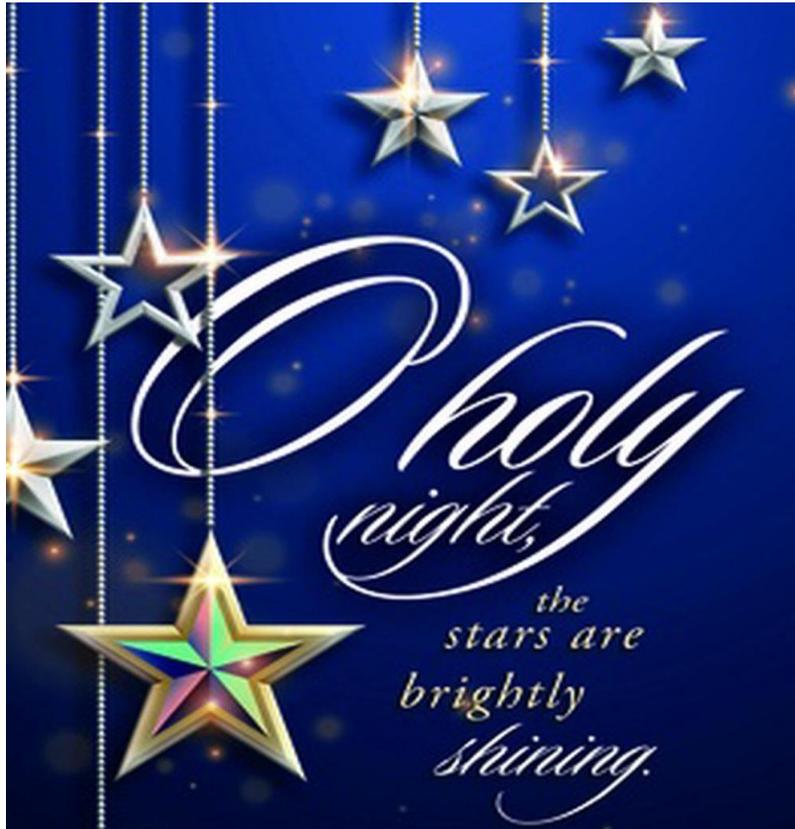


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



A Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24, 2025 ~ 6:00 pm

Prelude

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Arr. S. DeFord

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“A Call To Christmas”

Adam Miller
Alexey Shabalin, Violin

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Praise God in the heavens! Praise God among us! Praise the Holy One!

Many: Praise God who vindicates us! Praise God who sustains us!

One: Praise God from the depths! Praise God in all circumstances!

Many: Praise the Creator who made us! Praise God who shapes us!

One: Let all praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: The glory of God reigns in heaven and on earth! Praise the Holy One!

Carol“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

NCH #116 (v.1,2,6,7)

***Invocation**

Redeeming God, you have met us in valleys, on storming seas, and on mountaintops. We welcome your presence now as we come to worship you. We gather in gratitude and assurance that you are our God, and we proclaim with gladness that we are your people. Some come in need of encouragement or comfort. Others need a healing touch. We hunger and thirst for righteousness as we praise and honor your name. Transform us to be living vessels of your love and living witnesses of your continuing presence in the world. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jen Johnson

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal God, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol*“Low, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

NCH #127

Second Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

Jim Sapp

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Carol*“Jesus, Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”*

NCH #136

Prayer

O Mystery

Rev. Jametta Alston

Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38

Karen Satti

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by the angel's words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Carol*“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

NCH #128

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Charlotte Burnham

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Prayer

O Dazzler

Rev. Jametta Alston

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Tony Morettini

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol*“Angels We Have Heard From High”*

NCH #125

Sixth Lesson

Mathew 2:1-12

Bob Evans

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Prayer

O Radiance

Rev. Jametta Alston

Carol*“The First Noel”*

NCH #139

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

Rev. Jametta Alston

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of all people, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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!

Special Music

"O Holy Night"

Adolph Adam
Jerilyn Turner - Soprano

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jametta Alston

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

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Offertory Invitation

Rev. Jametta Alston

The Offertory

"Grace From Christmas Snow"

Heather Sorenson Jerilyn Turner, Soloist Alexey Shabalin, Violin

*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**

Generous God, we thank you for every good and perfect gift you have given to us and through us. Use our offerings on this day for the benefit of creation, the redemption of humanity, and your glory. Amen.

Lighting of the Congregational Candles

***Hymn** "Silent Night, Holy Night" NCH#134 (v.1,2,3)

Final Prayer Rev. Jametta Alston

***Closing Hymn** "Joy to the World" NCH #132 (v.1,2)

***Benediction** Rev. Jametta Alston

***Benediction Response** "Hallelujah"

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" Arr. Mark Hayes

~ Leading Worship today are the Rev. Jametta Alston ~
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ 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 from this service were written by or adapted from the following: Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, *Vindication: Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Christmas, Christmas 1B - December 31 - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)*; Rev. Susan A. Blain, *Living-Psalms-97-Three-Christmas-Collects_Blain-Christmas-Day, Living Psalm 97 - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)*, and Rev. Anne Fraley, *RevGalBlogPals, <https://revgalblogpals.org/>, re:Worship: Christmas (re-worship.blogspot.com)*.

Prayer List for Sunday, December 24, 2025

For cares and concerns in the world:

The members of the Brown University community as they mourn the death of two students and pray for nine students wounded in the shooting Saturday a week ago on campus

The Jewish community in Bondi Bay, Australia, who suffered the loss of many members due to a violent hate crime on the first day of Chanukkah

Members of our local community who are experiencing food insecurity as well as frustration about access to health care and or those who may be affected by a government shutdown

The Palestinian and Israeli people that they will be able to broker a lasting peace from the fragile negotiations in the ancient land of our spiritual ancestors

Peace in the Ukraine

Prayers for all victims of violence

Prayers for those who have lost their way may have wisdom, courage, and strength

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Ronald Blackburn, Rev. Nancy's brother-in-law, who is in hospice care

Juan Morales

Rev. Nancy Soukup as she recovers from surgery

Patrick McLean Blackburn

Our congregation family as we recover from the fire on October 31

Mary Ann, who is recovering after surgery, and for all those who are preparing for surgery and are recovering from their procedures

Angel Rose, a local teenager who is in the hospital after neurosurgery and for her family

Marina, as she mourns the loss of her friend Kaitlyn Bric

Bill Walsh, who is at the VA Hospital

Tommy, who is dealing with a degenerative muscular disorder

Sug Grant, who is undergoing evaluation for cancer treatment

Sally Evans, who is preparing for surgery in January

Alan Dana Soukup

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, who is recovering from a fall

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 have begun a three-year diplomatic tour at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines.

Nick Chaccone, for recovery

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

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

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

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



Today's Christmas Flowers are

In Loving Memory of

Our Parents

Elmer & Shirly Gardiner

Roger & Nancy Dubord

Maria-Dolores Soto (Lola)

Dr. Augustine, Anne Ramos & Tommy Ramos

Grace E. Wilson

Beloved Grandparents

Marina Schmeckebier

Robert & Wilhemina Fisher

John (Jack) Evans

Dr. Anne Fiske Lee

Frances & Louis Evans

Betty & Raymond Fiske

Brad & Sally E Monahon

Friends & Family that are no longer with us.

Abner & Mildred Glass

Margaret & Lester Grant

George & Lorraine Temple

Jean & E. Stuart Braden MD

Given By

Roger & Donna Dubord

Roger & Donna Dubord

The Bailey Family

Chuck & Lynne Ramos

Chuck & Lynne Ramos

Jen & Chris Johnson

The Fisher Family

The Fisher Family

The Evans Family

Susan & Glenn Donovan

Ron & Sug Grant

Ron & Sug Grant

Paul, Laura, Marina & Alexander Temple

Paul, Laura, Marina & Alexander Temple

In Honor of

For Our family past and present

Maria Finucane

Given By

Matt & Celeste

Tim & Tori Grace



Upcoming Birthdays:

Barbara Sakstead 12/24	Rev. Nancy Soukup 12/27	Naomi Carpenter 12/28
John Ringland 01/01	Adria Sartrys 01/16	Steve Walsh 01/17
Lisa Andrade 01/18	Karen Griffith-Dieterich 01/21	Ryan Gamon 01/23
Mikey McGowan-Roach 01/23	Kara Pisasale 01/23	Glenn L. Donovan 01/25
Anne Archibald 01/27	Mike Oglo 01/28	Jarrold Riccio 01/28
Meredith Stone 01/29	Anthony Morettini 01/29	Sally Evans 01/31

What's on the Church Calendar

December 24, 2025	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00pm
December 25, 2025	CHRISTMAS DAY
December 28, 2025	Sunday Worship 10:00am First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2025	NEW YEAR'S EVE
January 1, 2026	Thursday New Year's Day
January 4, 2026	Sunday Worship 10:00am
January 6, 2026	Prayer Shawl Circle
January 7, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
	Friday Trivia Night 7:00pm
January 11, 2026	Sunday Worship 10:00am
	Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after worship (Diamond Room)
January 14, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
January 18, 2026	Sunday Worship 10:00am
	Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after worship (Diamond Room)
January 21, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
January 24, 2026	Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House (DeWolf Room)
January 25, 2026	Sunday Worship 10:00am
	Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after worship (Diamond Room)
January 28, 2026	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

Call the Church office to schedule an appointment.

Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail office@FCCbristol.org

First Congregational Church at 300 High St. Bristol, RI

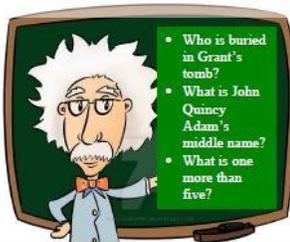
Team Trivia Night

This Friday, January 9, 2025 @ 7PM

Ask Friends and Family and Come Join the Fun
Up to 8 Per Team

- 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



- Who is buried in Grant's tomb?
- What is John Quincy Adam's middle name?
- What is one more than five?

Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents

An Evening of Folk Music Featuring
Ellis Paul



Photo Credit: Jack Looney

Saturday, January 24, 2026

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
BRISTOL'S STONE
CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE
Live Acoustic Music Since
2007



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