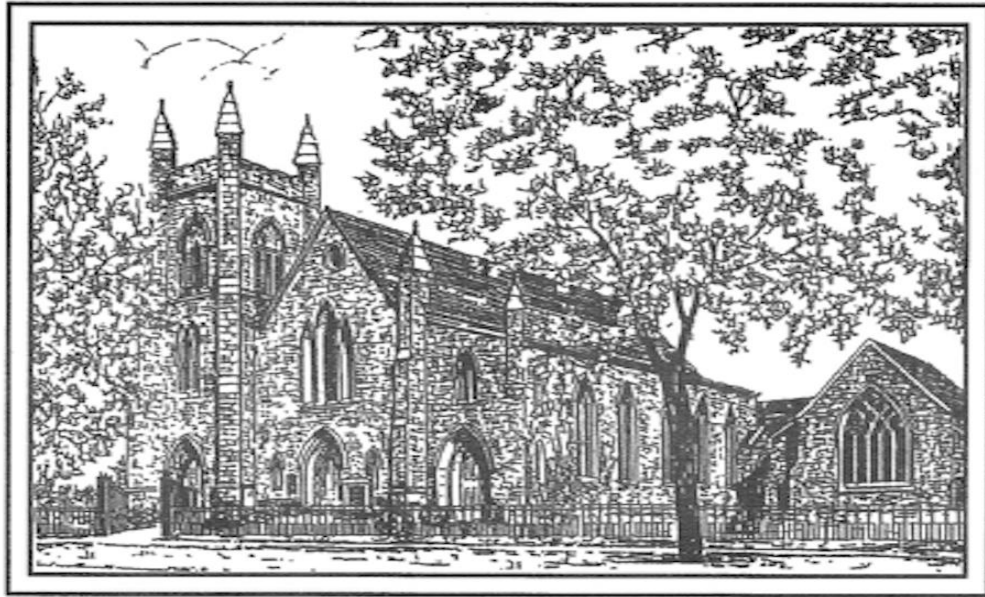


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 24, 2025 ~ 10:00 am**

**Gathering Music**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

One: We may be thirsty and parched, like an un-watered garden, so we come into God's presence:

**Many: The Divine One is a spring of water!**

One: We may be weary from worry and work, so we come into God's presence:

**Many: The Holy One offers us Sabbath rest!**

One: We may be lost or confused so we come into God's presence:

**Many: The Wise One offers us welcome and guidance!**

One: We may be bent over with struggle or pain, so we come into God's presence:

**Many: The Healing One empowers us to stand strong! Amen.**

**\*Invocation**

**O God of all goodness, you welcome us, forgive us, and heal us. You seek us out from places where we have hidden from you. You crown us with steadfast love and mercy. Reveal yourself to us in this moment. Let us know your presence so that we may bless you, O God and bless your holy name! Amen.**

**The Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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!**

**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

One: O God, our heavenly Redeemer, give us a vision of our world as your love would make it:  
**Many: a world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor;**  
One: a world where the benefits of civilized life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
**Many: a world where different races, nations, and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect,**  
One: a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love;  
**All: and give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### \*Closing Hymn

*"Standing at the Future's Threshold" (vs, 1,2,4)*

NCH #538

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



## Prayer List for Sunday, August 24, 2025

### 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:**

Camille Pansa and Grace Steere, who are recovering from falls  
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:

|                          |                      |                                 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Katherine Harcourt 08/28 | Matthew Benson 08/30 |                                 |
| Pam Vagnini 09/01        | Gary Butler 09/04    | Amy Halt 09/05                  |
| Katie Evans 09/09        | Sug Grant 09/10      | Caleb Walsh 09/10               |
| Erin Donovan 09/11       | Douglas Fisher 09/13 | Alexandra Delgado Damiano 09/18 |
| Shannon Evans 09/21      | Megan Fisher 09/23   | Sandy Patterson 09/25           |
| Jacob Johnson 09/25      | John Vaughan 09/29   |                                 |

## What's on the Church Calendar

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>August 17, 2025</b> | <b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>  |
| August 19, 2025        | Tuesday Office Closed (Barbara Vacation Day)<br>Church Council Meeting 7:00pm |
| <b>August 24, 2025</b> | <b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>  |
| August 28, 2025        | Thursday CE Meeting 6:30pm ZOOM   |
| <b>August 31, 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/>.



*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. Catherine Rolling, United Church of Christ, Worship Ways, <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-11.html>, re: Worship: Proper 16 C; Walter Brueggemann, Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann, (Augsburg Fortress, 2003, p. 90), <http://www.consideryourcall.org/sites/default/files/CYC-Media/Toolbox/Materials/Worship-Toolbox.pdf>, re: Worship: Proper 16 C; Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, On the Sabbath: Service Prayers for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, United Church of Christ, Worship Ways, After Pentecost 11C - August 24 - United Church of Christ; Geoffrey Brown and John Pridmore, St Martin-in-the-Fields' Prayer for the World, the Church of Scotland's Weekly Worship, <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship>, re: Worship: Proper 16 C; and Terri, RevGalBlogPals, <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>, re: Worship: Proper 16 C.*

**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)



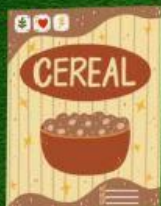
East Bay Food Pantry

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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.

[stopandshop.2givelocal.com](http://stopandshop.2givelocal.com)  
Community Bag Program

Benefiting Organization



**Ecumenical Meals**

First Congregational Church in Bristol  
281 High Street  
Bristol, RI 02809  
☎ 401-233-7288  
Office @ FCCBristol.org

At This Stop & Shop Location:

**STOP&SHOP**

605 Metacom Ave.  
Bristol, RI 02809



## BRISTOL'S STONE CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE 2025 –2026 Season

|                    |                                  |                            |  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| September 27, 2025 | Neal and The Vipers              | American Roots Music       | <a href="http://www.NealandTheVipers.com">www.NealandTheVipers.com</a>       |
| October 25, 2025   | Porch Party Mamas                | Urban Folk, Country, Blues | <a href="http://www.PorchPartyMamas.com">www.PorchPartyMamas.com</a>         |
| November 8, 2025   | Studio Two                       | Beatles Tribute Band       | <a href="http://StudioTwoTributeBand.com">StudioTwoTributeBand.com</a>       |
| December 2025      | No Show                          |                            |  |
| January 24, 2026   | Ellis Paul                       | Folk Music                 | <a href="http://www.EllisPaul.com">www.EllisPaul.com</a>                     |
| February 28, 2026  | Kevin Doyle's<br>Roscommon Soles | Irish Music and Dance      | <a href="http://www.kevindoyledance.com">www.kevindoyledance.com</a>         |
| March 28, 2026     | Dirty Cello                      | Blues, Americana, Rock     | <a href="http://www.DirtyCello.com">www.DirtyCello.com</a>                   |
| April 25, 2026     | The Clements<br>Brothers         | Roots, Bluegrass, Jazz     | <a href="http://www.TheClementsBrothers.com">www.TheClementsBrothers.com</a> |
| May 9, 2026        | Tracy Grammer &<br>Jim Henry     | Contemporary Folk Music    | <a href="http://www.TracyGrammer.com">www.TracyGrammer.com</a>               |

Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House is located at the First Congregational Church (300 High Street in Bristol, RI).

Seating is limited. Early reservations are recommended.

Doors open at 6:45pm. All shows start at 7:30pm.

For ticket information, ticket purchase or to inquire about season tickets, please call 253-4813.

\* Tickets are \$25 for adults; students are half price; children 5 and under are free.

### First Congregational Church

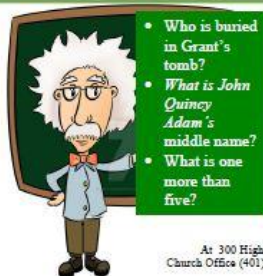
### *Team Trivia Friday Night's*

*October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>,*

*March 13, and April 10, 2025 @ 7PM*

**Ask Friends and Family and Come  
Join the Fun**

- Up to 8 per Team
- No Charge
- Bring Snacks and a Beverage
- Light Refreshments and Snacks will be available
- Prizes for the Top Finishers
- Call (401) 253-4813 to pre-register your team or send an email to [dubordrjd@cox.net](mailto:dubordrjd@cox.net)



At 300 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809  
Church Office (401) 253-7288 • [Office@FCCBristol.org](mailto:Office@FCCBristol.org)

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