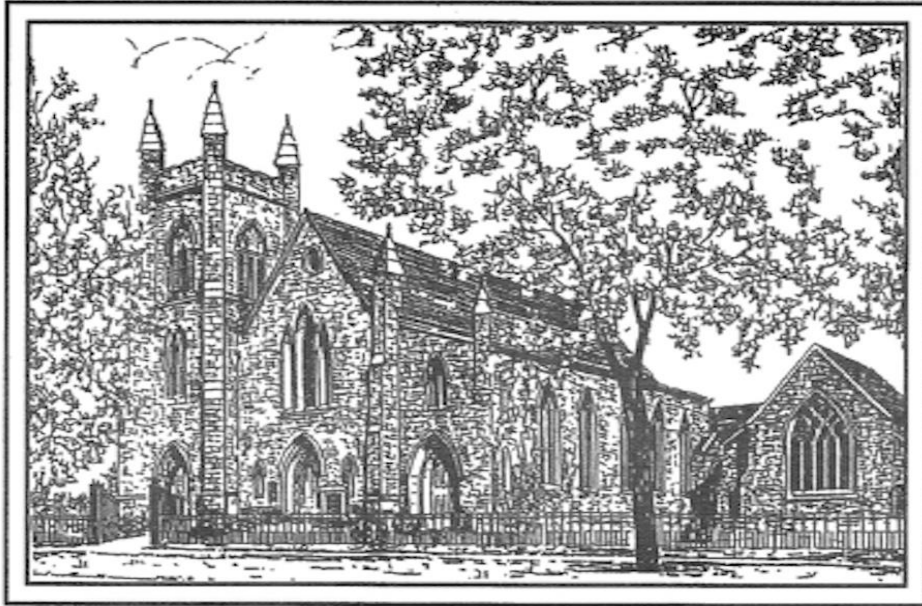


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 29, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

### Gathering Music

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude** *“Beautiful Isle of Nowhere”*

### Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

### \*Call to Worship

One: Come, bless the Lord in whom we find our refuge and safety.

**Many: You are our God; all good things come from you alone.**

One: Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance and surrounds us with abundance.

**Many: You are our God; our lives are in your hands.**

One: Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life and whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

**All: You are our God; we will not be shaken. Let's worship God together! Amen!**

### \*Invocation

**In deep gratitude, we come to worship God. We recognize God as the source of all goodness.**

**All good gifts come from the Spirit of God; love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, and**

**gentleness are all of God. We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.**

**This morning, we gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*"Come to Tend God's Garden"*

NCH #586

**The Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; there is no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me; because the LORD is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence, there is fullness of joy; in your right hand, there are pleasures forevermore.

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 9:51-62

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of God has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for God's realm."

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**

*"Spirit of the Living God"*

NCH #283

**Message**

"The Spiritual Stall: When Jesus Bids Us to Come"

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**

*"Amazing Grace"*

### **\*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**

Lord, we would grow with you and bring forth fruit that is pleasing to you. Led by your living water, which gives sustenance to all of us, Lord, we will grow with you in spirit and in trust. Amen.

### **\*Closing Hymn**

*"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

NCH #388

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Benediction Response**

*"Hallelujah"*

NCH #236

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

### **Postlude**

*"God Bless America"*

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

*~ Our pianist is Patrick Dow ~*

*~ Our lay liturgist today is Doug Harrington ~*

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



## **Prayer List for Sunday, June 29, 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 Middle East and wisdom for the leaders of the world and all those who have lost their lives in recent conflicts.

Peace in the Ukraine

**For those in need of healing on our prayer list:**

Nick Chaconne, for recovery  
Christy, a friend of Lynne Ramos, who has been ill with considerable pain; for her medical team, and her wife Becky as they navigate Christy's latest illness  
Gail, Gina Damiano's wife, who has been in hospital and is very ill  
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  
Kathy, Jen Johnson's cousin, who is still healing after brain surgery and is experiencing financial strains from the therapy  
A beloved son, who is suffering from Leukemia  
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  
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:**

Tommy Godbout, who died recently at the age of 18 after a long battle with cancer,  
 and for his family and his many caregivers who loved him

**For thanksgivings:**

Good news from Jen Johnson about her job

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

Edward Wiacek 06/29		
Penelope Pires 07/01	Kathy Ann Berry 07/02	Marina Temple 07/02
Nick Burnham 07/03	Celeste Bernardino 07/04	Scarlett Drawbridge 07/05
Xochitl Quezada-Grant 07/08	Bronwen Bailey 07/10	Susan Donovan 07/11
Gail Cotta 07/11	Ella Drawbridge 07/24	Carla Finn 07/25
Marty Roussel 07/25	Jo-Ann Wilbur 07/27	Glenn Donovan 07/27
Cassidy Allen 07/28	Julia Allen 07/31	

**What's on the Church Calendar**

<b>June 29, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10am</b>
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of July Interfaith Service 2pm</b> (Sanctuary)
July 01, 2025	Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
<b>July 04, 2025</b>	<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July Parade</b>
<b>July 06, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>
July 8, 2025	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm
July 10, 2025	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm
<b>July 13, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>
<b>July 20, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>
July 22, 2025	Church Council Meeting 7:00pm
<b>July 27, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>

Please visit our website for more information about the Church  
 and its events: [fccbristol.org](http://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, TODAY 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: re:Worship: Proper 8 C: The Presbyterian Church in Canada, <http://presbyterian.ca/>; Terri, RevGalBlogPals <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>; Carol Penner, Leading in Worship, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>; and contemporary Welsh prayer, A Place for Prayer, <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>.*

**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)



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



## 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