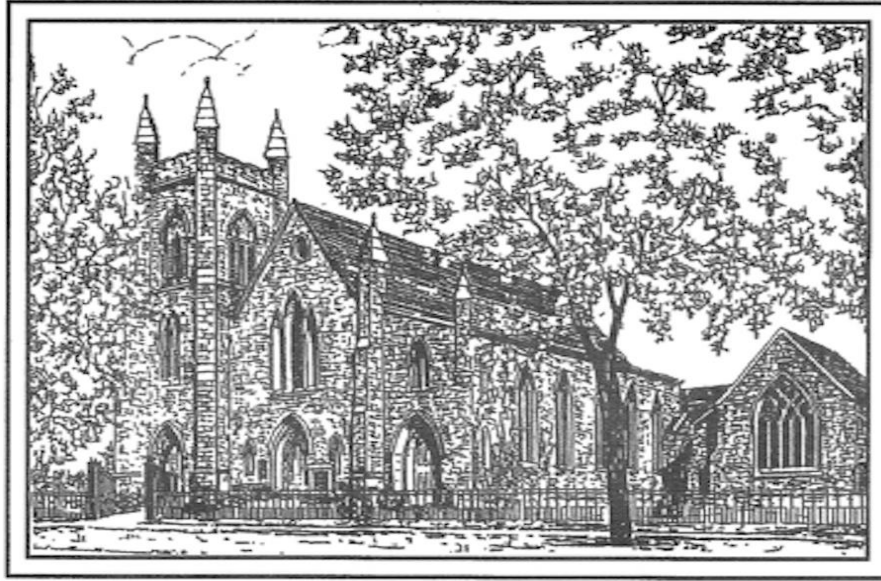


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

April 27, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Beautiful Isle of Somewhere”

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: “When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked [because the disciples were afraid]...Jesus came and stood among them.” What if we told You that we come to this sanctuary because there is no safety behind locked doors.

Many: Jesus speaks peace among us. We do not carry this all alone.

One: What if we told you that we gather together to remember that fear can’t keep love from showing up.

Many: Jesus breathes the spirit among us. We do not carry this all alone.

One: What if we told you that worship is a place where we touch the wounds this world makes in us.

Many: Jesus reaches out his hands to us. We do not carry this all alone.

One: What if we told you that we join our hearts in prayer and praise to move from disbelief towards recognition.

Many: Jesus tells truths among us. We do not carry this all alone.

One: What if it was all true?

Many: My Lord and my God! Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***Invocation**

In the midst of our feeling overwhelmed and fearful, Tender God, we do not expect to meet you. Yet you are here, among us, holding out your hands to us, breathing the Spirit over us, showing us again and again that nothing can separate us from you. Surround us with your peace in this moment, O Jesus, and let our fears rest in you. Amen.

***Hymn**

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

NCH #51

Children’s Moment

The New Testament Reading

Acts 5:27-32

They brought [Peter and the apostles] to stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you [judged and convicted]. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked [because the disciples were afraid], Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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**

“We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”

NCH #256

Message

"Because They Were Afraid...."

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

"Hear our prayer, O God"

NCH #769

*Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory

"Ave Maria"

***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**

In the presence of fear, may these gifts bring hope. Where doors are locked, may these offerings open new possibilities. Where there are wounds, may these gifts honor their truth. In the presence of despair, may these offerings testify to a new world rising up. To this collective liberation, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

"O for a World"

NCH #575

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

"God Be with You"

NCH #809

God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"Amazing Grace"

We are pleased to welcome Patrick Dow as our guest musician, while Nikita Zabinski takes a well-deserved Sunday off from the keyboard. Thank you, Patrick, for providing our music today.

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

~ ~ Our Pianist is Patrick Dow ~

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



Prayer List for Sunday, April 27, 2025

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

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Deb, a friend of the Walsh family, who fell and had surgery this week
Renee that she may find resolutions to issues pressing in on her
Andrew, Charlotte Burnham's brother, who needs help controlling his blood pressure, and for
Charlotte's niece Rebecca, who seeks a cure for her cancer
A sister who needs necessary medical care
Family and friends who seek hope and healing in mind, body, and spirit.
Tom, a neighbor of the Crouse family, who recently fell and is now 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
For Roxanne, who is now dealing with breast cancer, and for Janice who recently passed away.
Claudia and her family, as she enters hospice
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
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, who has cancer, and for Carrigan's nurse, Kristen, who is also
being treated for breast cancer
Tyler, who is making a steady recovery from a bone transplant
Mark
Charlie
Ken Latham in Leicester, MA, who is on chemotherapy for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
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
 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

Sue Moreira, as we joyfully celebrate her life and that this Easter she was in the presence of God

Upcoming Birthdays:

Ellie Donovan 04/29	Leah Dieterich 04/30	
Karen Satti 05/03	Paul Temple 05/07	Jim Sapp 05/08
Michael Tyler 05/09	Allen Logan 05/09	Candace Alessandro 05/11
Chris Frizzell 05/12	Laura Temple 05/12	Rev. Mary Aberg 05/14
Mark Dieterich 05/17	Bob Evans 05/24	Ray Frizzell 05/24
Dyan Vaughan 05/26	Cheryl Roger-Ramsay 05/28	

What's on the Church Calendar

April 27, 2025 Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Easter 10am
 April 30, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
May 04, 2025 Sunday Worship: 10am
 May 06, 2025 Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
 May 07, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
 May 08, 2025 Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm
 May 10, 2025 Saturday Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
May 11, 2025 Sunday Worship: 10am
 May 13, 2025 Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
 May 14, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
May 18, 2025 Sunday Worship: 10am
 May 20, 2025 Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
 May 21, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
May 25, 2025 Sunday Worship: 10am
 May 28, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
 May 30, 2025 Thursday Bristol County Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Sanctuary)

Please visit our website for more information about the Church
 and its events: fccbristol.org





For all Active Members of the First Congregational Church in Bristol.
 You may call the office to get an application for
 High Education Scholarship and/or the Summer Internship Scholarship
 and/or the Christian Summer Camp Scholarship.
Office@FCCBristol.org and/or call 401/253-7288
All Application are due back to the office by MAY 1, 2025

“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/>.



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: Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, “Building Up a New World – Locked Doors.” Service Prayers for Easter 2C, Worship Ways, Easter 2C - April 27 - United Church of Christ.

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

**Bristol’s Stone Church
 Coffeehouse Presents**
An Evening of Folk and Americana Music Featuring
Mike + Ruthy



Saturday, May 10, 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 for adults; 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