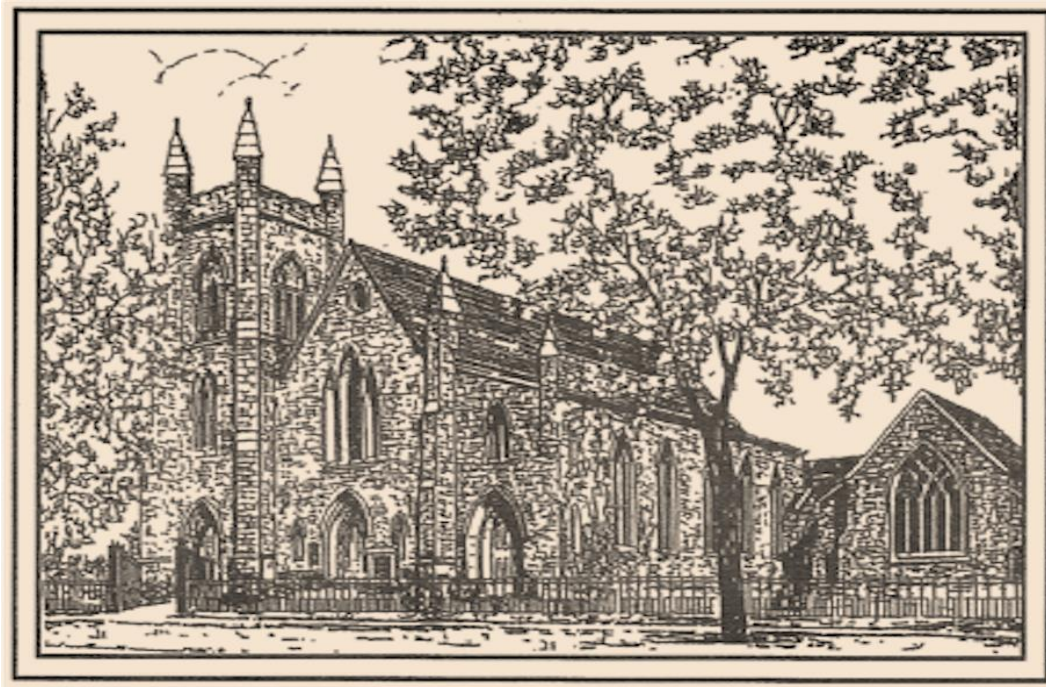


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

**Prelude**

*“Arrietta”*

J. S. Bach

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

*“This Is The Day”*

I. Watts

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

One: O God, you come to us in unexpected places,

**Many: in isolation, behind closed doors,**

One: on dusty roads, as we go from place to place,

**Many: in video chats with friends and telephone conversations with loved ones.**

One: You come bringing us peace, where there is no peace.

**Many: You come bringing us hope when everything seems hopeless.**

One: You come bringing us courage when we are afraid.

**Many: Come and be among us now, in every place where we are.**

One: Open our eyes to see you. Open our hearts to know you.

**Many: In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Living God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence. Open our minds again so that we may recognize you when you meet us in unexpected moments. Let us encounter you in every phase and movement of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. And, may your love burn brightly like the sun inspires us to go on with renewed hope and spirit. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn**

*"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"*

NCH #12

## **Children's Moment**

### **The New Testament Reading**

Acts 2:14a,36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Christ." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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**

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body, there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it's almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then

their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" At that same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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 Is Here Right Now"* NCH #348 (sing 3 times)  
(Prayer card requests will be collected by the Deacons during this hymn.)

**Message** "Goodness Leaves Us Gasping" Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

### 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** *"Rain Down"* J. Cortez

**\*The Doxology** PH #515 Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**One:** Though our questions may overwhelm us and our doubts speak stridently, we praise you, O God, for the gift of faith.

**Many:** Though we may miss the signs of your life and ignore the little resurrections all around us, we praise you, Divine Spirit, for the gift of faith.

**One:** Though we may constantly seek after proof and refuse to believe without seeing, we praise you, O Christ, for the gift of faith.

**Many: Thank you, Great Mystery, for your life that transcends our understanding, for your presence from which we can never flee, for your resurrection that is never defeated, and for the gift of faith that enables us to trust even in the midst of our doubts and fears. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*“The Church’s One Foundation”*

NCH #386

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

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

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

**Postlude**

*“Every Time I Feel The Spirit”*

Spiritual

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

*~ Our Music Director and Organist is Zabinski ~*

*~ 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: Ann Harbridge, Trinity Centennial United Church in Rosemont, Ontario, re:Worship: Easter 3 Year A; Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Going On: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday in Easter Year A, Worship Ways, UCC. Easter 3A - April 19 - United Church of Christ; Roddy Hamilton, New Kilpatrick Parish Church, <https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy>, re:Worship: Easter 3 Year A; Carol Penner, Leading in Worship, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/>, re:Worship: Emmaus Offering Prayer; and © Jan L. Richardson, In the Sanctuary of Women, <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>, re:Worship: Easter 3 Year A.*



**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

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:**

Grace, who is need of healing

Tracy, who is undergoing a difficult time in her life

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 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

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

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 <sup>rd</sup> 04/29
Ellie Donovan 04/29	Leah Dieterich 04/30	
Karen Satti 05/03	Paul Temple 05/07	Jim Sapp 05/08
Michael Tyler 05/09	Allen Logan 05/09	Candace Alessandro 05/11
Oliver Crouse 05/11	Chris Frizzell 05/12	Laura Temple 05/12
Rev. Mary Aberg 05/14	Mark Dieterich 05/17	Bob Evans 05/24
Ray Frizzell 05/24	Dyan Vaughan 05/26	Gabriel Crouse 05/26
Cheryl Roger-Ramsay 05/28		

**What's on the Church Calendar**

**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 The Ties that Bind Event, Southeast Region Associations of SNEUCC,  
 9:30m-3:30pm, Barrington Congregational Church  
 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)

**May 03, 2026 Sunday Worship: 10:00am**  
 May 04, 2026 Monday Juniper Hill Cemetery Committee meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)  
 May 05, 2026 Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)  
 May 06, 2026 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)  
 May 09, 2026 Saturday Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)  
**May 10, 2026 Sunday Worship: 10:00am**  
 May 12, 2026 Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)  
 May 13, 2026 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)  
 May 14, 2026 Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm (Guiteras House)  
**May 17, 2026 Sunday Worship: 10:00am**  
 May 19, 2026 Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)  
 May 20, 2026 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)  
**May 24, 2025 Sunday Worship: 10:00am**  
 May 27, 2026 Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)  
**May 24, 2026 Sunday Worship: 10:00am**

	Candace Alessandro Piano Classes Piano Recital 2:00-4:00pm (Sant.)
June 01, 2026	Monday Juniper Hill Cemetery Committee meeting 7pm (DeWolf Room)
June 02, 2026	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
June 03, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
June 04, 2026	Thursday Bristol County Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Sanctuary)
<b>June 07, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am RALLY DAY</b>
	Bristol County Choir Concert 1:00- 5:00pm (Sanctuary)

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](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)

“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/>.



*Ties That Bind*

## Tools for Weaving Stronger Churches

Hosted by the Old Colony, Pilgrim, and Rhode Island Associations.

**Southern New England Conference**  
United Church of Christ  
*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

THE TIES THAT BIND EVENT  
Saturday, April 25, 2026, 9:30m-3:30PM  
Barrington Congregational Church





*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

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