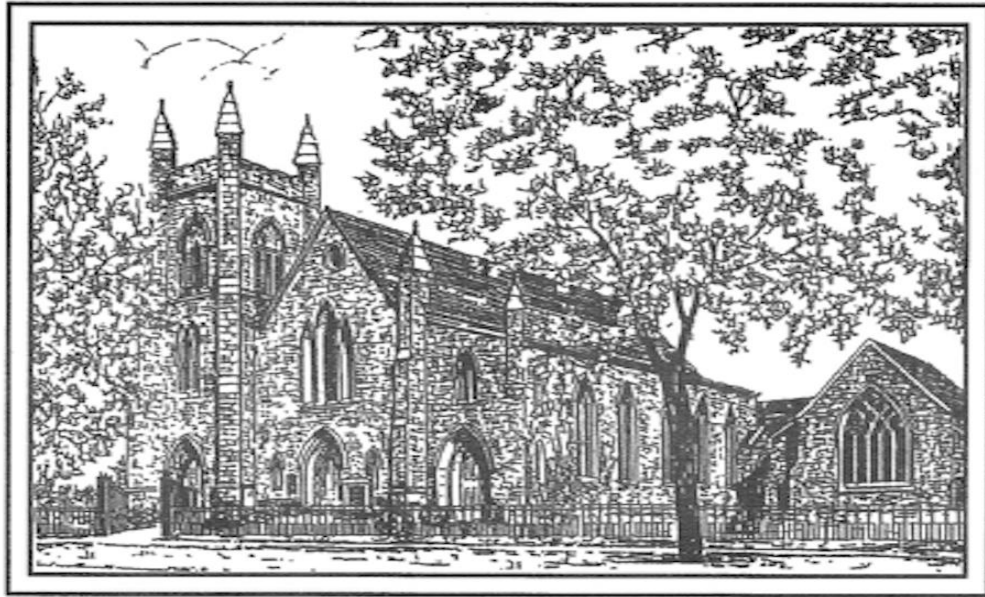


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Living God, give us faith to be sure of what we hope for

Many: and confidence in what we do not see;

One: to believe that you are in our midst

Many: and that you reward those who truly seek you;

One: that may we please you in all ways

Many: and receive what you have promised us.

**All: Thus, we live in certain knowledge of you, God, and your Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

***Invocation**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. We come convinced of many things but trusting very few. Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which we cannot see and for which we have not dared to hope. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Forward through the Ages”

NCH #377

The New Testament Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Grace Steere

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah’s involvement, he received power of procreation even though he was too old, because God considered him faithful as had been promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

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 12:32-40

Grace Steere

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your God’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their owner to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for them as soon as they come and knock. Blessed are those laborers whom the owner finds alert when they come; truly I tell you, they will fasten their belt and have them sit down to eat, and they will come and serve them. If the Holy One comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those laborers. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, they would not have let the house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Holiest One is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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**

“For the Faithful Who Have Answered”

NCH #384

Message

“Be Dressed for Action and Have Your Lamps Lit”

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

Living God, give us faith to be sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see; to believe that you are, and that you reward those who truly seek you: to desire to please you, and receive what you have promised. All through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

NCH #369

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



Prayer List for Sunday, August 10, 2025

As a congregation, we lift up prayers today and throughout the week for the following people.

For concerns in the world:

Members of our local community who are experiencing food insecurity as well as frustration about access to health care.

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 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
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

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.

stopandshop.2givelocal.com
Community Bag Program


Benefiting Organization:



Ecumenical Meals

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

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