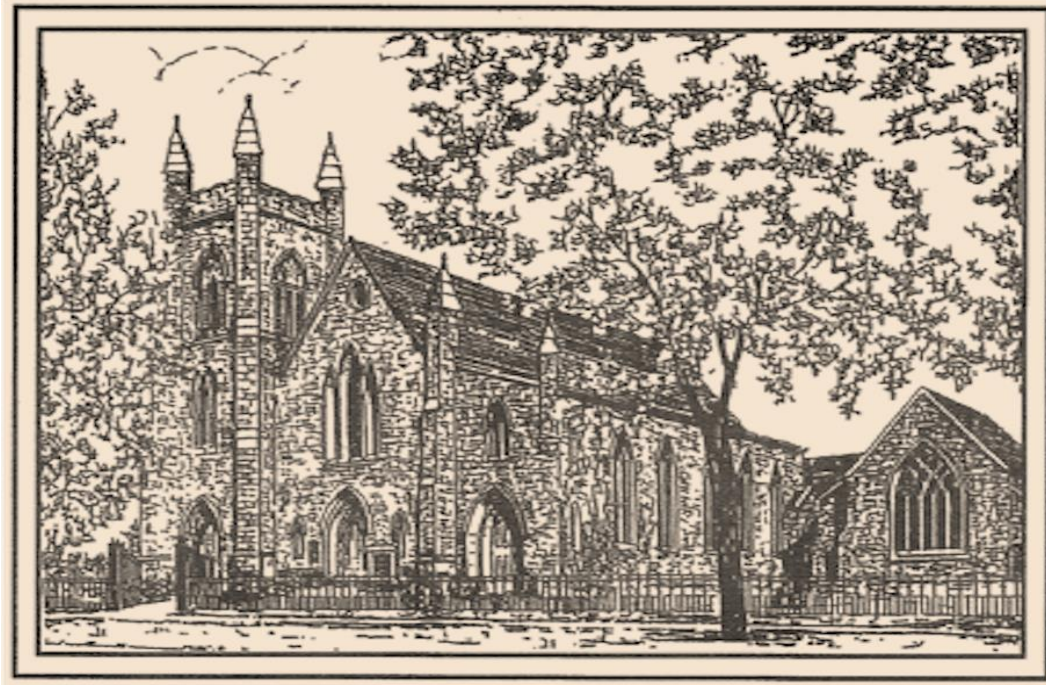


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude	<i>Chorale No. 44</i>	J.S. Bach
Welcome and Announcements		
Introit	<i>"This Is The Day"</i>	I. Watts
Bringing Forth the Light of Christ		Acolytes

*Call to Worship/Invocation

One: Gather round...I have a story to tell of one who reached inside himself and took a handful of love like a pile of stardust and said, "This is for you, it is all you need, it is all you will ever need. There is enough here to change the whole world. Take it."

Many: Many laughed at him, mocked him, and ignored the invitation.

One: But some dared to take it, and those who did noticed something about this love that let them do what the gift-giver could do. They could stand with the lost, welcome the traveler, and eat with the hungry.

Many: They found themselves doing what the man first did to them: give something of themselves to others.

One: They then became like the man offering themselves, and as they offered themselves, others took the invitation. Many still do, and many still trust it is enough to change the whole world.

Many: Let us, therefore, gather in this spirit to worship our God and to give thanks for the One, who came into this world to show us the power of redemption and love. Amen.

A Prayer for Transformation

One: If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us. But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us.

All: Before God, we confess that we have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustices we see and declaring God's vision. Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God's people and chosen as witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy. Remind us, God, that you have made us for your service and recharge us with your Word. Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace. We ask it in Jesus's name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

***Hymn**

"Come, We Who Love God's Name"

NCH #382

The New Testament Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Caroline Jacobus

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of God standing at God's right hand!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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 14:1-14

Caroline Jacobus

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to God except through me. If you know me, you will know God also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us God, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen God. How can you say, 'Show us Abba, the Holy One'? Do you not believe that I am in God and God is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the One who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in God and God is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to God. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Holy may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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**

"You Are the Way"

NCH #40

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

Message

"Are You Unsure about Where You're Going?"

Rev. Nancy H. Soukup

Sharing our Joy and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

(The congregation will join in the responsive reading of Psalm 23 following the 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

"Where You Need Me I Will Go"

M. Patterson

***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**

May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that God's way may be realized anew in this world. Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"

NCH #331

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

May we honor your name not by paying it lip service, Lord Jesus, but by trusting your vision and what it requires. May we honor it by following you through our actions and by showing the world who we've chosen to follow. May we love in your name, speak in your name, care in your name, all while proclaiming our willingness to touch the outcast, feed the hungry, remember the sick, visit the imprisoned, clothe the naked, and give water to the thirsty. We ask this all in your name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

"Christ Will Come Again"

NCH #608

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

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

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"One Bread, One Body"

Arr. G. Graham

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Caroline Jacobus ~

~ 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 were written by or adapted from the following: Roddy Hamilton, Listening to the Stones, <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/>, re:Worship: Reflection: John 3:16; United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive, <http://www.ucc.org/>, re:Worship: Easter 5 Year A; Life in Liturgy, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/>, re:Worship: Easter 5 Year A; Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup, Eastertide Communion Prayer, ©2026; Katherine Hawker, Liturgy Outside, <http://liturgyoutside.net/>, re:Worship: offering; Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Worship Ways, United Church of Christ, Easter 5A - May 3 - United Church of Christ; Roddy Hamilton, Listening to the Stones, <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/>, Used by permission on re:Worship: Easter 5 Year A; and Bruce Prewer, Bruce Prewer's Homepage, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>, re:Worship: Easter 5 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:

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

Charlotte Burnham's brother's successful eye 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

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

Upcoming Birthdays:

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

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 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, 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 RALLY DAY 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

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).

**Bristol’s Stone Church
Coffeehouse Presents**
An Evening of Contemporary Folk Music Featuring
Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry



Saturday, May 9, 2026
Doors open at 6:45pm
Music starts at 7:30pm

First Congregational Church
300 High Street
(Corner of Bradford and High St)
Bristol, RI 02809

Tickets are \$25.00 for adults; 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.



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