, RI 02809
O: 401-253-7288
Office @ FCCBristol.org

At This Stop & Shop Location:



STOP&SHOP
605 Metacom Ave.
Bristol, RI 02809



**Lenten Book Discussion Series,
Mondays, March 31, 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 31, 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.

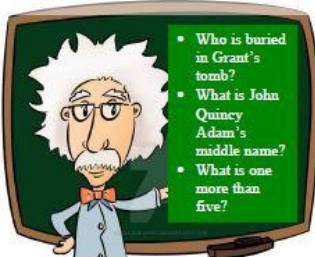
First Congregational Church

Team Trivia Night

Friday, April 11, 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*



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

MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Service

April 17, 2025
Starting at 7pm



*A service to prepare for Good
Friday and Easter Sunday*

All are welcome

First Congregational Church
281 High Street
Bristol, RI 02809
401-253-7288

Good Friday April 18, 2025



Come and Walk the Labyrinth

Walking the labyrinth is an active prayer form of meditation that can give insight and guidance for life's challenges, help solve a problem, stir creativity, bring solace to those in sorrow, peace to the chaos of life, and provide an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for our blessings. Come join us on a labyrinth walk.

**Hours are
Noon - 3:00pm**

2-2025

**Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse
Presents**

*An Evening of Swing Era Vintage Favorites
Featuring*

Vintage Vocal Quartet



Saturday, April 26, 2025 **First Congregational Church**
Doors open at 6:45pm 300 High Street
Music starts at 7:30pm (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.



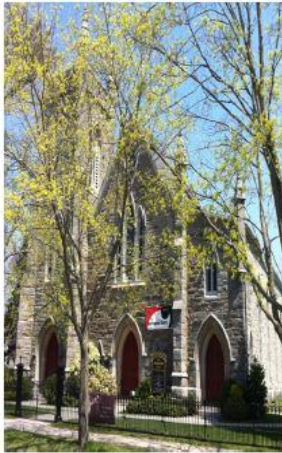
Discover the Excitement
**BRISTOL'S STONE
CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE**
*Live Acoustic Music Since
2007*



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!



April 6th Fifth Sunday of Lent
Worship 10am
April 7th Lenten Book Club Monday
7pm (Guiteras House)
April 13th Intergenerational Palm Sunday
Worship 10:00am
April 14th Lenten Book Club Monday
7pm (Guiteras House)
April 17th Maundy Thursday
Worship 7pm
April 18th Good Friday
Labyrinth Walk Circle Noon to 3pm (DeWolf Room)

April 20, 2025 EASTER
Sunrise Worship at TBA 6:30am
Intergenerational Easter Worship 10:00am

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

2025

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