

First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“Let All Things Now Living”

Arr. L Larson

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Palm Branches”

D. Nolan

*Featuring FCC Children’s Choir

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: On the back of a modest beast of burden that is no parade for the powerful, no extravaganza for empire.

Many: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Resistance. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

One: Into the streets of an captured land that is no marvel of military might.

Many: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Refuge. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

One: Into the ancient legacies of empire with histories of harm where there is no complicity through conformity.

Many: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our Unity. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

One: May our worship this day prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, cut branches for the King of Compassion, line the path for the Lord of Liberation, soften the road for the Sovereign of Solidarity.

Many: **May our worship this day prepare us for where this way will lead. Amen.**

***Prayer of Invocation**

Lay it down, here, now, whatever covers your vulnerability and cloaks your openness. Let it become part of the way of courage. Lay it down, here, now, whatever shades your brilliance and branches over your belovedness. Let it become part of the way of grace. Spread the cloaks. Cut the branches. Line this road, this journey, this way with your cries for freedom until all our hearts and voices move toward, “Hosanna.” Amen.

Blessing of the Palms

***Hymn**

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

NCH #215

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

NCH #216

(During the hymns, the children will lead a palm procession around the church. Everyone present is encouraged to join them, if able.)

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Shawn Bailey

The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; the One who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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!

The New Testament Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Shawn Bailey

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

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**

“Mantos Ramos” (Filled with Excitement)

NCH #214

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

(We ask the congregation to take the part of the "ASSEMBLY" during the Passion Reading. Please follow along with the separate hand-out.)

Hymn

"Were You There?"

PH #179

(Prayer request cards will be collected by the Deacons during the hymn.)

Meditation

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

Taizé

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

"Hosanna, Rejoice, and Sing!"

Jane Holstein

*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

With our offerings we say, "thank you," and we practice a new economy. With our practices we say, "yes, God," and we resist Empire's hold. With our resistance we say, "Hosanna," and bless all the ones who journey in the ways of courage and grace. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

PH #177

*Benediction

One: Blessed are the ones who cut branches to honor the power of Love moving among us.

Many: Hosanna!

One: Blessed are the ones who go forth in the name of abundant life.

Many: Hosanna!

One: Blessed are the ones who choose the path of learning and unlearning, doing and undoing.

Many: Hosanna!

One: Blessed are the ones who journey toward liberation together.

Many: May the One, who had traveled this way before, guide our hearts and minds in the ways of peace and justice, love, and freedom, beyond anything Empire can imagine. Amen.

*Benediction Response

*God be with you till we meet again;
By God's counsels guide, uphold you,
With God's sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Arr. D. Wyrzten

Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Shawn Bailey ~

~ We thank those who took part in today's reading of the Passion:

Caroline Jacobus, Susan Donovan, Brady Halt Harcourt, Sam Hart Harcourt, Tekla Bailey, Carolina Bailey, Kara Pisasale, and Julia Pisasale. ~

~ 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: Prayers from this service were written by or adapted from the following: Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, re:Worship: Palm Sunday; Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, Cut Branches: Service Prayers for Palm Sunday Year A, Worship Ways, UCC, Palm Sunday-March 29 - United Church of Christ; and Christine Jerrett, <https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>, re:Worship: Palm Sunday.



Prayer List for Sunday, March 29, 2026

For cares and concerns in the world:

Members of our local community who are experiencing food insecurity

Prayers for peace in the Middle East

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

Safety for all who will travel during this Easter season and spring break.

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Pat Cory, who is recovering at rehab from a recent illness and for her family and all who are supporting her

Bob Wilson, who is recovering from a recent illness and for his family and all who are supporting him

Barbara, as she travels

Dana Corbett, healing and happiness as she returns home from cancer treatment

Tara, Steve Aveson's daughter-in-law who has been newly diagnosed with cancer

Charlotte Burnham's brother and for his improved health

Stephen, the nephew of one of our members, and for his recovery

Juan Morales

Tony Morettini

Betty Soukup Blackburn and Patrick McLean Blackburn

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

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, and for Jen's Uncle Paul 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 are 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,

Bette Ann Kile, who died in Carlisle, PA on February 25, 2026

Upcoming Birthdays:

Brittany Cordeiro 04/07	Avery Walsh 04/07	Tekla Bailey 04/08
Jennifer Mowbray 04/09	Teddy Brosnihan 04/11	Doug Harrington 04/11
Alan Berry 04/16	Kathryn Anderson 04/18	Lindsey Harrington 04/020
Chuck Ramos 04/23	Caroline Bailey 04/23	Shawn Bailey 04/24
Bowne Drawbridge 04/25	Joanne Rotondo 04/26	Reinhard Battcher 3 rd 04/29
Ellie Donovan 04/29	Leah Dieterich 04/30	

What's on the Church Calendar

March 29, 2026	Palm Sunday Worship 10:00pm FLOWER ORDER DUE and an Intergenerational Activity during Coffee Hour
March 30, 2026	Monday Lenten Book group 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
March 31, 2026	Tuesday Private Event (DeWolf Room)7:00pm
April 02, 2026	Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
April 03, 2026	Good Friday Labyrinth Walk Circle Noon to 3pm (DeWolf Room)
April 04, 2026	Saturday Easter Set up open to all Volunteers and Flower Committee 9:00am
April 05, 2026	Sunday Sunrise Worship at Mt. Hope Boat Ramp 6:30am 118 Annawamscutt Dr. Bristol, RI Sunday Intergenerational Easter Worship 10:00am
April 06, 2026	Monday Private Meeting 7pm (DeWolf Room)
April 07, 2026	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
April 08, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
April 09, 2026	Thursday Deacon Meeting 7pm (Guiteras House)
April 11, 2026	Saturday Stone Church Coffee House 7pm (DeWolf Room)
April 12, 2026	Sunday Worship 10:00am
April 14, 2026	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7pm (DeWolf Room)
April 15, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
April 17, 2026	Friday Trivia Night 7pm (DeWolf Room)
April 19, 2026	Sunday Worship 10:00am
April 21, 2026	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 6:30pm (DeWolf Room)
April 22, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
April 23, 2026	Thursday CE Meeting (Zoom)
April 25, 2026	Saturday Stone Church Coffee House 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
April 26, 2026	Sunday Worship 10:00am
April 29, 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



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

Main Doors Closed after Service

After each service, we lock the main doors to the church. We wait until most have left the sanctuary. However, there have been occasions when people will come back through the sanctuary after Coffee Hour and exit through the main doors, which do not lock automatically, leaving the church unsecured. We ask that once the main doors are locked, everyone exit the building from the DeWolf Room doors. We have signage now in the narthex that will help remind you. Many thanks.

“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 with any questions. Thank you!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 Invites You to a Sacred Holy Week Service
MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Thursday, April 2 • 7:00 PM

All are welcome to attend this deeply moving service of music, readings for the season, and reflection.

Music will be led by Nikita Zabinski, Music Director, and will feature a powerful blend of works by J. S. Bach and Sergei Prokofiev, and contemporary choral music by Heather Sorenson and Ruth Elaine Schram.



Special musical offerings include vocal solos by Cara Massey, Sarah Albanese, and Katherine Harcourt, as well as a featured violin sonata performed by Alexi Shabalin, violinist with the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

Experience an evening of profound beauty, solemnity, and reflection as light fades into darkness.

Open to all.

First Congregational Church in Bristol, 300 High Street, Bristol, RI.

Don't miss this powerful Holy Week tradition

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • Church 300 High Street • Church Office 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809



Good Friday April 3, 2026



**Come and Walk the Labyrinth
 at 300 High St.
 Bristol, RI**

Walking the labyrinth is an active prayer form of meditation that can give insight and guidance for life's challenges, help solve a problem, stir creativity, bring solace to those in sorrow, peace to the chaos of life, and provide an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for our blessings. Come join us on a labyrinth walk.

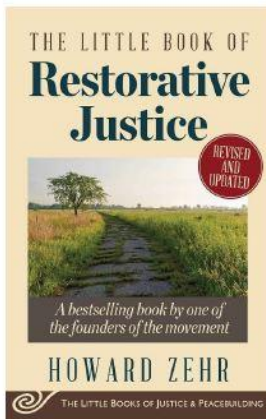
**Hours are
 Noon - 3:00pm**

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3-2026

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.

Bristol's Stone Church Coffeehouse Presents

The Great Folk-Rock Festival Featuring Gathering Time

Performing songs by The Eagles, Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, Buffalo Springfield, The Youngbloods, the Grateful Dead, Janice Jann and many more



Gerry McKeown

Christine Sweeney

Stuart Markus

Saturday, April 11, 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



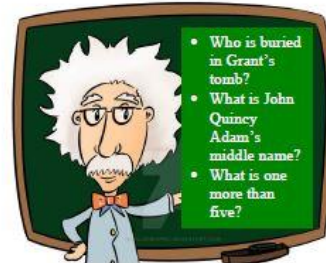
First Congregational Church at 300 High St. Bristol, RI

Team Trivia Night

Friday, April 17, 2026 @ 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



First Congregational Church in Bristol



Sign up for Helping with Ecumenical Meals

You have been invited by The First Congregational Church to sign up for "APRIL Ecumenical Meals 13 MEALS."

Please consider cooking, baking, assembling or delivering as part of a team or as an individual. This is a great opportunity for the whole family. We have 13 recipients and will update when the current church delivering turns over the job to our Church on the last Saturday in April.

We have 4 Saturdays to prepare for, which is a wonderful blessing for our church to have the opportunity to bring light and nourishment to all who receive meals from the program.

WE NEED COOKS AND DRIVER FOR APRIL Saturdays.

Thank you for considering to serve through the Ecumenical Meals Program.

To sign up go to

www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACA72BA7F94-62680863-april#/



*The First Congregational Church
of Bristol*

The Deacons have different scholarships available to all active members of the First Congregational Church of Bristol.

They have an Educational School Scholarship,
they have a Summer Interim Work Scholarship,
and they have a Summer Christian Camp Scholarship.

Please call the office to get an application 401/253-7288

All application are Due on May 1, 2026

Thank you

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 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!



***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 Annawamscutt Dr. Bristol, RI
Please bring your own chair

Intergenerational Easter Worship 10:00am

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

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