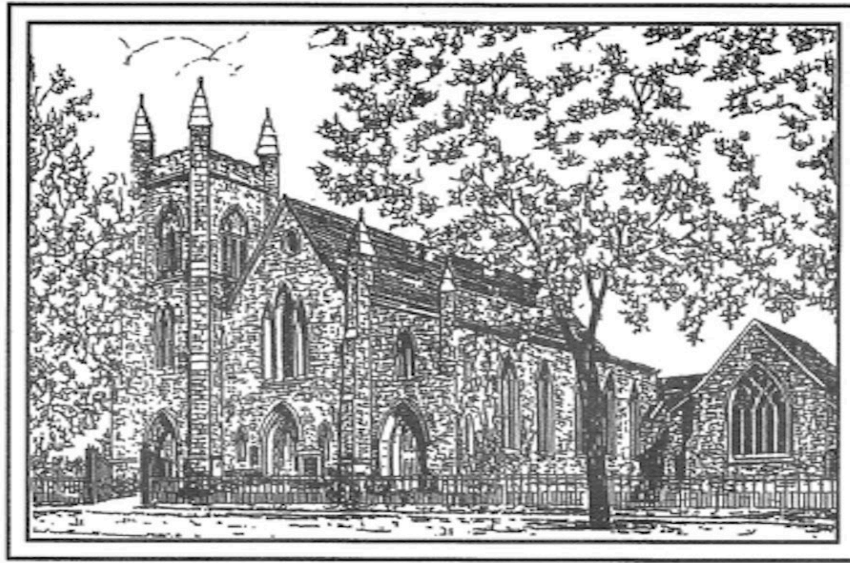


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

May 25, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“Yi Jain Mei”

Yu-Ching

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: In a world filled with violence and war,

Many: we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.

One: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

Many: we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.

One: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

Many: we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.

One: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

Many: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth. Amen.

***Invocation**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who publish peace, who bring good tidings, who publish salvation, and proclaim, “Your God reigns!” God will judge among many peoples. And, they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and nation shall not lift up sword against nation—neither shall they learn war anymore. Let us lift up our voices and praise the God of peace and justice. Amen.

Memorial Day Prayer and Acknowledgement of Those Who Served

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-4

Bob Evans

This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days, the mountain of Yahweh's Temple will be established as the most important mountain and raised above all other hills—all nations will stream toward it. Many people will come and say: “Come, let us climb Yahweh's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed on God's ways and walk in God's paths.” Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hoods; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war.

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 15-17

Bob Evans

Jesus said, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as subordinates because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's thinking. Instead, I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from Abba, my God. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love 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**

“God Marked a Line and Told the Sea”

NCH #568

Message

“What Is Expendability?”

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

"Every Time I feel the Spirit"

Arr. Melva W. Cistern

*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.**

*Litany of Dedication

One: Loving God of power, justice, and peace, in our broken world we seek a new order,

Many: where there is courage to speak truth to power.

One: We seek a new order,

Many: where there is mutual support in church and community.

One: We seek a new order,

Many: where there is abundant time for healing.

One: We seek a new order,

Many: where there is peace and freedom for all. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"This Is My Song"

NCH #591

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Hallelujah"

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"Abide With Me"

William Monk

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Bob Evans ~

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



This morning the geraniums are given in Honor of

Our Former Pastors

By the Deacons



This Memorial Day, Please do not forget all those who have died serving our country.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Prayer List for Sunday, May 25, 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.

Peace in the Ukraine

For thanksgivings:

Chris Johnson's retirement from Roger Williams University

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

A beloved son, who is suffering from Leukemia
 Tommy, a young man, who is in serious condition from cancer
 Pat Cory, who has been dealing with health issues
 Kristen, who is recovering from surgery and will begin 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
 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:

Dyan Vaughan 05/26
 Gabriel Crouse 05/26
 Cheryl Roger-Ramsay 05/28

What's on the Church Calendar

May 25, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10am
<i>May 26, 2025</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>
May 28, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
May 30, 2025	Thursday Bristol County Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Sanctuary)
June 01, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10am
	Bristol County Choir concert
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
June 08, 2025	Pentecost and Children's Sunday Worship with Baptism: 10am
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)
June 15, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10am
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)

June 22, 2025 **Sunday Worship: 10am**
 June 25, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
 June 26, 2025 Thursday CE Meeting (Zoom)
June 29, 2025 **Sunday Worship: 10am**
 4th July Interfaith Service 2pm

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: Prayers used in this service were written by or adapted from these sources: On Earth as in Heaven: Praying for Peace, MCC Peace Sunday Packet 2008, http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/FileDownload/9603/Peace_Packet_08_high_res.pdf, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Memorial Day: National Council of Churches USA, <http://www.nccusa.org/iraq/firstanniversary/04modelservice.html>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Isaiah; Lisa Frenz, “From A Worship Service of Remembrance and Healing, 2003 Copyright: Public Domain, <https://sites.google.com/site/lisasliturgies/home/miscellaneous-themes/remembrance-healing-2003>, re:Worship: Call to Worship for Memorial Day (re-worship.blogspot.com); Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, re:Worship: A Prayer for Our World; Annabel Shilson-Thomas, ed., Creation Sings Your Praise, Canterbury Press, 2010, Monthly Prayers, Christian Aid, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>, re:Worship: Prayer: God of the Impossible; Monthly Prayers, Christian Aid, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>, re:Worship: Prayer: A New Order; and originally from the Carmina Gadelica III, 267, Journey with Jesus, <http://www.journeywithjesus.net/>, re:Worship: Celtic Prayer for Peace.

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



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 30th, 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

FOR INFO & APPLICATIONS

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