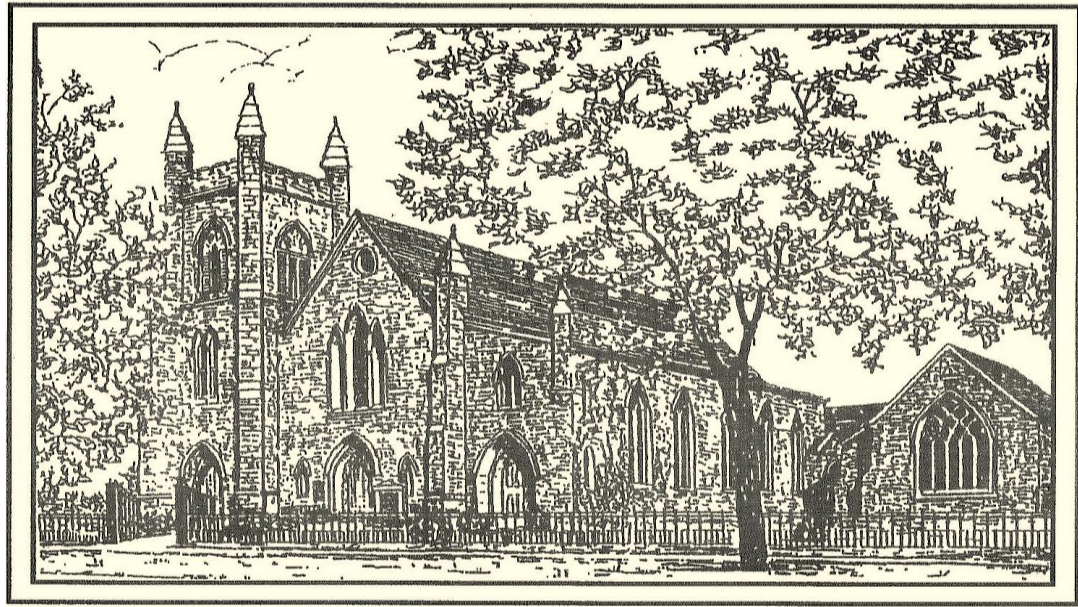


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## HOLY COMMUNION TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

**February 15, 2026 ~ 10:00 am**

**Prelude**

*"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*

Arr. J Holstein

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

*"Awesome God"*

R. Mullins

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

(inspired by Matthew 5: 13-16)

One: Come to me and wait. I will give you instructions and commandments in written form.

**Many: We come to you and we wait, to see, and to hear what you will say.**

One: In days past, I wrote on stone tablets, but now I write my words upon your heart that you may teach them.

**Many: We offer our hearts to receive your words, and what we learn, we'll teach others.**

One: Heaven is open to you, and God's realm is within you.

**All: Wherever we go, God's realm comes. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**God, who invited Moses to come up the mountain to receive from you, we invite you to come among us and to receive from us. May we become more whole as we wait in confident expectation of the deepening love that is shared between us. Amen.**

## **Prayer for Transformation**

**Waiting is not always easy for us, especially while living in a realm where instant gratification is perceived as proof of being blessed. You wait for us and on us often. Help us to remember that we are to be of good courage as we wait on you and for you. Amen.**

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

### **\*Hymn**

**“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”**

**NCH #182**

## **The Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 17:1-9**

**Steve Brosnihan**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of God has been raised from the dead.”

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**

**“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”**

**NCH #183**

## **Sharing our Joy and Concerns**

## **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**

**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**

### **Offertory**

***“Follow That Star”***

**Brad Nix**

**\*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**

**Patient One, receive these gifts that we could hardly wait to give you. May they be used to meet the needs of those who have been waiting for relief. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

NCH #330

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation to Communion**

One: God is in this place.

**Many: And in our hearts.**

One: Open yourself to the God who nudges you.

**Many: We feel the breath of the Spirit.**

One: Remember God made flesh.

**Many: Jesus, who teaches us a new way.**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Not all is as it seems: there is a glory hidden in everything waiting to be revealed to the eyes of those who believe beyond what seems inevitable, who do not want to live in the status quo but in the promises of God. Hold onto the vision as we turn towards Lent and walk the more difficult path; there is yet a greater glory still to be revealed. Go in peace, Go in hope, Go in love. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

NCH #154

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

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

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

**Postlude**

*"Sonata in B flat, Mov. 1"*

W. A. Mozart

*Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship*

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

*~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~*

*~ Our lay liturgist today is Steve Brosnihan ~*

*~ 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 #3066590 CCSD924 and One License.Net #A-728124. CVLI #505517348

Sources for this service are written by or adapted from the following: Rev. Teña T. Nock, Wait: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Worship Ways, United Church of Christ, Transfiguration A - February 15 - United Church of Christ; Joanna Harader, <https://spaciousfaith.com/>, re:Worship: Transfiguration Sunday; Rev. Scott A. Ressler, All Saints' Day-November 1 - United Church of Christ, Celebrating their Lives: Holy Communion for All Saints' Day, All Saints' Day-November 1 - United Church of Christ; and Roddy Hamilton, <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>, re:Worship: Transfiguration Sunday.



## **Prayer List for Sunday, February 15, 2026**

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

Members of our local community who are experiencing food insecurity

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—thanksgivings for his return to home from rehab

Juan Morales

Betty Soukup Blackburn and Patrick McLean Blackburn

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

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 cancer treatment

Sally Evans

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  
 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

#### **For those who have died and for their families:**

Thanksgiving for the life of Lucille Angell Soukup, Rev. Nancy's mother, who died last week.  
 Prayers for Rev. Nancy's siblings, Alan, Betty, and Katie.

#### **Upcoming Birthdays:**

Alyssa Wheeler 02/15	Erika Wheeler 02/15	Jean Cotta 02/22
Ryan MacDonald II 02/22	Evelyn Crouse 02/26	Sandra Reynolds 02/27
Allison Allen 02/27	Roger Dubord 02/28	

#### **What's on the Church Calendar**

**February 15, 2026 Sunday Worship 10:00am**  
 Annual Meeting following worship  
**February 17, 2026 Shrove Tuesday Event starting at 6:00pm**  
 Church Council 7pm  
**February 18, 2026 Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk 3pm-6pm (DeWolf Room)**  
 Service 5:30pm -6pm  
 February 24, 2026 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)  
**February 22, 2026 Sunday Worship 10:00pm**  
 February 25, 2026 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)  
 February 26, 2026 Christian Education meeting 6:30pm (Zoom)  
 February 28, 2026 Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm (DeWolf Room)

Please visit our website for more information about the Church  
And Events go to [fccbristol.org](https://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/>.



### **KEEP THOSE RECIEPTS COMING**

#### **A Community Partners Program with Clements Marketplace**



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

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 in the Narthex (the entrance of the church).

**Hands for Hospitality Are Needed:** Church on Sunday is not really church without Coffee Hour! The morning feels incomplete without the time to share refreshments and chat following worship. Since the fire in the church kitchen on October 31st 2025, Coffee Hour has had to adapt in its location and format as renovations take place. As of January 11th, it has returned to the DeWolf Room, but the re-opening of the kitchen is still many weeks away. Members of the Hospitality Committee continue their work each week in providing refreshments, but assistance is still needed on Sunday mornings to help set up, clean up, or provide goodies for this time of fellowship. If you are able to assist with any of these, there is no need to “sign up” ahead of time or to commit to a specific number of Sundays. Just show up and offer your help to the Hospitality members who are there! You may contact Sandy Patterson at 401-935-9066 or at [sandrasmpatterson@aol.com](mailto:sandrasmpatterson@aol.com) with any questions. Thank you!

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

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

#### **Pastoral Office Hours**

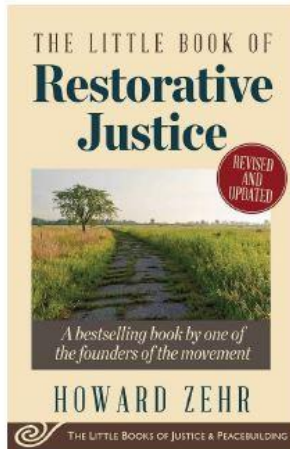
You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Nancy.

Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail [office@FCCbristol.org](mailto:office@FCCbristol.org)



## Lenten Book Group 2026

### The Little Book of Restorative Justice by Howard Zehr



Howard Zehr is known as the founder of the Restorative Justice process.

The Restorative Justice process began as another method to identify the justice needs between perpetrators and victims of crimes. It is based on the ancient art of talking circles in which a group comes together to work out problems, crises, conflicts to hear each other and find new levels of understanding.

However, Zehr's work has moved beyond use in the criminal justice system and now has been incorporated into multiple settings, including schools, community groups, and churches. In a world full of contention—restorative justice practice is a tool to open up constructive dialogue.

#### Meetings:

- Monday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., Guiteras House or Zoom.
- Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m., Guiteras House or Zoom.
- Monday, March 23, 6:30 p.m., Guiteras House or Zoom.
- Monday, March 30, 6:30 p.m., Guiteras House or Zoom.

Books will be provided. Contact Rev. Nancy at [nhsoukup@gmail.com](mailto:nhsoukup@gmail.com).

## SHROVE TUESDAY DESSERT BAR POTLUCK AND EAST BAY FOOD PANTRY PANCAKE DRIVE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 6:00 P.M., DEWOLF ROOM

*Join us on Shrove Tuesday for our Dessert Bar Potluck*

Bring your favorite dessert to share at the Shrove Tuesday Dessert Bar Celebration.

Make it, bake it, buy it—all gifts of sugar, fat, chocolate are welcome before we move into the season of Lent the next day.



### *Pancake Drive*

*Then you are invited to make monetary donations to our church's pancake drive for East Bay Food Pantry.*



We are purchasing 50 boxes of pancake mix and syrup to donate to EBFP. We may not be able to make pancakes at church yet due to the fire, but we can make sure that families in our community can do so in their homes.



**March 18, 2026**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**LABYRINTH WALK &**  
**SERVICE**

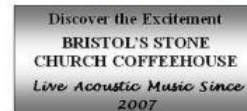
**Labyrinth Walk 3pm - 6pm**  
**Worship Service 5:30 pm-6pm**

**Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents**  
*Irish Music and Dance Featuring*  
**Kevin Doyle's Roscommon Soles**



**Saturday, February 28, 2026**     **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.



**SPREAD THE LOVE**

This February, let generosity be your Valentine! When you purchase a specially marked \$11.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet at our selected Stop & Shop, \$1 goes directly to our organization. Your support helps make a real difference in our community.

**BENEFITING ORGANIZATION:**

First Congregational Church in Bristol  
Ecumenical Meals

281 High Street  
Bristol, RI 02809



**AT THE FOLLOWING STORE:**

**STOP&SHOP**

605 Metacom Ave.  
Bristol, RI  
Bristol, RI 02809



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

Bloomin' 4 Good Program

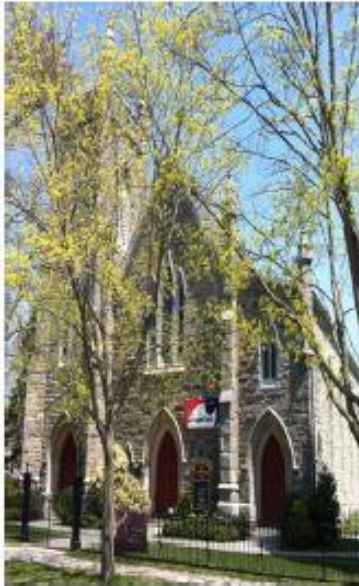


# ***Lent & Easter Services/Events***

## ***First Congregational Church***

300 High Street  
401-253-7288  
Bristol, RI 02809

Welcome to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,  
in Bristol. We are an open and affirming congregation and  
believe that God is still speaking to us.  
Wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome here!



### ***February 17<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday Event***

*Dessert Bar Potluck and Donation Event  
for the East Bay Food Pantry at 6pm*

### ***February 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday***

*Labyrinth Walk Circle 3pm-6pm  
Worship Service 5:30pm-6pm*

### ***February 22<sup>nd</sup> First Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

### ***March 1<sup>st</sup> Second Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

### ***March 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)*

### ***March 8<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am  
Daylight Savings—turn your clock ahead 1 hour*

### ***March 13<sup>th</sup> Friday***

*Trivia Night 7:00pm*

### ***March 15<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

### ***March 16<sup>th</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)*

### ***March 22<sup>nd</sup> Fifth Sunday of Lent***

*Worship 10am*

### ***March 23<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)*

### ***March 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday***

*Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm*

### ***March 29<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Palm Sunday***

*Worship 10:00am*

### ***March 30<sup>th</sup> Lenten Book Club Monday***

*6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)*

### ***April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday***

*Choral Worship and Tenebrae 7pm*

### ***April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday***

*Labyrinth Walk Circle Noon to 3pm (DeWolf Room)*

### ***April 05, 2026 EASTER***

*Sunrise Worship at Mt. Hope Boat Ramp 6:30am*

*118 Annawamscutt Dr. Bristol, RI*

*Intergenerational Easter Worship 10:00am*

*For information about any of these services or events, contact the church office  
at (401) 253-7288*

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