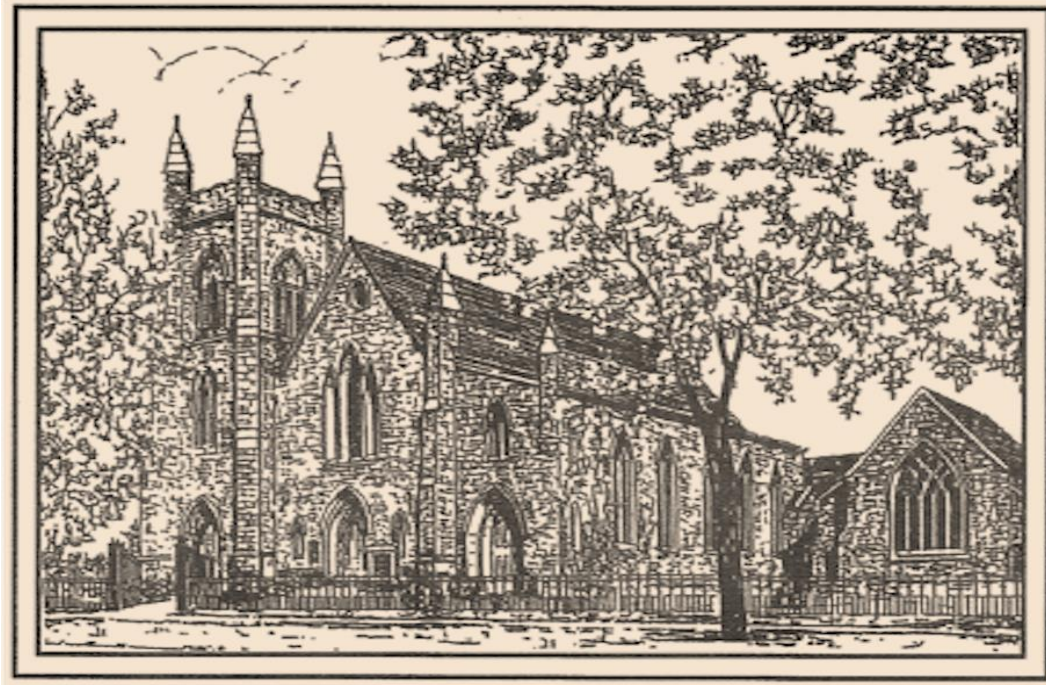


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>“Four Seasons: Spring”</i>	A. Vivaldi
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		
<b>Introit</b>	<i>“This Is The Day”</i>	I. Watts
<b>Bringing Forth the Light of Christ</b>		Acolytes

### **\*Call to Worship/Invocation**

One: The spirit of God calls us from many places: some of us come from busy homes with many people; some of us live alone. We are a part of the family.

**Many: This week has been different for each of us: some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate; some of us have faced grief and need to cry. We are members of God’s family.**

One: Yet, we all come to this same place; all of us seeking God’s presence in our lives, all of us seeking God’s presence with each other.

**Many: Together we become God’s family. Amen.**

### \*Invocation

Come, God gathers us for worship, like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. Our God is loving and nurturing. With love, God saves and supports us, teaching us the way we should go. Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise! Amen.

### \*Hymn

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”*

NCH #4

### Children’s Moment

#### The New Testament Reading

II Timothy 1:1-7

Katie Evans

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

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 19:25-27

Katie Evans

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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

*“Come Let Us Join with Faithful Souls”*

NCH #383

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

### Message

*“The Women Behind the Curtain of Scripture”*

Rev. Nancy H. Soukup

### Sharing our Joy and Concerns

#### Pastoral Prayer

*(After the reading of each Scripture quote, the congregation will respond with “Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.”)*

#### 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

*“In a Mother’s Heart”*

T. Keesecker

### \*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:** Loving God, we remember the mothers who have gone before us.

**Many:** **For their love, sacrifice, struggle, and joy, we thank you.**

**One:** We remember the mothers of Scripture, who are part of our story as we are a part of your story.

**Many:** **For their courage, faith, love, and fierceness, we thank you.**

**One:** We remember those who have not given birth to us but are mothers to us—such as adoptive mothers, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, and friends.

**Many:** **For their gift of themselves to us, we thank you.**

**One:** For the women who struggle with fertility, for those women whom society labels as less in their childlessness, for those women who have lost children;

**Many:** **For their tears, for their strength, for their wisdom, for their lives, we thank you.**

**One:** For the women who have served and do serve as role models for the next generation of women.

**Many:** **We give thank for God’s creation embodied in these mothering spirits and pray we too can offer continually God’s nurturing presence in this world. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*“Praise to God, the World’s Creator”* to the Tune of Nettleton

NCH #459

*Praise to God, the world’s creator,  
source of life and growth and breath,  
cradling in her arms her children,  
holding them from birth to death.*

*In our bodies, in our living,  
strength and truth of all we do,  
God is present, working with us,  
making us creators too.*

*Praise to God our saving Wisdom,  
meeting us with love and grace,  
helping us to grow in wholeness,  
giving freedom, room, and space.*

*In our hurting, in our risking,  
in the thoughts we dare not name,  
God is present, growing with us,  
healing us from sin and shame.*

*Praise to God, the Spirit in us,  
prompting hidden depths of prayer,  
firing us to long for justice,  
reaching out with tender care.  
In our searching, in our loving,  
in our struggles to be free,  
God is present, living in us,  
pointing us to what shall be.*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

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

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

**Postlude**

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

T. Lybbert

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

*~ Our Music Director and Organist is Zabinski ~*

*~ Our lay liturgist today is Katie Evans~*

*~ 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: The prayers in this service were written by or adapted from the following sources: re:Worship: Call to Worship for Mothers' Day; Rev. Danyelle Ditmer, [www.littlepeoplebigword.com](http://www.littlepeoplebigword.com), re:Worship: Call to Worship for Mother's Day; the Barnabas in Churches, <http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/a-call-to-worship-on-mothering-sunday/>, re:Worship: Mother's Day Call to Worship Litany; Worship@North, <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com/>, re:Worship: Prayer of Illumination for Mother's Day; Claire Schoepp, re:Worship: A Prayer for Mother's Day, A Service for Mothering Sunday, Church of England, Search results | The Church of England, re:Worship: Benediction for Mothering Sunday; and Jan Bery, posted on Rex A.E. Hunt's blog, re:Worship: Contemporary Hymn for Mothers' Day.



**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:**

Roy and Judy Evans, who are Tori's parents, as they recover from illnesses

The family of Julie Teeter

Jimmy Lai, Hong Kong publisher, democracy advocate, and Christian, who has been imprisoned

Children and grandchildren to return to church to know Jesus and persevere in the Holy Spirit

Jacob Johnson and Emma Tirrell, as they deal with the two-year deployment of Emma to Guam, and as Jacob moves back home to RI from Seattle

Ray, Lorraine, and Kathleen for peace and healing

Sally Evans, who is recovering from successful surgery this past

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

A brother and his wife who are struggling

Grace, who is need of healing

Tracy, who is undergoing a difficult time in her life

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

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

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

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

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  
 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 thanksgivings in our lives:**

Chuck and Lynne Ramos give thanks for their grandchildren and for their health and happiness  
 Progress Bob Wilson has made in rehab and his move to the Bristol Veterans' Home this week

**For those who he died:**

Ethan P., who died recently at the age of 22

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

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**

<b>May 10, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>
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)
<b>May 17, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>
May 19, 2026	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 6:30pm (DeWolf Room)
May 20, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
<b>May 24, 2025</b>	<b>Sunday Worship: 10:00am</b>
May 27, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
May 30, 2026	Saturday RI Historic Conference and RI Association Spring Meeting 3:00-5:30pm (Peace Dale Congregational Church)

**May 31, 2026**     **Sunday Worship: 10:00am**  
 Candace Alessandro Piano Classes Piano Recital 2:00-4:00pm (Sanctury)  
 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)  
**June 07, 2026**     **Sunday Worship 10:00am Church School Sunday**  
 Bristol County Choir Concert 1:00- 5:00pm (Sanctuary)  
 June 11, 2026     Bosworth Lecture on Rev. Henry Wight, Sixth Minister of FCC 6:30pm (DeWolf 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](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/>.



**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! Where do I drop off my receipts? At First Congregational Church in envelopes marked receipts that are pinned to the bulletin boards in the Narthex (the entrance of the church) and the DeWolf Room.

# CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

*JUNE 7, 2026*



*Follow by*

ALL CHURCH

**PICNIC**

ALL ARE WELCOME