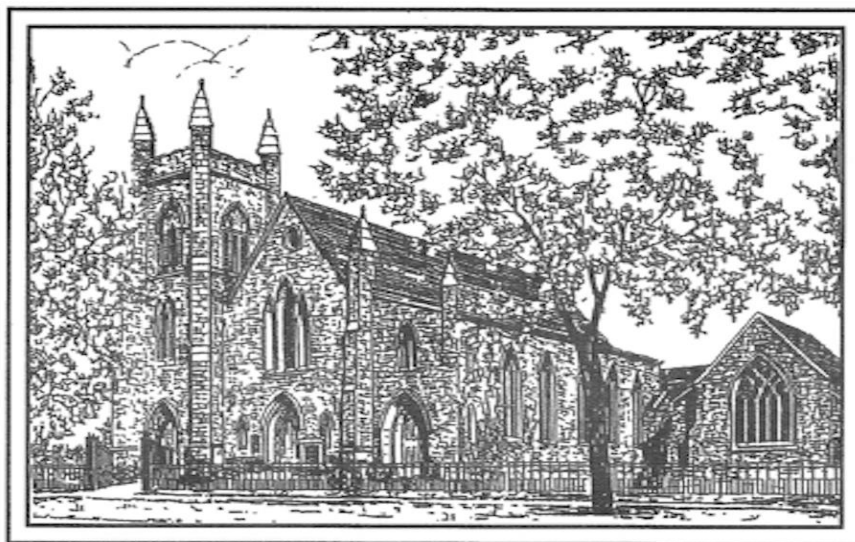


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 27, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho”

Spiritual

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

*Call to Worship

One: The earth and all that is in it belongs to God,

Many: For God has made the sea its foundation and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

One: So let us rejoice in God and in all Creation.

Many: We shall rejoice in the God of Hosts, the God of Glory!

One: Lift up your heads. O Gates! Lift them on high, O everlasting doors!

Many: For the God of Glory shall enter and reign over us all!

Amen.

*Invocation

Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body, gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together. Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. So may your church bring forth your will and way. Amen.

*Hymn

“God Is Here! As We Your People Meet”

NCH #70

The Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-8

Caroline Jacobus

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, "As the Lord lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," but "As the Lord lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them." Then they shall live in their own land.

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

Revelation 1:4b-8

Caroline Jacobus

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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**

"O Holy City, Seen of John"

NCH #613

Message

"For Thine Is the Kingdom and the Power"

Rev. Dr. George E. Peters

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

“Swan Lake”

Tchaikovsky

*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

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“This Is My Song”

NCH #591

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Hallelujah”

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

“Hornpipe”

George Fredrik Handel

*~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. George E. Peters ~
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ Our lay liturgist today is Sandra Patterson ~
~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~*

The Rev. Dr. George E. Peters is Pastor and Teacher Emeritus at Chapel Street Congregational Church UCC (Lincoln, RI) and the Past President of the Historic RI Conference UCC. He served here as Bridge Interim Pastor in the Winter and Spring of 2015. George and his wife Jan live in East Providence and are active members of Newman Congregational Church UCC.



Prayer List for Sunday, July 27, 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:

Sarah, Celeste's niece, who is nine years old and is waiting for a liver transplant
Steve, Amanda, and Elliana Wiacek, Ed Wiacek's son and family, who will begin a
three-year diplomatic tour at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines.

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

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 has begun aggressive chemo and radiation therapies;
prayers for the best outcome

Marty Costianes

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

Prayers for all victims of violence

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

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

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

Remembering Grace Wilson on the first anniversary of her death, this past Sunday, July 20, 2025

Upcoming Birthdays:

Jo-Ann Wilbur 07/27	Glenn Donovan 07/27	Cassidy Allen 07/28
Julia Allen 07/31		
Nathan Dieterich 08/10	Evan Fournier-Swire 08/10	Liam Donovan 08/12
Drew Carpenter 08/15	Charlotte Burnham 08/16	Anthony Caromile 08/15
Katherine Harcourt 08/28	Matthew Benson 08/30	

What's on the Church Calendar

July 27, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am with the Rev. George Peters presiding
August 03, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
August 05, 2025	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
August 10, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
August 12, 2025	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm
August 14, 2025	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm
August 15, 2025	Friday Office Closed (Mt Hope Bridge Closed)
August 19, 2025	Tuesday Office Closed (Barbara Vacation Day) Church Council Meeting 7:00pm
August 17, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
August 24, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
August 28, 2025	Thursday CE Meeting 6:30pm ZOOM
August 31, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am

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.

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



The image shows a Facebook post from the 'East Bay Food Pantry' page. The post is dated '1d' and includes a globe icon, indicating it is public. The text of the post reads: 'Good morning!! ☀️ We are in need of breakfast items! 🥣🥛 Please consider donating cereal, breakfast bars and non-dairy milk (shelf stable only!) to help stock our food pantry. You can drop off donations during any of our open hours. Thank you! ✨'. Below the text is a large green graphic with the title 'Pantry Items Needed' in a white, cursive font. The graphic features three illustrations: a box of cereal, a box of breakfast bars, and a carton of almond milk next to a glass of milk. Below each illustration is a label: 'Cereal', 'Breakfast bars', and 'Non-dairy milk (shelf stable)'. At the bottom of the graphic, the text 'Breakfast, please!' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the graphic, on a yellow background, is the text 'Drop off donations any time we're open!' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the hours 'Mon, Tue 10-4, Wed 10-6:30, Fri 10-3, Sat 10-4' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

East Bay Food Pantry
1d • 🌐

Good morning!! ☀️ We are in need of breakfast items! 🥣🥛
Please consider donating cereal, breakfast bars and non-dairy milk (shelf stable only!) to help stock our food pantry.
You can drop off donations during any of our open hours.
Thank you! ✨

Pantry Items Needed

Cereal *Breakfast bars* *Non-dairy milk (shelf stable)*

Breakfast, please!

Drop off donations any time we're open!
Mon, Tue 10-4, Wed 10-6:30, Fri 10-3, Sat 10-4

HOOKED on giving



This August reel in support for a great cause!
When you visit our designated Stop & Shop store
and purchase a reusable \$2.50 Community Bag,
\$1 will be donated directly to our organization.

stopandshop.2givelocal.com
Community Bag Program

Benefiting Organization:



Ecumenical Meals

First Congregational Church in Bristol
281 High Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Or 401-253-7288
Office @ FCCBristol.org

At This Stop & Shop Location:



605 Metacom Ave.
Bristol, RI 02809

FOR THE MONTH OF
AUGUST



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