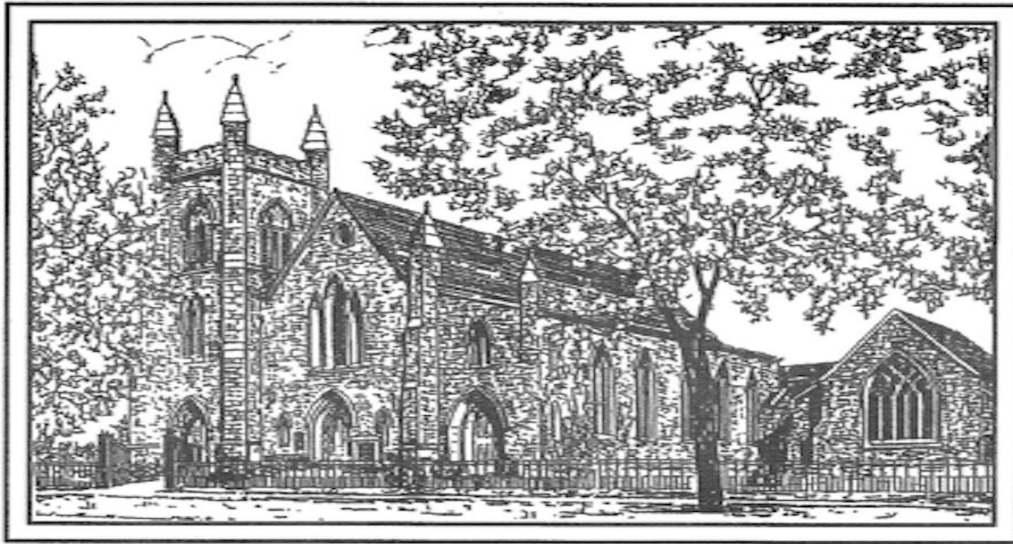


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 28, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"I Woke Up This Morning"

Spiritual

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Come and worship!

Many: We will praise the One between, within, and over.

One: Trust in the One who co-creates the was, the now, and the will be.

Many: Our hope is in the One who creates expansive love, calling us to do the same.

One: Follow the One who never breaks covenant.

Many: We follow the One whose extravagant love calls us to co-create justice for the oppressed, feed the hungry, unlock prisons, and welcome strangers, orphans, and widows.

One: Praise the One whose justice is grace-full and inclusive.

Many: We praise the Spirit that spans the ages. Amen!

***Invocation**

God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our souls. Engage our spirits with truth and compassion. Stir our hearts with your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so that we may honor you and be restored in you. Amen.

Children's Moment**The Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 146

Sug Grant

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day, their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow, while the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

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 New Testament Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Sug Grant

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, children of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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"When Peace, Like a River"*

NCH #438

Message*"Will We Reach 'Contentment'?"* 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 / Pachelbel's Canon"

Arr. JA Shafferman

*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: Lord Jesus, you know that we are hungry for many things, acceptance and recognition, meaning and purpose, a sign that we are valuable. We are hungry for love.

Many: **It is so easy to fill ourselves with other things, to pursue the love of money, to follow vain desires.**

One: In a world of great inequality, where the homeless still line our streets, give us recognition of the commonwealth of sharing.

Many: **Teach us the meaning of contentment with enough and a purpose not in our own needs alone but in the needs of others.**

All: **You have given us such worth; fill us with your love, show us what really satisfies. Amen.**

*Hymn

"Be Not Dismayed"

NCH #460

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Hallelujah"

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"Lift Up Your Heart"

Sally Deford

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Sug Grant ~

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



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: Prayers for this liturgy were written by or adapted from the following: Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, *Comfort and Agony*:

Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Ways, UCC, After Pentecost 16C - September 28 - United Church of Christ; Tim Graves, *LiturgyBits*, <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>, re: *Worship: Proper 21 C*; *Monthly Prayers page (now Weekly Worship)*, *Christian Aid*, <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>, re: *Worship: Proper 21 C*; Christine

Jerrett, <https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>, re: *Worship: Proper 21 C*; and Terri, *RevGalBlogPals*. <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>, re: *Worship: Proper 21 C*.

Prayer List for Sunday, September 28, 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:

Alan Dana Soukup, Rev. Nancy's brother

Kathy Conoway, Sug Grant's niece, who has Stage 4 Breast Cancer, which had been in remission but has probably reoccurred

Kathy, Jen Johnson's cousin, who decided to return home against her doctor's recommendation; prayers for her safety and for Jen's Uncle Paul's safety as he tries to care for Kathy

Kristen, calling on all available angels to gather around Kristen as she undergoes extensive chemotherapy treatments with a minimum of pain and discomfort

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 Chaccone, 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

Ryan Higgins, Lilly Kilvert's son-in-law, who has Leukemia

A beloved son, who is suffering from Leukemia

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

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
 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:

John Vaughan 09/29

Lorena Cousineau 10/02	Jay Cousineau 10/02	Avery Capron 10/02
Martha Costianes 10/03	Ron Gamon 10/04	Gwen Reeve 10/05
Sharon Tyler 10/07	Lindsey Walsh 10/08	Mark Moreira 10/10
Rebecca DuBreuil-Patton 10/10	Zoe Fournier-Swire 10/11	Denise Arsenault 10/13
Caroline Jacobus 10/22	Ron Grant 10/24	Charlie Tupper 10/23
Bob Wilson 10/25	Lenny Aberg 10/30	Robbie Evans 10/31

What's on the Church Calendar

Sept. 28, 2025 Sunday Worship 10:00am
Congregational meeting following worship 11am
 October. 1, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
October. 05, 2025 Sunday Worship 10:00am
 October 07, 2025 Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
 October. 08, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
 October. 09, 2025 Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm (Guiteras House)
 October 10, 2025 Friday Trivia Night 7pm (DeWolf Room)
October. 12, 2025 Sunday Worship 10:00am
 October. 14, 2025 Tuesday Facility meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
 October. 17, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
 October 18, 2025 Saturday Silent Movie Night
October. 19, 2025 Sunday Church Has Left The Building Worship 10:00am
 October. 21, 2025 Tuesday Church Council Meeting 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
 October. 22, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
 October. 25, 2025 Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House (DeWolf Room)
October. 26, 2025 Sunday Worship 10:00am
 October. 22, 2025 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)

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/>.



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

**Congregational Meeting, scheduled for
Sunday, August 28 at 11:00 AM**

Dear Members:

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, we announced a call for a congregational meeting and vote in two weeks—this Sunday, September 28, 2025, following the service. The meeting continues a discussion begun on August 24, 2025, when a solution to the heating problems in the DeWolf Room complex (Room, foyer, Historical Properties Room, Wardwell Room, and Kitchen) was presented as well as options for financing the system. We did not vote at the time because there was a remaining technical issue that Ocean State Air needed to address and whether that fix added to the overall expense of the system. On Tuesday, September 16, Matt Benson discussed the proposed solution with the Church Council, and the Council then discussed the best plan(s) for financing. This is now being brought for a vote this Sunday. Thank you all for your participation in this meeting on September 28, 2025.

Dr. Amy Halt, Chair of the Church Council

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

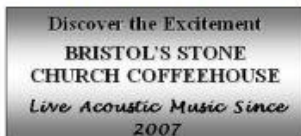
Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents

An Evening of Americana, Roots Music Featuring
Neal and The Vipers



Saturday, September 27, 2025 First Congregational Church
Doors open at 6:45pm 300 High Street
Music starts at 7:30pm (Corner of Bradford and High St)
Bristol, RI 02809

Tickets are \$25.00; Students are Half Price; Children 5 and Under are Free
Seating is Limited and Early Reservations are Recommended.
Please Call 401-253-4813 for reservations or ticket information.



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

A Community Partners Program with Clements Marketplace



Clements Marketplace at 1150 Hope Street in Bristol is engaged in their Community Partners Program. Twenty-seven years ago, they began this effort at their other locations to support organizations and groups in the area. By saving and submitting your Clements' shopping receipts, you help support First Congregational Church.

Where do I drop off my receipts?: At First Congregational Church in an envelope marked receipts that is pinned to the bulletin boards in the Wardwell Room near the church kitchen and/or in the Narthex (the entrance of the church).

Please save those Clements' receipts and join with us in their Community Partners Program to benefit First Congregational Church! Please.

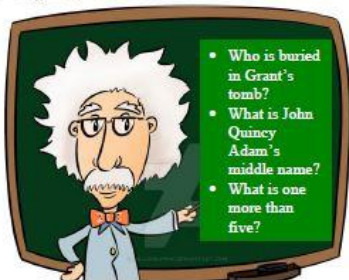
First Congregational Church

Team Trivia Night

Friday, October 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



It's the Phantom's 100th Birthday
Be here to celebrate it with the showing of
the original silent film...

"The Phantom of the Opera" (1925)



**COSTUMES
ARE
OPTIONAL
BUT
WELCOME**



With Live
Musical
Accompaniment
by
Our Own
*Nikita
Zabinski*

First Congregational Church
300 High Street, Bristol, RI
Saturday, October 18th 7pm
Light Refreshments Afterwards
Free Will Offering

96th Annual
First Congregational Church
300 High St Bristol RI

HARVEST MOON BAZAAR

NOV 22
10 AM TO 3 PM

**FREE PICTURES
WITH SANTA!**
CHICKEN SALAD
**CHILI &
HOT CIDER**

BAKED GOODS
HANDMADE KNITS
CRAFTS
FLOWERS & VENDORS
SILENT AUCTION!!

2025

Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents

*An Evening of Urban Folk, Country and Blues Featuring
Porch Party Mamas*



Saturday, October 25, 2025

Doors open at 6:45pm

Music starts at 7:30pm

First Congregational Church
300 High Street
(Corner of Bradford and High St)
Bristol, RI 02809

Tickets are \$25.00; Students are Half Price; Children 5 and Under are Free
Seating is Limited and Early Reservations are Recommended.
Please Call 401-253-4813 for reservations or ticket information.



Discover the Excitement
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CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE**
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