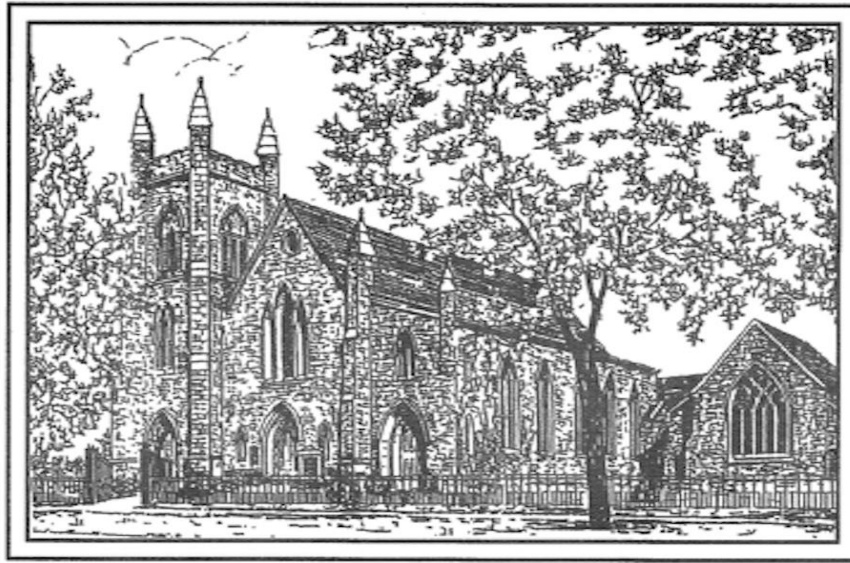


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

**FATHER'S DAY AND JUNETEENTH SUNDAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025 ~ 10:00AM**

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

J. Johnson

Introit

"This Is the Day"

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: The Lord our God is great.

Many: The Lord is worthy of our praise.

One: Come, let us remember the wonderful things God has done for us.

Many: Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

One: Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.

Many: We remember our ancestors and our history, as we name our future.

One: Let us lift up our voices in song, lift our arms in praise, and open our hearts in gratitude.

Many: Let us greet God with our hymn of praise. Amen.

***Invocation**

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us, resist the evil of enslavement and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Father's Day Prayer

The Old Testament Reading

Psalm 78:1-8

My people, hear my teaching;
Listen to the words of my mouth!
I will open my mouth in parables;
I will utter things hidden from of old—
 the things we have heard and known,
 things our ancestors have told us
We won't hide them from our children;
 we will tell the next generation.
We'll tell them of
 your praiseworthy deeds, Yahweh,
 your power and the wonders you have performed.
You set up statutes for our forebearers,
 and established the law in Israel,
 which you commanded our ancestors
 to teach their children
 so the next generation would know them—
 children yet to be born—
 and as they come up,
 they would tell their own children.
Then they would put their trust in you
 and not forget your deeds but keep your commandments—
 unlike their ancestors,
 a stubborn and defiant generation,
 whose hearts were fickle,
 whose spirits were unfaithful to God.

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

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And [Jesus] rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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** *"It's the Old Ship of Zion"* NCH #310

Message "When the Chains of Enslavement Were Broken" Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin 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

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory *"O Happy Day"* E Hawkins

***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**

One: In Celebration, we pray, O Lord, for change.
Many: **Jesus, you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds,**
One: and we still encounter you today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins.
Many: **Guide us, through the love you revealed,**
One: to establish the justice you proclaimed,
Many: **that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace,**
One: united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you.
Many: **And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into a genuine encounter with you and our better selves so that our lives will be changed for the good of all. Amen**

***Closing Hymn** *"We Shall Overcome"* NCH #570

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *"Hallelujah"* NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude *"Swing Low"* W Willis

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~



Prayer List for Sunday, June 15, 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:

Two students from Portsmouth High School injured in a car accident last weekend
Sug Grant, who is recovering from a fall
Sandy Patterson, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery
Pat Cory, who is recovering from a heart procedure
Steve Brosnihan, who is recovering from back surgery
Ryan Higgins, Lilly Kilvert's son-in-law, who has Leukemia
A beloved son, who is suffering from Leukemia
Tommy, a young man, who is in serious condition from cancer
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
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
 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:

Lola Maria-Dolores Soto, Carolina Bailey's sister who died two weeks ago from
 Pancreatic Cancer and was laid to rest yesterday
 David Robb, a friend o Kate Sparrow, who died from cancer in April
 A Portsmouth High Student, who died in a tragic car accident last weekend

For thanksgivings:

Ann and Marty Roussel, as they begin a new journey in Missouri and gratefulness
 for their 44 years of friendship and service at First Congregational Church

Upcoming Birthdays:

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 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 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 of 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: Prayers used in this service were written by or adapted from these sources: Eugene Blair, 21st Century Africana Liturgy Resources: “Worship Resources for Juneteenth Day Celebrations,” 2007, 2008, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/juneteenth-day-worship-resources>, Juneteenth-Worship-Resources.docx; Episcopal Formation in the Bay Area: Prayers & Reflections for Juneteenth - Justice Revival, Giving Thanks for Fathers Near and Far; Safijah Fosua, United Methodist Church’s General Board of Discipleship website, re:Worship: Fathers’ Day Prayer; Rainey G. Dankel, “A Prayer on Privilege,” The Anti-Racism Prayer Book, Trinity Church, Boston, Prayers & Reflections for Juneteenth - Justice Revival, Lisa M. Weaver, June 9, 2022; Juneteenth Worship and Prayer Resources | Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; and Racial Healing and Liturgical Resources by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Juneteenth Prayers, Home - Xavier University - Jesuit Resources.

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

CANCELED



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

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