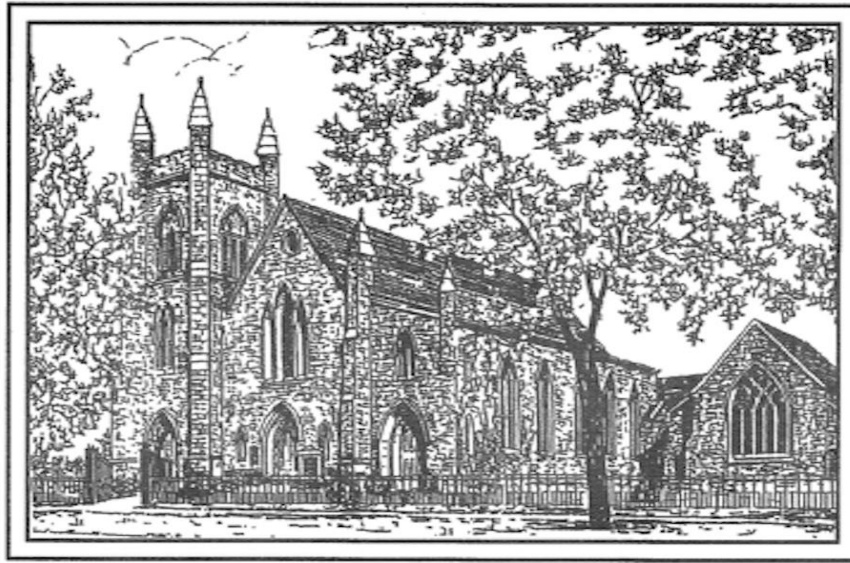


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MOTHER'S DAY

May 11, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"This Is The Day"

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: And Jesus said, "Come!"

Many: To all mothers and all children: he said, "Come!"

One: to the motherless and the childless: he said, "Come!"

Many: to all who long to be mothered: he said, "Come!"

One: Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy-laden,

Many: and I will give you rest.

One: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

Many: for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Amen.

***Invocation**

The spirit of God calls us from many places: some of us come from busy homes with many people; some of us live alone. We are a part of the family. This week has been different for each of us: some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate; some of us have faced grief and need to cry. We are members of God's family. Yet, we all come to this same place: all of us are seeking God's presence in our lives; all of us are seeking God's presence with each other. In this space, we become God's family. Amen.

Children's Moment**The New Testament Reading**

Acts 9:36-43

Susan Donovan

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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 10:22-30

Susan Donovan

At that time, the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in God's name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My God is greater than all else, considering what has been given to me, and no one can snatch them out of the God's hand because we are one."

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!

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

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory

"Come Down Lord" -

Stan Pethel

*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

**Collective Creator, we thank you for the gifts of the people—from our ancestors to our elders
and to those who have still yet to come. We will share what we have so that all can flourish
and follow you. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

"Praise to God, the World's Creator"

to the Tune of Nettleton found in NCH #459

*Praise to God, the world's creator,
source of life and growth and breath,
cradling in her arms her children,
holding them from birth to death.*

*In our bodies, in our living,
strength and truth of all we do,
God is present, working with us,
making us creators too.*

*Praise to God our saving Wisdom,
meeting us with love and grace,
helping us to grow in wholeness,
giving freedom, room, and space.*

*In our hurting, in our risking,
in the thoughts we dare not name,
God is present, growing with us,
healing us from sin and shame.*

*Praise to God, the Spirit in us,
prompting hidden depths of prayer,
firing us to long for justice,
reaching out with tender care.
In our searching, in our loving,
in our struggles to be free,
God is present, living in us,
pointing us to what shall be.*

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

"Hallelujah"

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"Foundation"

Bonnie Barrett

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



Prayer List for Sunday, May 11, 2025

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

For concerns in the world:

The Palestinian people who are suffering under a humanitarian crisis because needed aid has been prevented from reaching them on the border with Israel. The Israeli hostages who still languish in Gaza. The Palestinian and Israeli people that peace will one day prevail in the ancient land of our spiritual ancestors.

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Pat Cory, who has been dealing with health issues
Kristen, who will be undergoing surgery this week and then undergoing aggressive chemo and radiation therapies; prayers for the best outcome
Marty Costianes
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
Prayers for all victims of violence
Alma Campbell, who fell and broke her knee
Connie Marino, Cristina Marino's grandmother, who is in a rehab center
Jack and Barbara Ringland
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
 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

Upcoming Birthdays:

Candace Alessandro 05/11	Oliver Crouse 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	Gabriel Crouse 05/26	Cheryl Roger-Ramsay 05/28

What's on the Church Calendar

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**



“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: The prayers in this service were written by or adapted from the following sources: Mothers’ Day Resources, re:Worship: Call to Worship & Benediction for Mother’s Day; Katherine Hawker, Liturgy Outside the Box, “Beyond Mother’s Day,” re:Worship: Call to Worship for Mothers’ Day; A Service for Mothering Sunday, Church of England, re:Worship: Benediction for Mothering Sunday; Presbyterian Church in Canada, <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/>, re:Worship: Easter 4 Year C; Rev. ellie hutchinson, The Works Testify: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Worship Ways, Easter 4C – May 11 - United Church of Christ; Weekly Worship, Christian Aid, <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>, re:Worship: Easter 4 Year C; and Jan Bery, posted on Rex A.E. Hunt’s blog, re:Worship: Contemporary Hymn for Mothers’ Day,

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

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