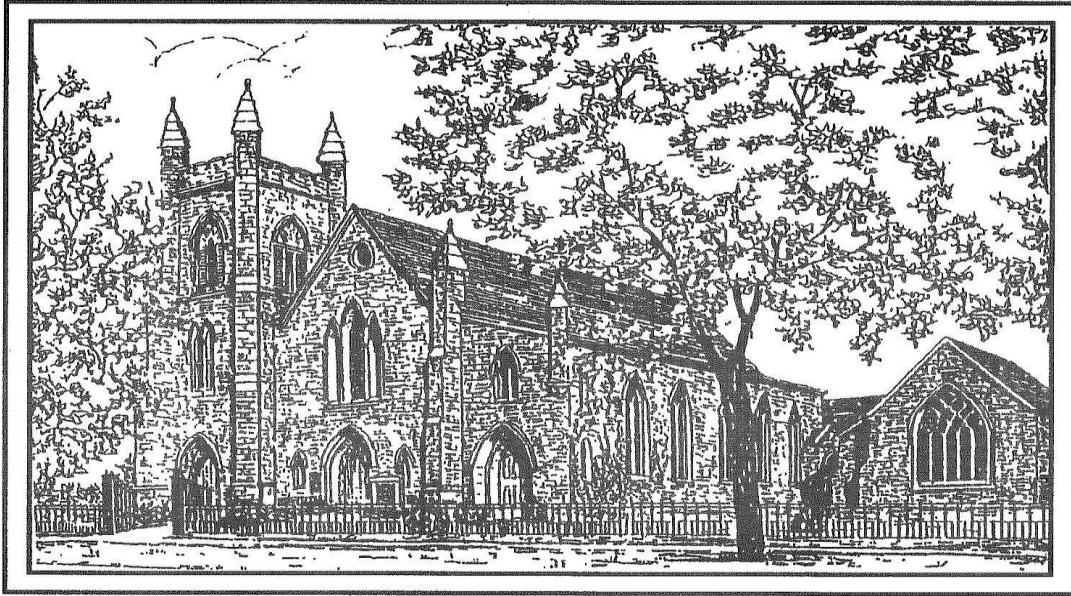


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 18, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

**Prelude**

*"Prelude: Sonata in D"*

D. Scarlatti

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

*"Follow That Star"*

Brad Nix

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

One: What offering do we need to bring to God?

**Many: God does not look for sacrifices or offerings,  
but for open ears, like channels for the truth.  
Grand gestures and offerings are not required,  
but a heart-felt delight in doing the will of God.**

One: My friends, behold the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
God has put a new song in my mouth,  
placed a new melody on my tongue.

**All: The love of Jesus, the Lamb of God, be with you always.  
And also with you.**

Written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home page, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

### **\*Invocation**

Faithful God, you draw near to us  
in our joy and in our grief,  
in our hope and in our despair.  
When we are bowed down, you raise us anew.  
We turn to you now in search of your healing touch.  
God of compassion and love,  
move among us this hour.  
Open our eyes, dispel our fears,  
and show us the real life you have to offer.  
We pray this in the name of the Risen One,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.icc.org/worship-ways/>

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

With our feet still wet from the waters of our baptism,  
we have sinned yet again.  
Ever dependent on the grace of God,  
let us affirm our brokenness and trust God's goodness  
to carry us through to a new day,  
with a new name, and a new song.

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

God of our baptismal waters,  
You sent the Baptist to point to your Son.  
But too often, we abandon his message and point only to ourselves.  
We point to our worship preferences rather than the God we worship.  
We point to our status rather than the grace that makes us all equal.  
We point to our values rather than the One who has always valued everyone.  
We point to our traditions rather than to the One who calls us to let go.  
We point to our past rather than to the One who calls us into the future.  
Forgive us, Lord, for pointing in all the wrong directions.

### **Words of Assurance**

God of our baptismal hope,  
Forgive us when we do not wait patiently for your direction.  
Forgive us when we are too patient with our misdirection.  
Hold our gaze on your baptismal promise  
sealed in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.  
Through the power of your Spirit,  
give us the courage to speak what we have seen  
and point to the One who takes away the sins of the world.  
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on wild and Precious Life. <http://www.stephenmfearing.com>

**Children’s Moment**

**An Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 49:1-7

**The Servant’s Mission**

Listen to me, O coastlands, and hearken, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” But I said, “I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God.”

And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

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!**

**An New Testament Reading**

John 1:29-42

**The God-Revealer**

The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I’ve been talking about, ‘the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.’ I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God.”

John clinched his witness with this: “I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, ‘The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ That’s exactly what I saw happen, and I’m telling you, there’s no question about it: This is the Son of God.”

Come, See for Yourself

The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb.”

The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, “What are you after?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

He replied, “Come along and see for yourself.”

They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, "You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas" (or Peter, which means "Rock").

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** *"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"*  
(The Deacons will collect the prayer request cards during the hymn.)

NCH #181

**Message** "What Do You Want Me to Do?"

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** *"Holy Is The Newborn Child"*

John Carter

**\*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.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *"God of Change and Glory"*

NCH #177

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

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

**Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

**\*Postlude**

*"Blues in F"*

*~ 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 18, 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:**

Lisa Andrade 01/18	Ryan Gamon 01/23	Mikey McGowan-Roach 01/23
Karen Griffith-Dieterich 01/21	Glenn L. Donovan 01/25	Anne Archibald 01/27
Kara Pisasale 01/23	Jarrold Riccio 01/28	Meredith Stone 01/29
Mike Oglo 01/28	Sally Evans 01/31	
Anthony Morettini 01/29		

## What's on the Church Calendar

<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)
<b>February 1, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b> <b>Groundhog Band Sunday</b> <b>Annual Report Available</b>
February 3, 2026	Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm
February 4, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 7, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
<b>February 8, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b>
February 10, 2026	Facility Meeting 7pm
February 11, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 12, 2026	Deacon Meeting 7pm
February 13, 2026	Trivia Night 7pm (DeWolf Room)
February 14, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
<b>February 15, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b> <b>Annual meeting Following worship</b>
<b>February 17, 2026</b>	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b> Church Council 7pm
<b>February 18, 2026</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
February 24, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
<b>February 22, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00pm</b>
February 25, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
February 26, 2026	CE meeting 6:30pm (Zoom)
February 28, 2026	Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House (DeWolf 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 start 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.

All instrumentalists are invited, no matter your experience. If you know someone who plays or played an instrument, give them a shove toward the rehearsal.

When we meet, we will rehearse in the church, play for the gathering music, play the hymns during the service performance. Vocalists are encouraged to attend and sing with the band.

Remember: "Every note you give us is one more note that we have, that we would not have without you."

Bennett Burnham  
 253-8530 HBur700343@aol.com

Rehearsal and Performance Schedule will be listed

January 11 <sup>th</sup>	After Worship in Dimond room
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	After Worship in Dimond room
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	After Worship in Dimond Room
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday at 9:00am in the sanctuary
February 1 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am before Church
February 1 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Worship

Snow Date February 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 9:00am in the sanctuary  
 February 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00am before Church

## 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