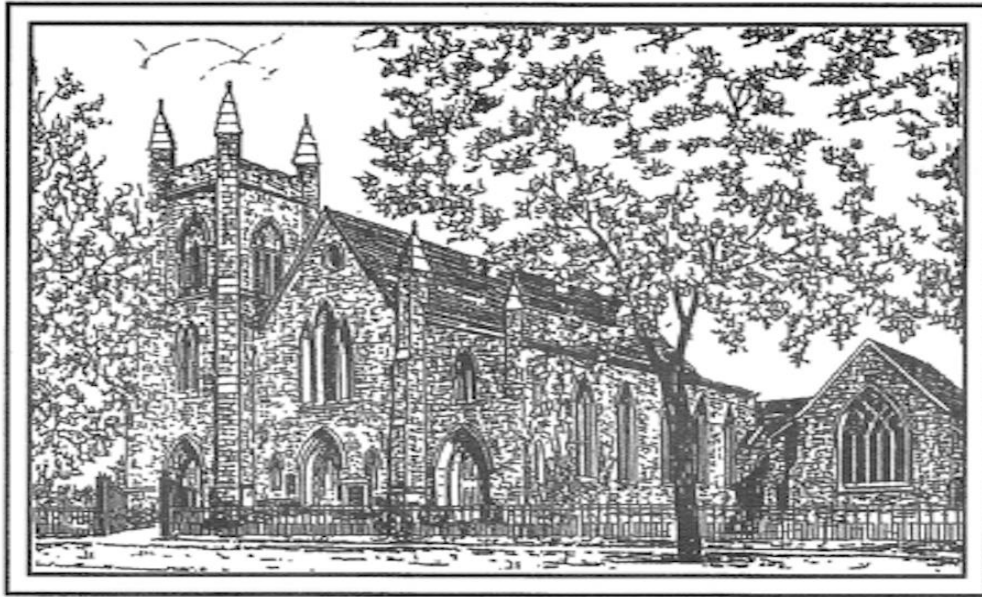


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

HOLY COMMUNION EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

W. Waldorf

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

*Call to Worship

One: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

Many: **For the Holy One redeemed us and sustained us through the time of trouble.**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good!

Many: **For the Compassionate One heard our cry and sustained us through the time of trouble.**

One: Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Many: **Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God! Amen.**

*Invocation

Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us. We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your wonderful works. We lament the suffering of the world and take courage that you are with us. We ask that you make your presence known to us. Speak, O God, for we attune our hearts for your guidance. Receive our praise as we glorify your name! Amen.

***A Prayer for Transformation**

Holy God, too often we seem determined to turn away from you. You, however, continually call us back to you and your way. We pray for fortitude to remain on the path set by Jesus and to embody the ministry of Christ in the world. Deliver us from the insignificant concerns that distract us and empower us to do the work you have called us to do. Most of all, grant us grace to be the people you have made us to be. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***Hymn**

"I Will Trust in the Lord"

NCH #416

The Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Doug Harrington

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, ruled over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and then see that all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil which I did under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet God will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all my toil under the sun because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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 12:13-21

Doug Harrington

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward 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!**

***Hymn**

"Like a Mother Who has Borne Us"

NCH #583

Message

"What Is the Inheritance We Leave?"

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 Swan"

Saint Saëns

*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

Holy One, bless these offerings, prosper the work of our hands, and multiply the gifts we bring. We dedicate them to your realm forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

NCH #475

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

One: Jesus calls us to the well, inviting us to drink of the Living Water, and the life eternal.
Many: **Jesus calls us out of the shadows, out of the graves, to be entirely known and entirely filled with God's presence.**
One: Jesus calls us all: all who were made in God's own image, all who breathe the breath of God's spirit: the Spirit of Life.
Many: **Jesus calls us to the table, to the meal that nourishes our bodies and binds our dry bones into one Body, living in Christ.**
One: Jesus calls us, here and now. Come to this table, you who are beloved in Christ. Come, not because you must but because you may.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Source of life, breath, and being, breathe into the dry dust of our existence. Nourished in by this sacred meal, may we strive for the nourishment of all bodies: may we work to end hunger in your creation, which provides amply for all. Nourished in spirit, may we strive for the inclusion of all: may we work to break the barriers that divide us from one another and from you. In the love that sustains us, and the spirit that animates us, may we give all thanks and praise to you, O God of all. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"We Are Not Our Own"

NCH #564

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

"Hallelujah"

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

J. Miller

~ 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, August 3, 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

Upcoming Birthdays:

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

August 03, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
August 05, 2025	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
August 10, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
	Special Congregational Meeting, DeWolf Room 11:00 a.m.
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

Call for a Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 10, 2025, 11:00 a.m., DeWolf Room

To the Members of First Congregational Church:

The Church Council is calling for a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the DeWolf Room. The purpose of the meeting is to address a remedy for the heating system in the DeWolf Room, which will require expenditures beyond the amount budgeted for building maintenance in our 2025 budget. As required by our By-Laws such an expenditure requires a vote by the congregation.

Background: For some time, the heating in the DeWolf Room has been insufficient, especially during the coldest time of year. The problem is that the current heating configuration between the Sanctuary and the DeWolf Room is unable to deliver adequate heat to the Room, resulting in very high fuel costs as the system struggles continually to bring heat to the Room.

An additional consideration is that we do not have any space in the church that provides air conditioning. The two standing ACs currently in the DeWolf Room bring some air conditioning but not sufficient when 30 or more people are in the Room. These two units are on loan to us from two church members.

Proposed Solution: The facilities Committee has considered a number of options to remedy both heating and cooling in the Room. After much research, the Committee recommends the installation of minisplit units in the Room, which will provide additional heat during the winter and air conditioning in the summer. Furthermore, these units offer a dehumidifying option. Three bids were obtained from reputable contractors—all of which were in line with each other (one more expensive than the other two). After meeting with representatives from each company (Queern, Gem, and Ocean Air), the facilities Committee members were most impressed with Ocean Air, especially their professional assessment of our needs, their understanding of how our current system works, and sensible approach to the installation. The cost for installing five minisplit units and two compressors is approximately \$46,000. The cost just to replace the heating elements in the DeWolf Room would be \$60,000; however, we would not have the benefit of a cooling component to the system.

The facilities Committee presented their research and recommendation to the Church Council on Tuesday, July 22. After discussion, the Church Council put forward a motion supporting the facilities Committee's recommendation to install minisplits in the DeWolf Room and to engage Ocean Air as the contractor for this installation. Furthermore, the Council discussed options for how to finance this expenditure.

Special Congregational Meeting: On August 10, the congregation will hear a presentation from the facilities Committee about how they came to recommend the minisplit option, why they suggested Ocean Air, how this system will enhance our overall congregational program, and what is involved to install this system. Then, Ruth Fisher, our treasurer, will explain proposed options for how we could finance the minisplit solution.

As required by our By-Laws a Special Congregational Meeting requires a two-week announcement. Please consider this communication that announcement.

With thanks for your presence on August 10,
Dr. Amy Halt, Church Council Chair
Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup, Settled Minister

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.

Sources for this service are written by or adapted from the following: Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Rich Toward God: Service Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Ways, After Pentecost - 8C - United Church of Christ; Rev Anne Paton, Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday, http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/15620/4_august_2013.pdf, re:Worship: Prayer for Others: Generosity; Revised Common Lectionary Prayers copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress, Thematic, Intercessory, and Scripture Prayers for the RCL, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>, re:Worship: Prayer: Hold Lightly; and Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>, re:Worship: Search results for communion service.

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

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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

FOR THE MONTH OF
AUGUST



HOOKED on giving



STOP&SHOP

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.

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Community Bag Program

Benefiting Organization:



Ecumenical Meals

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Office @ FCCBristol.org

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