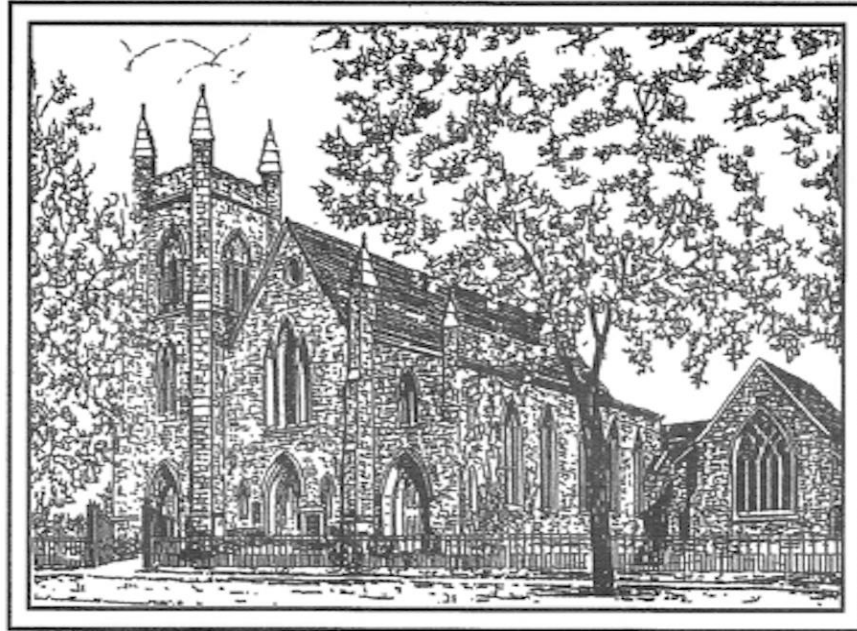


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“Beautiful Isle of Nowhere”

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week...Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Many: **Let our rejoicing be heard far and wide as we witness to our belief in the risen Lord. Amen.**

***Prayer of Invocation**

***Hymn**

“Yours Is the Glory”

NCH #253

Children’s Moment

The New Testament Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And, this is our inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, and kept in heaven for you. You are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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 Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were [because they feared their accusers], Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

“Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense”

NCH #406

(Prayer card requests will be collected by the Deacons during this hymn.)

Message

“Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense” Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Sharing our Joy and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

(The congregation will respond to “Lord Jesus, where faith has died and dreams have faded,” with “may hope flower again.”)

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

“Improvisations on a Theme”

Offertory

***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**

For the gift of faith which sees beyond the present moment and looks to an eternity, we thank you. For the gift of faith small as a mustard seed, which has power within its simplicity, we thank you. For the gift of faith bestowed on those who would simply come, hearts open in humility, we thank you. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

“We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”

NCH #256

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja. Halleluja. Halleluja.

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

“Amazing Grace”

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

~ Our guest musician today is Patrick Dow ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Grace Steere ~

~ 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 used during this service were written by or adapted from the following: Moira Laidlaw, Liturgies Online, http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/liturgies/main/index.php?ch_table=link6&PID=3&SID=&year=B, re:Worship: Call to Worship: John 20: 19-22; Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer, <https://fbcmartinsville.com>, re:Worship: Easter 2 Year A; Nick Fawcett, Prayer for All Seasons Book 2, Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday, http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/starters_for_sunday, re:Worship: Litany of Hope for Easter 2; Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, So I Send You: Service Prayers for Easter 2A, Worship Ways, United Church of Christ, Easter 2A - April 12 - United Church of Christ; and John Birch, <http://www.faithandworship.com/>, re:Worship: Prayer of Thanksgiving: For the Gift of Faith



For cares and concerns in the world:

Members of Rhode Island's Jewish community who are commemorating Passover, especially for our neighbors at United Brothers Synagogue

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

Prayers for those who struggle with mental illness and that they have the resources for help and the courage to seek help

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Ray and Lorraine, for healing and a return to home

Bridget, who has had surgery for cancer

Rich Goldman, who is contending with Alzheimer's Disease and that he may enjoy days that reinforce the love so many send his way

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 Chacone, 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

Upcoming Birthdays:

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

April 14, 2026	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7pm (DeWolf Room)
April 15, 2026	Partners for Sacred Places and First Congregational Church Community Forum 3:00-6:00pm (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 Christian Education 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

“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).

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • www.FCCBristol.org

Church location 300 High Street • mailing & office address 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

**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

