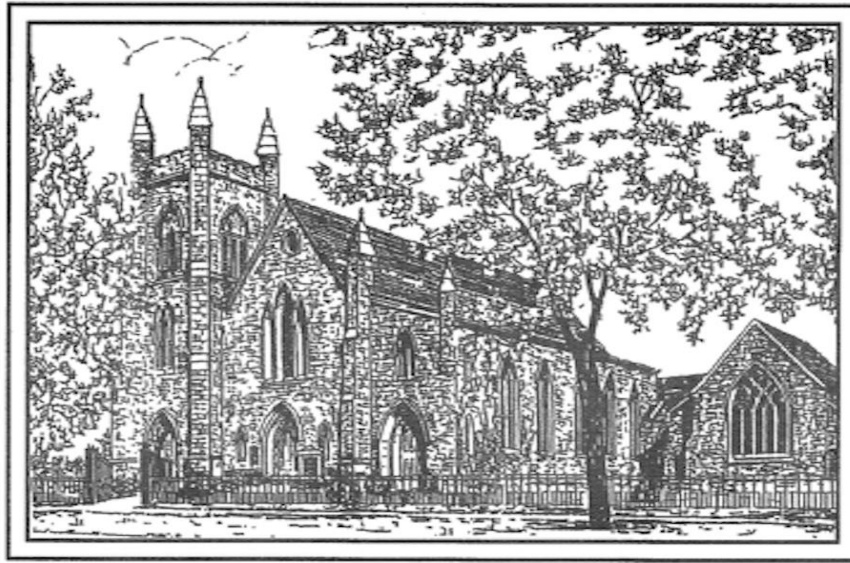


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

**PRIDE SUNDAY
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025 ~ 10:00AM

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Introit

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Creating God, blessed are you and blessed is this time and place. Thank you for the people gathered here.

Many: We are here! Being the Church! We have not retreated! We are standing in praise!

One: Reconciling Redeemer, you are the mender of our souls and the healer of our broken bodies. You lift us up—strengthening and sustaining, nurturing and nourishing, healing and helping.

Many: Holy Fire, ignite a new spark in the heart of each one gathered here.

All: Light our way. Warm our bodies. Inspire our tongues to speak a new word, to shout another praise, and to sing an amazing song that will bring to us life and to you glory! Amen.

***Invocation**

God in whom we take refuge, we seek you as the calm in the storm, the path in the wilderness, and the order in the chaos. Renew our strength with a vision of your realm made real before us. Encourage us with a word of possibility and an encounter with your presence. Enliven us as we pray, sing, laugh, cry, listen, and imagine your world. We come to you with our full selves knowing you offer us the fullness of your being. May we find hope and challenge, joy and rest, peace and power as we immerse ourselves in you and glorify your name. Amen.

***Hymn**

“O for a World”

NCH #575

The New Testament Reading 1

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day-by-day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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!**

New Testament Reading II

1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten. But, he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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**

“Welcoming God”

C.W. Gillette

(Sung to “Blessed Assurance” NCH #473)

Children are welcome, Christ said one day,
When the disciples urged them away.
Children are welcome at Jesus’ knee:
God’s own example for ministry.
Welcoming God, You open the Way:
Even the smallest worship and pray,
Singing with faith and serving You well,
Your life to know and good news tell.

Women are welcome, as are the men;
Through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.
Partners as prophets, ministers, too:
No more divided—made one anew.
Welcoming God, You open the way;
Those once divided join now to pray,
Serving at Table, preaching Your Words,
So that Your love for all will be heard.

Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,
Eating with Jesus and being made new:
Some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
God of great love, You stand at the door,
Welcoming people outcast and poor.
So You forgive and call us to be
Filled with the joy of Your jubilee.

So may we welcome into our pew
All who in Jesus are being made new—
All those who seek him, wanting to know,
Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.
Welcoming God, You stand at our door,
As someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, You search
May we all welcome You in Your church.

Message

“The Welcoming God”

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

*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**

Gracious God, we offer these gifts as a symbol of our gratitude and our commitment to your work. May these offerings be used to bring hope, justice, and healing to those who are suffering and living on the margins. Bless and multiply these gifts, allowing them to reach beyond our expectations and bringing your light to the world. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“This Little Light of Mine”

NCH #524

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

“Hallelujah”

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

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

~ *Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski* ~

~ *Our lay liturgist today is Doug Harrington* ~

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



Prayer List for Sunday, June 22, 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 of 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:

Alison Gamon 06/22
Samuel Harcourt 06/26
Gail Carney 06/28

Tracy Ukura 06/22
Brady Harcourt 06.26
Jen Capron 06/28

Carlie Pisasale 06/24
Clifford Gustafson 06/27
Edward Wiacek 06/29

What's on the Church Calendar

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 (Sanctuary)
July 01, 2025	Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
July 04, 2025	Friday 4th July Parade
July 8, 2025	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm
July 10, 2025	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm
July 22, 2025	Church Council Meeting 7:00pm

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: The prayers used in this service were written by or adapted from the following: A Place in God's Heart, A Place at Christ's Table: Worship Resources for the Welcoming Church Movement, Creating God From the More Light Presbyterians Retreat & Mission Weekend New Orleans, LA, 2006, Guide Us to Openness; Prayer / Rainbow Cathedral; Rev. Derek Terry,

Open and Affirming Sunday 2024, Open and Affirming Sunday - UCC Open and Affirming Coalition; Closing Hymn, Welcoming God Sung to "Blessed Assurance" Tune: ASSURANCE Irr., Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette Co-Pastor, Limestone Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware; and Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, From the Tombs: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Pentecost. UCC Worship Ways, After Pentecost 2C - June 22 - United Church of Christ.

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