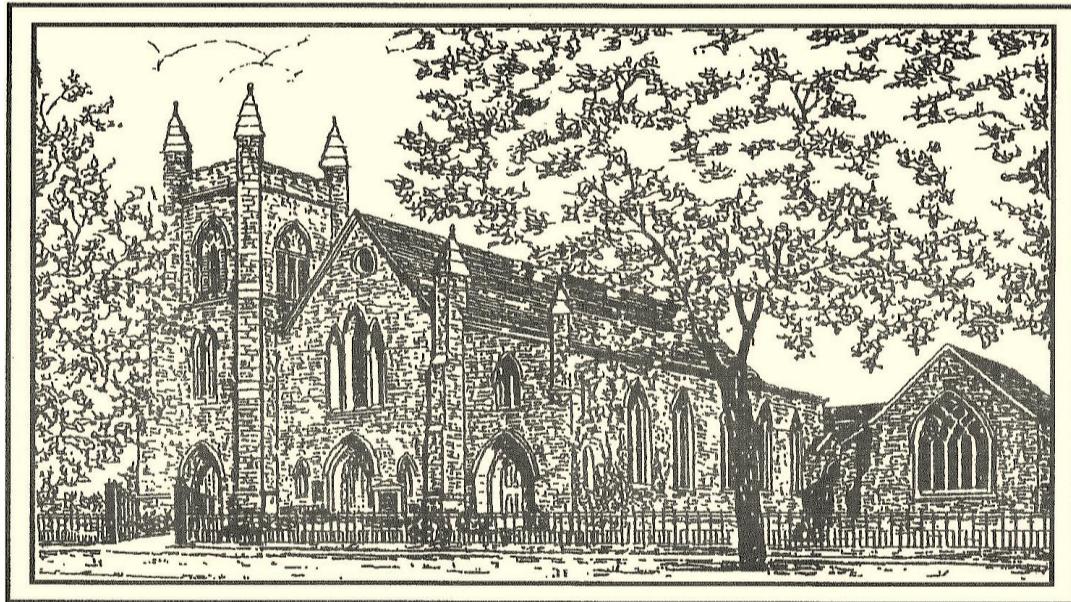


First Congregational Church

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. I"

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. Ressman, 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 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

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



"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 RECEIPTS 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 with any questions. Thank you!

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

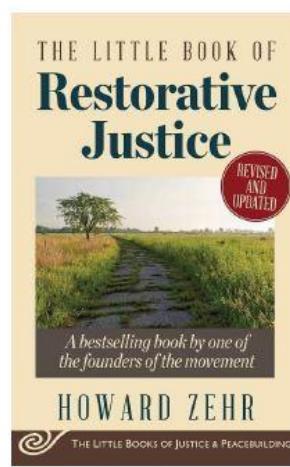
Office e-mail address: office@FCCBristol.org

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

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.

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.



Discover the Excitement
BRISTOL'S STONE
CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE
Live Acoustic Music Since
2007



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

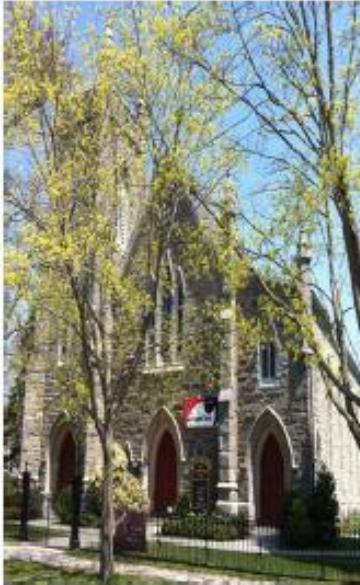


Lent & Easter Services/Events

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 17th Shrove Tuesday Event

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

February 18th Ash Wednesday

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

February 22nd First Sunday of Lent

Worship 10am

March 1st Second Sunday of Lent

Worship 10am

March 2nd Lenten Book Club Monday

6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)

March 8th Third Sunday of Lent

Worship 10am

Daylight Savings—turn your clock ahead 1 hour

March 13th Friday

Trivia Night 7:00pm

March 15th Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship 10am

March 16th Lenten Book Club Monday

6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)

March 22nd Fifth Sunday of Lent

Worship 10am

March 23rd Lenten Book Club Monday

6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)

March 28th Saturday

Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm

March 29th Intergenerational Palm Sunday

Worship 10:00am

March 30th Lenten Book Club Monday

6:30pm (Guiteras House or Zoom)

April 2nd Maundy Thursday

Choral Worship and Tenebrae 7pm

April 3rd Good Friday

Labyrinth Walk Circle Noon to 3pm (DeWolf Room)

April 05, 2026 EASTER

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

Church location 300 High Street • mailing address 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 401/253-7288