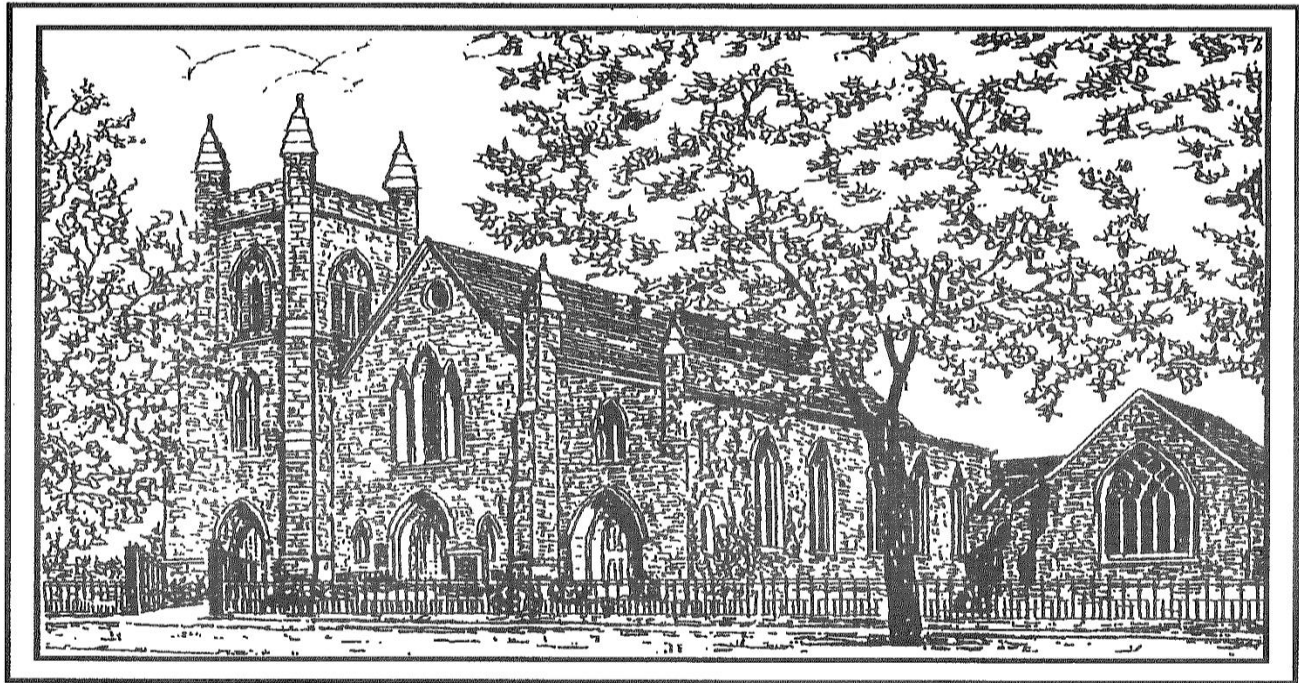


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude	<i>“Prelude: Sonata in D Major”</i>	Scarlatti
Welcome and Announcements		
Introit	<i>“Hosanna, Rejoice and Sing”</i>	J. Holstein
Bringing Forth the Light of Christ		Acolytes

*Call to Worship and Invocation

One: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

Many: **We will journey through praise with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts**

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow because he is the life for whom we have longed. He is the Word who sustains us.

Many: **We wave palm branches in anticipation; we lay our love before him to cushion his walk.**

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes, modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Many: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the realm of God. Amen.**

***Invocation**

Gracious God, as we enter this Holy Week, we may be tempted to skip parts of the story that begins with Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, There are challenging chapters ahead of us in this week. We may want to turn away from the betrayals and hardships and suffering in the Passion Story, just as we too often turn away from the hardships and suffering of people in our own time. Help us when we slip. Bring us back to the path you set before us. Renew our strength and increase our faithfulness. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

NCH #215

*(During the hymn, the children will lead a palm procession around the church.
Everyone present is encouraged to join them, if able.)*

The Old Testament Reading

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Caroline Jacobus

O give thanks to the LORD, who is good and whose steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”
Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.
The LORD is God, who has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. You are my God, and I will extol you.
O give thanks to the LORD, who is good and whose steadfast love endures forever.

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 19:28-40

Caroline Jacobus

After [Jesus] had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. Now, as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

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** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" NCH #216 (vs. 1 and 3)

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

*(We ask the congregation to take the part of the "ASSEMBLY" during the Passion Reading.
Please follow the Narrative in the separate hand-out.)*

***Hymn** "Were You There?" PH #179

Meditation "Through Jesus, We Know Humanity" 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 "Palm Branches" D. Nolan

***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**

One: Though we have known hardship and pain, and though life has not always turned out as we had hoped, we will stand here and say:

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Though life becomes more complex, and the deepest questions remain unanswered, and though the mystery of faith deepens, we will say:

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: And though the pain of the world often seems more than we can bear or address, we will stand firm in our faith and say:

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever!

***Closing Hymn**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

PH #177

***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

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Theodulf

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

~ ~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Caroline Jacobus ~

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

Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship



Prayer List for Sunday, April 13, 2025

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

For Rhode Island’s Jewish Community:

We extend greetings and prayers to our Jewish family in faith throughout Rhode Island, especially United Brothers Synagogue here in Bristol, as they begin Passover this weekend. Chag Pesach Sameach! or Happy Passover!

For thanksgivings:

A thankful blessing to all the citizens who joined in the demonstrations last weekend to support the many agencies that provide health care, food programs, housing, and medical research for so many in our nation, especially the poor and needy. Prayers to restore funds that have recently been cut from those agencies.

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Tom, a neighbor of the Crouse family, who recently fell and now is in hospital
Kristen, who is preparing to undergo aggressive chemo and radiation therapies;
prayers for the best outcome
Prayers for all victims of violence
Alma Campbell, who fell and broke her knee
Connie Marino, Cristina Marino’s grandmother, who is moving from
Newport Hospital to a rehab center

Rosa Cermeno, who prays to welcome a healthy baby to their family
 Jack and Barbara Ringland
 Lee Newton friends of Charlotte Burnham
 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:

Teddy Brosnihan	04/11	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 13, 2025	Sunday Worship: Palm Sunday 10am Last Sunday to order Easter Flowers
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 (Mt Hope Boat Ramp, 118 Annawamscutt Dr, Bristol)
	Sunday Worship: Easter Sunday Service 10am
April 23, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
April 24, 2025	Thursday CE Meeting 7pm
April 26, 2025	Saturday Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm
April 27, 2025	Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Easter 10am
April 30, 2025	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: Prayers from this service were written by or adapted from the following: Thom Shuman,

<http://www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>, re:Worship: Palm Sunday; Rev. Ruth Garwood, Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday in Lent Year C, Palm/Passion Sunday - April 13 - United Church of Christ; Christine Jerrett. <https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>,

re:Worship: Palm Sunday; Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand website. <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>, re:Worship: offering; Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Spirituality Centre, <http://www.stillpointsa.org.au/>, re:Worship: Palm Sunday; and lutheranjulia, <http://revgalblogpals.org/2016/03/18/friday-prayer-something-is-coming/>, re:Worship: Palm Sunday.

LAST SUNDAY DAY TO ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS



MAUNDY THURSDAY--A TENEBRAE SERVICE WITH MUSIC

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

300 HIGH STREET, BRISTOL, RI

Music with

Nikita, Zabinski, First Congregational Church Musician
The First Congregational Church Choir
Kyle Louviere, soloist
Alexi Shabalin, violinist

Music includes traditional Holy Week anthems, contemporary composers, and Rachmaninoff
Using Scripture readings, Tenebrae is a traditional Holy Week service that moves worshipers from lightness into darkness representing the approaching death of Jesus on Good Friday.

All are welcome!

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • Church 300 High Street •
Church Office 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

First Congregational Church

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

Good Friday April 18, 2025

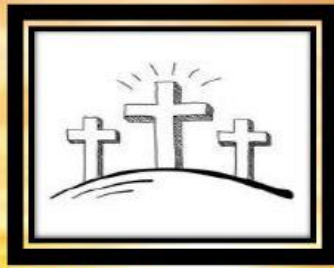


Come and Walk the Labyrinth

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



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

At 6:30am

At a NEW location

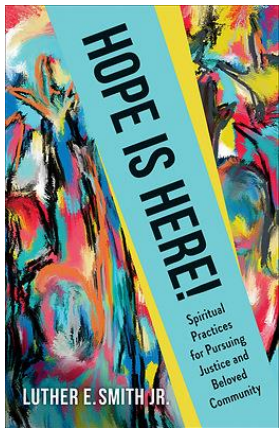
MT. HOPE BOAT RAMP

118 ANNAWAMSCUTT DRIVE
Bristol, RI 02809

Officiating will be The Rev. Dr. Nancy H. Soukup
of the **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** in **BRISTOL**.

Sorry you will need to bring your own chairs

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809



Lenten Book Discussion Series,
Monday, 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 that was the focus of our Advent sermons. March 10 will be the introduction.

The next meeting will be April 14, 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.

Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents

An Evening of Swing Era Vintage Favorites
Featuring

Vintage Vocal Quartet



Saturday, April 26, 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.



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



A Community Partners Program with Clements Marketplace



Please save those Clements' receipts and join with us in their Community Partners Program to benefit First Congregational Church! Please. So keep those receipts and drop them off at the church.



The First Congregational Church
of Bristol

The Deacons have different scholarships available to all active members of the First Congregational Church of Bristol.

They have an Educational School Scholarship,

they have a Summer Interim Work Scholarship,

and they have a Summer Christian Camp Scholarship.

Call or e-mail for an application 401-253-7288 or office@FCCBristol.org

All application are Due on May 1, 2025
Thank you

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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.givelocal.com
Bloomin' 4 Good Program

Benefiting:



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