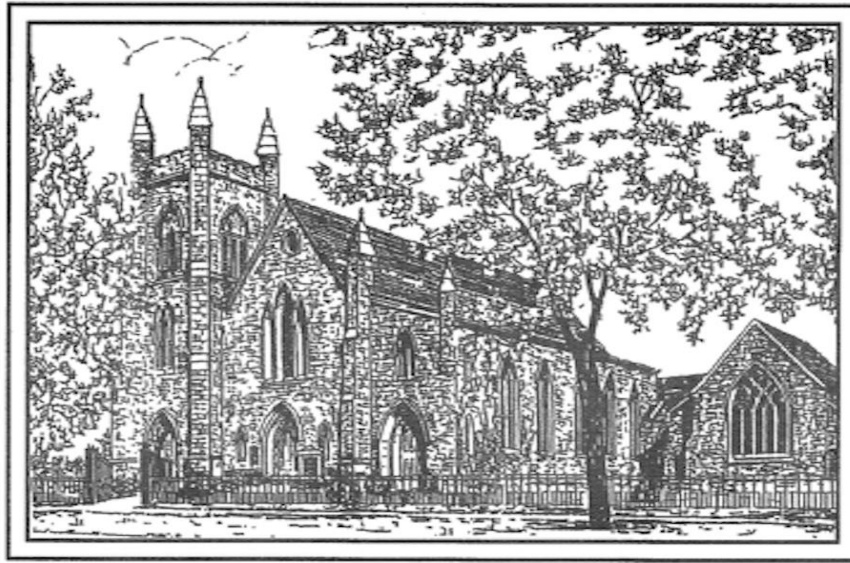


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

**HOLY COMMUNION
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
JUNE 1, 2025 ~ 10:00 am**

Prelude

“Warum”

Schuman

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Are you awake? Are you alert?

Many: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

One: Are you watching the signs?

Many: Are you interpreting what is happening today?

One: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Many: Do you see opportunities for ministry?

One: Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

Many: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

One: Come, let us worship and let us work in God’s realm.

**All: Christ has extended the invitation: let us work together in the reign of God on earth.
Amen.**

***Invocation**

The Spirit of God bids us, “Come.” Let everyone who hears with their hearts “Come.” Hear the whole earth rejoice and the coastlands sing of God’s steadfast love. We give thanks because God sets us free! Let everyone who is thirsty for the Spirit “Come.” Let anyone who wishes “Come” and receive the water of life as a gift. We come to rejoice in the Holy One, our God. Amen.

***A Prayer for Transformation**

There is a richness here, an unending abundance. But that richness often does not guide our actions. Instead, we act on something different: need, fear, something other than an acknowledgement of God’s endless and beautiful river of grace. But how do we step into that river of richness? Do we step into it with trust—a trust of God’s generous flowing current? Or do we run from the river? For when we run, we lose the refreshment and joy of that richness. Then, what’s left? Now is the time to consider how we have distrusted God’s abundance and to consider something new and different. Amen.

***Assurance of God’s Love**

***Hymn**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

NCH #597

The Old Testament Reading

Amos 5:21-24

Jen Johnson

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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 New Testament Reading

Revelation 22:1-6

Jen Johnson

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God’s followers will worship the Lamb; they will see the Lamb’s face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. And God said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent the angel to show God’s followers what must soon take place.”

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**

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

NCH #569

Message

“Four Beats to a Stroke: Or What Rowing Has Taught Me about Prayer”

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 ways in which we can give of ourselves are as vast as Creation on Mother Earth. You're now invited to give accordingly—to give knowing that what we do here matters in the bigger picture of the blessings that the Creator has accorded us. Amen.

The Offertory

*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

We give thanks to you Creator, for the invitation to be alive in a world full of possibility with open minds and open hearts to live with great joy until we meet again. Amen.

* Hymn

"Jesus Took the Bread"

NCH #343

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving Litany

One: In the dry wildernesses of our lives, in the days of heat and thirst,

Many: **you offer us living water.**

One: When we begin to doubt your presence and grumble that your love is unreliable,

Many: **you offer us living water.**

One: When life's regrets and the bad choices we have made leave us feeling excluded and unworthy,

Many: **you offer us living water.**

One: When circumstances, or the inhumanity of others, have left us alone and wounded,

Many: **you offer us living water,**

One: We thank you and praise you, O God, that however we may thirst, whatever we may need to satisfy our souls,

Many: **you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ.**

One: So, we drink deep of the living water and, as we draw from your wells,

Many: **we pass the cup to others who, like us, are thirsty for your grace. Amen.**

*Hymn	<i>"I've Got Peace Like a River"</i>	NCH #478
*Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>"Hallelujah"</i>	NCH #236
Carrying the Light of Christ into the World		
Postlude	<i>"Let Us Break Bread Together"</i>	arr. Carter

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ Our lay liturgist today is Jen Johnson ~
~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~



Prayer List for Sunday, June 1, 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 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

For those who have died:

The Rev. Ira Winsor Chace, former Minister of Outreach, First Congregational Church, 2000-2004,
 who died on May 08, 2025
 Maria-Dolores (Lola) Soto-Arndt, Carolina Bailey's sister who died last weekend from cancer
 Robert Thorp, a family member of Bob Wilson's who died during WWII
 Joan Bergeron, the sister of David Marshall in Maine, who died this past week

Upcoming Birthdays:

Peter Pisasale 06/01	Paul Wheeler 6/02	Grace Donovan 06/02
Donna Dubord 06/03	Sophia Bailey 06/05	Noah Ukura 06/06
Daniel Dougherty 06/13	Patricia Cory 06/14	Sara Johnson 06/15
Julia Pisasale 06/15	Lane Ukura 06/27	Alison Gamon 06/22
Tracy Ukura 06/22	Carlie Pisasale 06/24	Samuel Harcourt 06/26
Brady Harcourt 06.26	Clifford Gustafson 06/27	Gail Carney 06/28
Jen Capron 06/28	Edward Wiacek 06/29	

What's on the Church Calendar

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 Follow by All Church Picnic .
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/>.



The Bristol Fourth of July Interfaith Service

First Congregational Church will host Bristol's Fourth of July Interfaith Service on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. We are honored that the service is returning to FCC this year. We hope you will join us for the celebration of the Fourth of July with all of Bristol's religious communities. The service will feature music by our Director of Music Nikita Zabinski and the FCC Choir. In addition to your presence at the service, we hope some might help with the reception following the service in the DeWolf Room. This usually entails punch and baked treats. We will send out a sign-up list soon. Thanks so much.

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 for this service are written by or adapted from the following: Rev. Mindi, Rev-o-lution, re:Worship: Contemporary Call: Proper 27A; Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Free Indeed, <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Revelation 22; Rev. Kaji R. Spellman, The Time of Richness: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, United Church of Christ, re:Worship: Search

results for river, Christine Longhurst, Worship Resources for Lent & World Water Day, 2013, http://foodgrainsbank.ca/lent_worship_resources.aspx, re:Worship: Search results for river; Rev. ellie Hutchinson, Opened Minds: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Easter 7C – June 1 - United Church of Christ; John van de Laar, Sacredise.com, re:Worship: Search results for water; and Ecumenical Water Network, Seven Weeks for Water campaign for World Water Day (22 March), World Communion of Reformed Churches, <http://www.wcrc.ch/node/780>, re:Worship: Search results for water.

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

Pentecost and Children's Sunday Worship with Baptism

SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025



Followed by
ALL-CHURCH



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