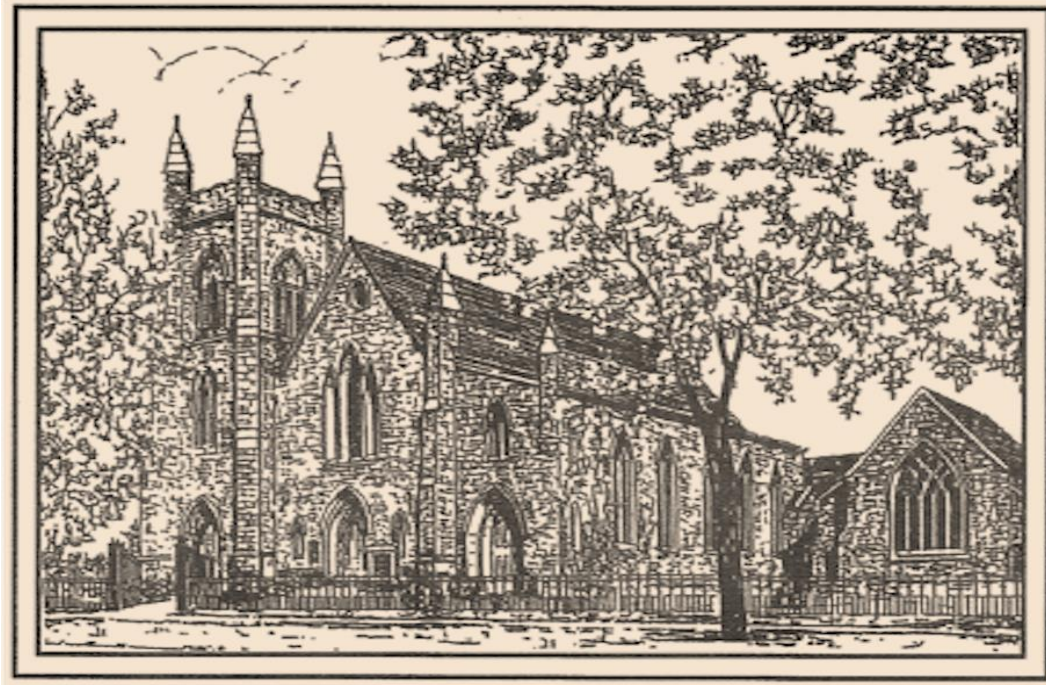


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

May 31, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

- | | | |
|--|--|------------|
| Prelude | <i>“Arioso”</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: | We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever. | |
| Many: | Our souls magnify the Lord. | |
| One: | With our mouths, we proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations. | |
| Many: | Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. | |
| One: | We declare that your steadfast love is established forever. | |
| Many: | The Righteous One’s mercy is to those who fear him from generation to generation. | |
| One: | Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. | |
| Many: | God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. | |
| One: | You are our God and the Rock of our salvation. Amen. | |
| *Invocation | | |
| As we gather for worship, let us serve God with gladness and come before God’s presence with a song. Let us proclaim together God’s greatness and exult God’s name together. Amen | | |

Children’s Moment

The New Testament Reading

Romans 12:9-16b

Candy Alessandro

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant but associate with the lowly.

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 1:39-57

Candy Alessandro

Within a few days, Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!”

Mary said:

“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.
For you have looked with favor
upon your lowly servant,
and from this day forward
all generations will call me blessed.
For you, the Almighty, has done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.
Your mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear you.
You have shown strength with your arm;
you have scattered the proud in their conceit;
you have deposed the mighty from their thrones
and raised the lowly to high places.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
while you have sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,
mindful of your mercy—
the promise you made to our ancestors—
to Sarah and Abraham
and their descendants forever.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. When the time came for Elizabeth to deliver, she gave birth to a son.

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**

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

NCH #539

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

Message

“Why Am I so Favored?”

Rev. Nancy H. 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

“All Praise To Thee”

T. Tallis

***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**

O God, your word is fruitless when the mighty are not put down, the humble remain humiliated, and the hungry are not filled, but the rich are lifted up. Make good your word and let it begin with us. Open our hearts and unblock our ears to hear the voices of the poor and share their struggle; send us away empty with longing for your promise to come true in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Your Ways Are Not Our Own”

NCH #170

***Benediction**

One: Never put your faith in worldly status, and never underestimate your heavenly importance.

Many: **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

One: Let your trust in the coming of Christ soar within you like wings of joy. Go out into the world and serve one another as God-bearers.

Many: **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

One: Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Creator, through Jesus our Saviour, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit our Nurturer, be with you this day and evermore.

Many: **Amen!**

***Benediction Response**

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

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

“Excerpt from Hungarian Danse No. 4”

J. Brahms

*~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ Our lay liturgist today is Candy Alessandro ~
~ 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: R. Victor Klassen, re:Worship: Advent Prayer: Psalm 89; David Beswick, <http://www.beswick.info>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Luke 1: 47; Paul G. Janssen, *Prayerful Preparation: Living God, Renew Us*, World Communion of Reformed Churches, <http://wrc.ch/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/GC2017-PrayerfulPreparation->, re:Worship: Advent Prayer: For Justice; Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>, re:Worship: offering; Janet Morley, *Tell Out My Soul, Christian Aid*, 1990, reprinted by permission, *Bread of Tomorrow: Prayer for the Church Year*, ed. Janet Morley (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1992, 151), re:Worship: *The Magnificat: A Prayer*; and Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>, re:Worship: *Benediction: Luke 1: 47-55*.*



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:

For Change Management and blessings for Jacob Johnson moving home and for Sara moving to Guam
Grace Steere, as she recovers from surgery this past 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 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 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

Add For those who have died:

The spirit of Socrates Papadopoulos, whose untimely passing occurred recently and for the comfort of his wife and children and especially for his grieving Mom, Eleni Eileen, who passed away a week before last after a wonderfully long life of devotion to her family.
 Eileen, who passed away after a wonderfully long life.

Upcoming Birthdays:

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	Clifford Gustafson 06/27	Gail Carney 06/28
Jen Capron 06/28	Edward Wiacek 06/29	

What's on the Church Calendar

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
Picnic to follow worship
 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 18, 2026 Thursday Deacons Meeting 7pm (Guiteras House)

June 21, 2026 Sunday Worship 10:00am (Sanctuary)

June 25, 2026 Thursday CE Zoom meeting 7:00pm
June 28, 2026 Sunday Worship 10:00am (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! 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



ALL ARE WELCOME

The Bosworth Lecture Pays Tribute to the Rev. Henry Wight: Patriot, Pastor, and Founder of Bristol's July 4th Celebration

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.



Thursday, June 11, 2026,
6:30pm
First Congregational
Church, DeWolf Room
300 High Street
Bristol, RI

*The event is free and
open to the public*

*Held in conjunction with
the Bosworth Lectureship,
the Fourth of July Committee,
and First Congregational Church*

On the occasion of the 250th Anniversary of our country, members of First Congregational 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. In 1785, Rev. Wight began the first patriotic exercises in the history of our country with the public reading of the Declaration of Independence — a tradition that continues to this day. The Historical Properties Room at the church, which exhibits relics and documents from this era, will be open on this occasion.

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.

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