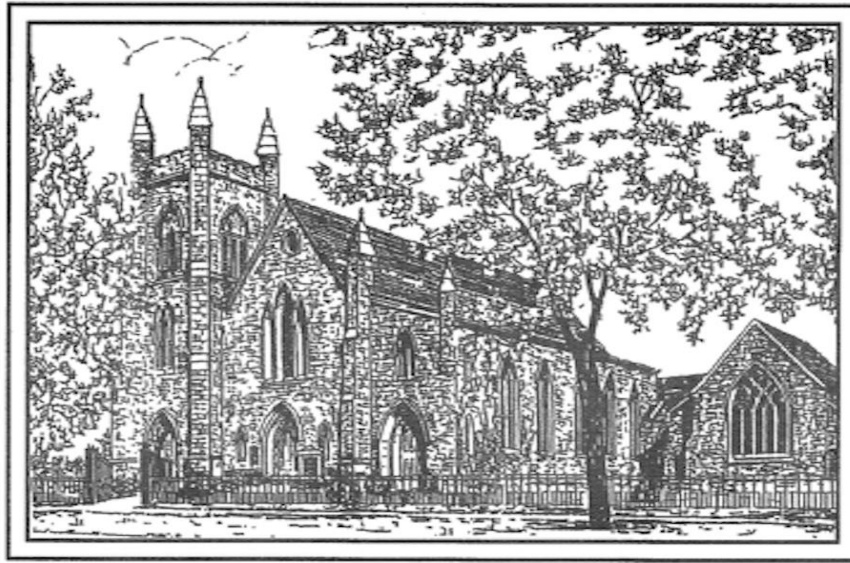


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 18, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

### Prelude

*“O Alan Gottes unschuldig”*

J. S. Bach

### Welcome and Announcements

### Introit

### Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

### \*Call to Worship

One: Jesus offers an old and new commandment that we should love each other.

**Many: With the incredible power and the unfathomable depth of God’s love for us, we must love one another.**

One: And it is in this our love for one another

**Many: that the world will know who we are and what we worship.**

One: Come, children of God,

**Many: let us love one another. Amen.**

### \*Invocation

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God. Surely God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth. God’s love is for you and for all people everywhere. May we share God’s love and life; may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ. The living Christ is with us. Praise God! Amen.

### \*Hymn

*“Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Sing”*

NCH #303

### Children’s Moment

Now the apostles and Jesus's followers who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven."

"At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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 13:31-35

Caroline Jacobus

When Judas left, Jesus said, "Now the Chosen One has been glorified, and God has been glorified as well. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. My children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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 Are One in The Spirit"*

©1966 Peter Scholte, F.E.L.

*We are One in The Spirit,  
We are One in The Lord.  
We are One in The Spirit,  
We are One in The Lord.*

*And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.*

***Refrain***

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our Love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other,  
We will work side by side.  
We will work with each other,  
We will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each other's dignity  
And save each other's pride. **Refrain***

*We will walk with each other,  
We will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other,  
We will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the News  
that God is in our land. **Refrain***

**Message** "Will the World Recognize Us by Our Love?" The 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**

*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**

*"Rain Down"*

Jaime Cortez

**\*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**

**May we have a glimpse of God's realm—a foretaste, a hint, a promise. Let it hold us and let it send us so we will never be at peace until all are fed, until all know home, until all are free, until justice is done, until peace is the way, until grace is the law, until love is the rule, and until God's realm comes. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"I Want to Be Ready"*

NCH #616

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

*"Hallelujah"*

NCH #236

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

**Postlude**

*"Shall We Gather at the River"*

arr. Joel Raney

*~ 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 ~*



## **Prayer List for Sunday, May 18, 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 is recovering from a fall

Renee that she may find resolutions to issues pressing in on her

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 is recovering from a fall

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

Claudia and her family, as she enters hospice

Kathy, Jen Johnson's cousin, who is struggling at rehab after brain surgery and has not regained feeling on her left side

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:

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

<b>May 18, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10am</b>
May 20, 2025	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
May 21, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
<b>May 25, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10am</b>
May 28, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
May 30, 2025	Thursday Bristol County Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Sanctuary)
<b>June 01, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10am</b>
	<b>Bristol County Choir concert</b>
June 03, 2025	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
June 04, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
June 07, 2025	Wedding 3:30pm
<b>June 08, 2025</b>	<b>Pentecost and Children's Sunday Worship with Baptism: 10am</b>
June 10, 2025	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7pm (DeWolf Room)
June 11, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)

June 12, 2025	Thursday Bosworth Lecture 7pm (DeWolf Room)
<b>June 15, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10am</b>
June 17, 2025	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7pm
June 18, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
June 20, 2025	Friday Wedding Rehearsal
June 21, 2025	Wedding (TBA)
<b>June 22, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10am</b>
June 25, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
June 26, 2025	Thursday CE Meeting (Zoom)
<b>June 29, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10am</b>
	<b>4th July Interfaith Service 2pm</b>

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: Katherine Hawker, Outside the Box, <http://liturgyoutside.net/>, re:Worship: Easter 5 Year C; Life in Liturgy, <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>, <http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/c-or33sn.php>, re:Worship: Easter 5 Year C; Cheryl Lawrie, <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>, re:Worship: Easter 5 Year C; and Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, “Building Up a New World – Looking for Love,” Service Prayers for Easter 5C, Worship Ways, Easter 5C – May 18 - United Church of Christ.*

**Church Office Hours** are Tuesday – Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm

Office e-mail address: [office@FCCBristol.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@FCCbristol.org)



## East Bay FOOD PANTRY & THRIFT SHOP

### East Bay Food Pantry Collections at First Congregational Church

Hello:

I am starting a collection of "Mainly Food" goods and personal care items at this time to donate to the East Bay Food Pantry. Right now, the Pantry is running low on these basic items. I placed a few suggested examples on the trapezoid table near the kitchen and will place a box there for collections.

I want to encourage First Congregational church members to consider thinking of the Pantry during their grocery shopping trips. Perhaps the practice will grow into members dropping off items each week when they attend church. (Of course, people are welcome to drop off directly at the food pantry as well.)

Listed below are the items they currently need.

Thank you and Blessings,  
Lynne

#### Collecting Basic Food Goods

- Canned meals (ravioli, chili, soup)
- Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Rice

#### Personal Care Items

- Tampons/pads
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Adult Diapers



The Bristol County Chorus,  
under the direction of Nicholas Rocha,  
will be presenting their annual spring  
concert entitled LAND AND SEA.

Featuring music by Adele, The Mamas and The Papas, this fun retrospective will also include music by other popular and contemporary artists. Offering two performances this year, join us either

Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, at Holy Angels Church, 341 Maple Ave, Barrington, RI,

or Sunday June 1, 3 PM, at the First Congregational Church, 300 High Street, Bristol, RI. Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door.

Advance tickets are available locally at the George Hail Library in Warren, Paper Packaging & Panache in Bristol and Holy Angels Church in Barrington.

Tickets can also be purchased on line at

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6648201> for the May 30th performance

and <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6648216> for the June 1st performance.

# CANCELED

## CRAFT FAIR & MARKETPLACE

SAT. JUNE 28 FROM 10 AM TO 3 PM

300 HIGH ST, BRISTOL RI

[WWW.FCCBRISTOL.ORG](http://WWW.FCCBRISTOL.ORG)

FOR INFO & APPLICATIONS

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