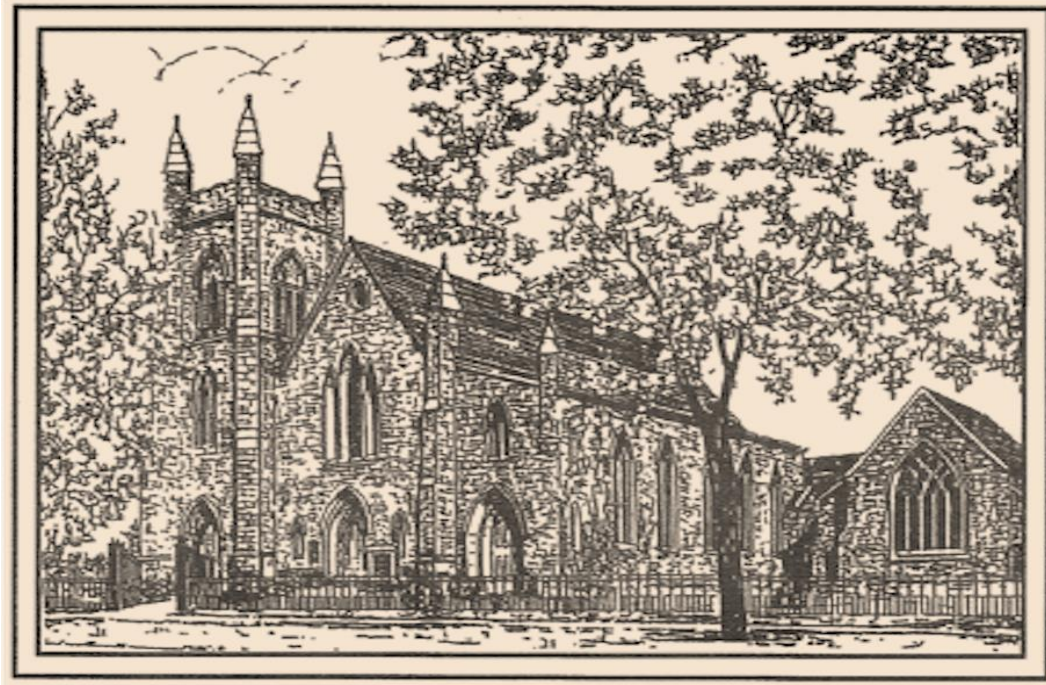


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

**PENTECOST SUNDAY
MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY**

May 24, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude	<i>"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"</i>	Arr. J. Baum
Welcome and Announcements		
Introit	<i>"Surely the Presence"</i>	L. Wolfe
Bringing Forth the Light of Christ		Acolytes

***Call to Worship/Invocation**

One: When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire on each one of them.

Many: They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.*

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Holy Spirit, You enliven us, move in all things, are the root of all being, cleanse the cosmos of every impurity, efface guilt, anoint wounds. You are lustrous and praiseworthy; You waken and re-awaken us and everything that is in the world. Amen.**

**(from the Common English Bible)*

*** (from Hildegard of Bingen)*

***Invocation**

Holy One, breath of our origins, the idea of Creation, You who made us come forth, who made life out of nothing, breathe yourself into us.

Create us as your flame; we are your light. You are the nerve; we are your muscle. You are the Word; we are the story. You are the song; we are the ones who sing.

We are one with you and one with all Creation—one Spirit, one flesh, in many forms. Holy One, live in us; we are your body. We remember, and we live. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Come Forth, O Love Divine”

NCH #289

Children’s Moment

The New Testament Reading

Acts 2:1-21

Rev. Nancy H. Soukup

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven, there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams. Even upon my all my servants...in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

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 20:19-23

Rev. Nancy H. Soukup

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were because they were afraid, 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.”

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, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”* NCH #281
(Prayer card requests will be collected by the Deacons during this hymn.)

Message *“The Unity in Diversity”* Rev. Nancy H. Soukup

Sharing our Joy and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

(The congregation responds to the words “may God give peace” with “God give peace.”)

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 *“I Will Arise and Go to Jesus”* A. Lovelace

***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**

One: God the Holy Spirit, you are the restless breath of love that sweeps through the world. You move where you will, breaking down barriers, stirring hearts to change, making all things possible. Inspire each one of us to hunger and thirst for justice!

Many: **Come, Spirit of God, sweep through our world bringing great change. May the bounty of your goodness be shared more justly, so all may share in the rich blessings of your creation. And, for us, bring transformation in our praying and living, so that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you all the days of our lives. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *“Sweet, Sweet, Spirit”* NCH #293

*Benediction

One: If there is to be peace in the world,
Many: there must be peace in the nations.
One: If there is to be peace in the nations,
Many: there must be peace in the cities.
One: If there is to be peace in the cities,
Many: there must be peace between neighbors.
One: If there is to be peace between neighbors,
Many: there must be peace in the home.
One: If there is to be peace in the home,
Many: there must be peace in the heart. 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

"The Morning Sea"

F. Magle

*~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita 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 for this service are written by or adapted from the following: Tim Graves, <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Pentecost>; Steve Garnaas-Holmes, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>, *re:Worship: Pentecost: Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000), "All Saints to Advent." Copyright 2000 © The Archbishops' Council. *re:Worship: A Prayer for Remembrance Day*; Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, *Who Is Thirsty: Service Prayers for the Day of Pentecost Year A*, *Worship Ways, UCC, Day of Pentecost Year A - May 24 - United Church of Christ*; *Third Space website, <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>, re:Worship: Pentecost*; and Lao-Tzu, 6th century BCE, *re:Worship: Being Peace: A Prayer*.*



This morning the geraniums are given in Honor of

Our Former Pastors

By the Deacons



This Memorial Day, Please do not forget all those who have died serving our country.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

For cares and concerns in the world:

The Islamic Center of San Diego and the Islamic community in that city who mourn the three men killed this past week at the center, and for the families of those who died.

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 for 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 Steere, as she recovers from surgery this psst week

Matt Benon, as he recovers from a fall earlier in the month

James Hackett, a 50-year-old nephew of Celeste Bernardino's friend, who had a lung transplant a year ago and is now battling several other medical issues

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 continues to recover from surgery

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

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 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
 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:

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
Peter Pisasale 06/01	Paul Wheeler 6/02	Grace Donovan 06/02
Donna Dubord 06/03	Sophia Bailey 06/05	Noah Ukura 06/06
Daniel Dougherty 06/13	Patricia Cory 06/14	Sara Johnson 06/15
Julia Pisasale 06/15	Lane Ukura 06/20	Alison Gamon 06/22
Tracy Ukura 06/22	Carlie Pisasale 06/24	Samuel Harcourt 06/26

Brady Harcourt 06/26
Jen Capron 06/28

Clifford Gustafson 06/27
Edward Wiacek 06/29

Gail Carney 06/28

What's on the Church Calendar

- May 24, 2025** **Sunday Worship, PENTECOST SUNDAY 10:00am (Sanctuary)**
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
- May 27, 2026 Wednesday Soup Giveaway 11:00am–2:00pm (Location TBD)
FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)
- May 28, 2026 Christian Education Meeting 6:30pm (on Zoom)
- 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 (Sanctuary)
- June 01, 2026 Monday Juniper Hill Cemetery Committee meeting 7pm (DeWolf Room)
- June 02–05, 2026 Tuesday-Friday Barbara will be out of the office
- 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 06, 2026 Saturday Betty Kile Memorial Service 12:00-3:00 pm
(Bristol VFW Post 237, 850 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809)
[Obituary information for Bette Ann Kile](#)
- June 07, 2026** **Sunday Worship 10:00am CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY**
followed by a Picnic on the lawn
Bristol County Choir Concert 1:00-5:00pm (Sanctuary)
- June 09, 2026 Tuesday Facility Meeting
- June 11, 2026 Bosworth Lecture on Rev. Henry Wight, Sixth Minister of FCC 6:30pm
(DeWolf Room)
- June 14, 2026** **Sunday Worship 10:00am (Sanctuary)**
- June 16, 2026 Tuesday Council Meeting 6:30pm (DeWolf Room)
- June 17, 2026 Thursday Bristol County Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (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

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 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! 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.

Bosworth Lecture Pays Tribute to Rev. Henry Wight: patriot, pastor, and Founder of Bristol's July 4th celebration



The life and times of Rev. Henry Wight, founding pastor of our July Fourth tradition, will be the topic of the Bosworth Lecture Series on Thursday, June 11, 6:30pm, at First Congregational Church, (FCC), in the DeWolf Room. The event is free and open to the public.

Members of the church, Dyan Vaughan and Rei Battcher, will explore the life and times of Rev. Wight, who presided as the sixth pastor of the town’s founding church for 44 years after serving himself in the Revolutionary War. The Historical Properties Room at FCC, which exhibits relics and documents from this era, will be open on this occasion.

Rev. Wight was outspoken in the areas of religion, education, civic life, and politics, and his daily journals chronicled life in Bristol from 1784 until his death in 1837. In 1785 he started the tradition of reading the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July, which continues to this day, making it the first patriotic exercise in the history of the country.

In conjunction with the Fourth of July Committee, and in tribute to the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, Ms. Vaughan, Mr. Battcher, and Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup invite FCC member and the larger community to learn about the life of this patriot and preacher, to see how he was shaped by the Revolution, and to discover how his views influenced the Town he loved. The lecture will conclude with excerpts from Rev. Wight's Patriotic Address from July 4, 1809, read by Mr. Steve Brosnihan.

The Roswell S. Bosworth Jr. Lecture Series is presented by the Men's Club, a local organization that pays tribute to its founding member, former editor and publisher of the East Bay Newspapers, with lectures of interest to the public. FCC collaborates with the Lecture Series to hold the annual June lecture at the church.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

JUNE 7, 2026



Follow by

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