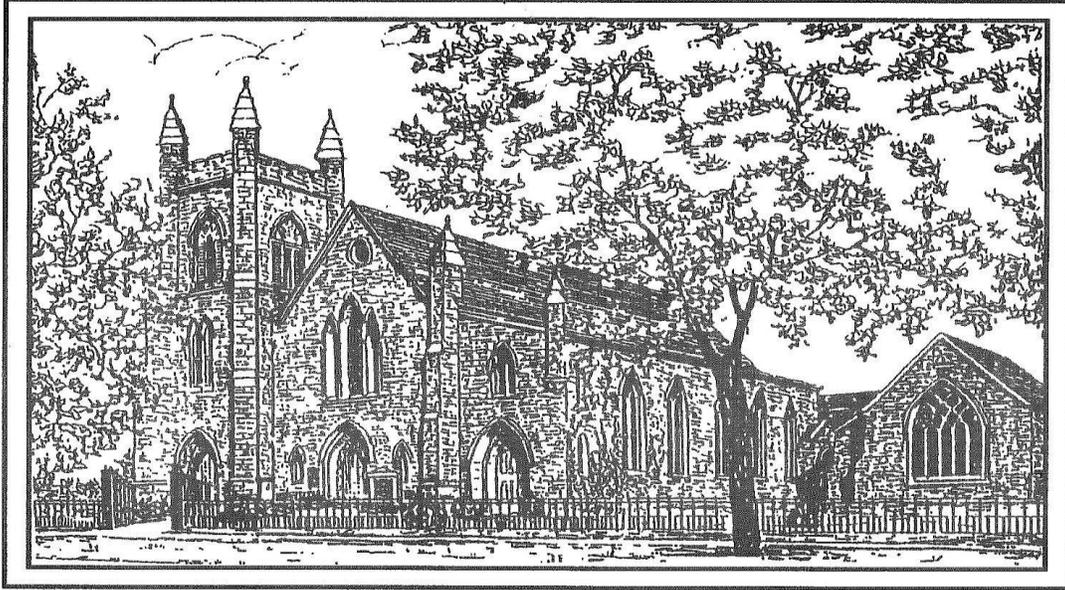


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## Baptism Of Christ

January 11, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>“We Three Kings”</i>	Arr. J. Peter
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		
<b>Introit</b>	<i>“Follow That Star”</i>	Brad Nix
<b>Bringing Forth the Light of Christ</b>		Acolytes

### \*Call to Worship

God says:

One: Look! See my chosen servant, the One in whom I utterly delight;

**Many: I have placed my Spirit on him, he will bring true justice to the nations.**

One: When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up, and Spirit came down like a dove;  
and there was a voice from heaven saying:

**Many: “This is my dearly loved Son, with whom I am delighted.”**

One: The joy of the Lord be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

written by Bruce Prewer

### \*Invocation

**Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in your beloved Son. As in his name we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!**

written by Bruce Prewer

### **\*Prayer for Transformation**

**Loving Father, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your dear Son. Thank you for making us your children by water and the Spirit. Keep us faithful to you throughout our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

— from the Lutheran Church of Australia's [Worship Planning Page](#).

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity, forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field, forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are, forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat, forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there, forgive us. O God, you know us inside and out, through and through. You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we speak. So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

—Moirra Laidlaw's [Liturgies Online](#) website.

### **Words of Assurance**

God who shows no partiality, show your favoritism on all your people. Send forth your justice for all to see. Save us your people. Empower us to preach and testify to your great love and mercy.

God who makes and keeps covenant with your people, You called us to be a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to set the prisoners free. Help us to answer your call that these things come to pass.

God of grace and glory, We pray for those who suffer from pains and sorrows. We pray for those whose hearts are broken. We pray for those whose families are fractured. We pray for those whose lives are ravaged by war. We pray for those who struggle with poverty, and starvation We pray for our brother and sisters in Christ who are being martyred and tortured for their beliefs.

Thank you for hearing our prayers. Thank you for pouring out your Spirit on your son and pouring your spirit out on us too. May we too hear you say to us this day that "This is my son, my daughter, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." **Amen**

~ written by Rev Abi,

### **\*Hymn**

*"God of Change and Glory"*

NCH #177

### **Children's Moment**

## An Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

“Take a good look at my servant. I’m backing him to the hilt. He’s the one I chose, and I couldn’t be more pleased with him. I’ve bathed him with my Spirit, my *life*. He’ll set everything right among the nations. He won’t call attention to what he does with loud speeches or gaudy parades. He won’t brush aside the bruised and the hurt and he won’t disregard the small and insignificant, but he’ll steadily and firmly set things right. He won’t tire out and quit. He won’t be stopped until he’s finished his work—to set things right on earth. Far-flung ocean islands wait expectantly for his teaching.”

### The God Who Makes Us Alive with His Own Life

GOD’s Message, the God who created the cosmos, stretched out the skies, laid out the earth and all that grows from it, who breathes life into earth’s people, makes them alive with his own life: “I am GOD. I have called you to live right and well. I have taken responsibility for you, kept you safe. I have set you among my people to bind them to me, and provided you as a lighthouse to the nations, to make a start at bringing people into the open, into light: opening blind eyes, releasing prisoners from dungeons, emptying the dark prisons. I am GOD. That’s my name. I don’t franchise my glory, don’t endorse the no-god idols.”

Take note: The earlier predictions of judgment have been fulfilled. I’m announcing the new salvation work. Before it bursts on the scene, I’m telling you all about it.”

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!**

## A Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, “I’m the one who needs to be baptized, not you!”

But Jesus insisted. “Do it. God’s work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism.” So John did it.

The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my 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

“What Ruler Wades Through Murkey Streams”

NCH #169

*(The Deacons will collect the prayer request cards during the hymn.)*

## Message

“What is baptism?”

Rev. Jametta Alston

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Pastoral Prayer

## 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

### The Offertory

*"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"*

R. Gillard

### \*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

Radiant God, we thank you for the gifts that flow like rivers, for the abundance that rises from the sea, for the courage to give and to receive. Bless now these offerings and the hearts from which they come. Let them join the caravans of compassion moving through this world, bringing joy where despair has lingered, and peace where fear has taken root. God's dwelling is now among us. May our lives shine with the glory of God, our hands carry God's grace, and our gifts become good news for all creation. Amen.

### \*Hymn

*"O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright"*

NCH #158

### \*Closing Hymn

*"Joyful, Joyful we Adore You"*

NCH #4

### \*Benediction

### \*Benediction Response

*Amen, amen, Amen,  
amen, amen.*

## Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

### \*Postlude

*"Trust"*

K. Louviere

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Jametta Alston~  
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~  
~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~

*Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship*

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.



## **Prayer List for Sunday, January 11, 2026**

### **For cares and concerns in the world:**

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:**

Tony Morettini, who is in the hospital after a bad fall

Juan Morales

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

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

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

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 Chaconne, 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

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

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**

<b>January 11, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b> Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after worship (Dimond Room)
January 13, 2026	Tuesday Facility meeting 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
January 14, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
<b>January 18, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b> Ground Hog Band Rehearsal after worship (Diamond Room)
January 20, 2026	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 6:30pm (Dimond Room)
January 21, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
January 24, 2026	Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House (DeWolf Room)
<b>January 25, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b> 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 Events go to [fccbristol.org](http://fccbristol.org)




The Groundhog is coming. *This is an invitation to join the First Congregational Church 32<sup>ND</sup> Annual Groundhog Day February 1, 2026, Snow date February 8, 2026*

The groundhog is safely asleep in his underground chamber. It is up to us to awaken him on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Snow date is February 8, 2026. The Groundhog Band will started rehearsals every Sunday at 11:15 in the Dimond Room until the performance. The full schedule is below.

If you do not have your instrument or music, please see me. If you need to borrow an instrument, accommodations can be made with help from Mt Hope High and KMS music departments.

## 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*



## KEEP THOSE RECIEPTS COMING



### 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.

### “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/>.



Would all member please update your Pledges for 2025  
And if you haven't already please pass in your 2026 pledge Cards. Would you please.  
*Thank you from your Stewardship Committee.*

**Church Office Hours** are Tuesday – Friday 9:00am – 2:00pm

Office e-mail address: [office@FCCBristol.org](mailto:office@FCCBristol.org)

### **Pastoral Office Hours**

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)

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • [Office@FCCBristol.org](mailto:Office@FCCBristol.org) • Church location: 300 High St.  
• Office location: 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809