

First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

JUNE 7, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“Arietta”

J. Hayden
Brady Halt Harcourt, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“You Gotta Sing”

Traditional
First Congregational Church Children’s Choir

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship/Invocation**

One: Once upon a time, a wise man offered a challenge; “What is the greatest commandment?”
The calendars on our desks share a vision of greatness; bills to pay, phone calls to return,
appointments to keep. Love the Lord your God.

Many: The cameras of our memories share what commands us: children to bathe, partners to help, parents to call, and grandchildren to nurture. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

One: Still the Spirit lures us to new priorities: open spaces to experience wonder, strangers to get to know, devotion to that which transcends.

Many: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. Most of all, love your neighbor as yourself. Amen.

***Invocation**

Let us start this service by reminding ourselves that it is not we who chose Christ but Christ who chose us. That we are not here because of our goodness but because of Christ’s grace. That we are not here to enlighten ourselves but to allow Christ to enlighten us. That we have not come to be entertained but to worship God with heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.

***Prayer for Transformation**

One: The world teaches us many ways to love, but all are based on selfish desires and needs. God teaches us how to love: completely, uniquely, unconditionally. Let us confess our difficulty in loving as God teaches us, as we pray, saying,

Many: We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor, when it is linked to the way we love ourselves. And it is difficult to love anyone—even You—more than we love ourselves. Forgive us, Love Eternal. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

***Hymn**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

NCH #522

The Old Testament Reading

Proverb 3:1-4,13-18

My child do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

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

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

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 Loves Me”

NCH #327

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

A Time of Celebration and Recognition

Recognition of Our Church School, Graduating Seniors, and Its Teachers

Church School

Tekla Bailey
Gabriel Crouse

Teddy Brosnihan
Isabella (Bella) Crouse

Oliver (Ollie) Crouse
Ellie Donovan

Liam Donovan
Natalia (Naty) Xochitl Quezada-Grant
Sam Halt Harcourt
Julia Pisasale
Caleb Walsh

Grace Donovan
Lorenna Harrington
Kara Pisasale
Penelope Fontaine

Katie Evans
Brady Halt Harcourt
Raymond Harrington
Avery Walsh
Sage Fontaine

Acolytes

Teddy Brosnihan

Katie Evans

Natalia Xochitl Quezada-Grant

New Acolytes Receiving Crosses

Tekla Bailey
Brady Halt Harcourt

Gabriel (Gabe) Crouse
Sam Halt Harcourt

Isabella (Bella) Crouse

Youth Lay Readers

Julia Pisasale

Kara Pisasale

Avery Walsh

Teachers

Carolina Bailey, Charlotte Burnham, Sally Evans, Amy Halt, Katherine Harcourt,
Lindsey Harrington, Caroline Jacobus, Sandy Patterson, Paul Temple

Assistant Teachers

Katie Evans

Natalia (Naty) Xochitl Quezada-Grant

A Time of Passage and Recognition for our Graduating Seniors

Natalia (Naty) Xochitl Quezada-Grant
Logan C. Allen

Gavin William Stegall
Isabella (Izzy) Pinheiro

A Prayer for our Children, Youth, Seniors, and Teachers

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

"I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing"

arr. J. Desjardins

***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**

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**

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

NCH #330

Invitation to Communion

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Grace and peace to you, our children. We will always give thanks for you. We pray for you constantly because we love you. We love you just as God loves you. We know, children of God, that God loves you so much. There are no words to express it. There are no wonders we can perform. But, we know that the power of God is in you. We can see it upon your faces. You remind us of God's love. Teach us to see the world as you do. Surprise us with the wonders you see. Show us what gifts God has given you. And we will bless you, and protect you, and we will always give thanks for you. We will bless you in the name of our God. We will bless you again and again. Grace and peace to you, our children. Grace and peace to you who show us God's glory shining through your faces. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

"You Are Called to Tell the Story"

NCH #357

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

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

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

"Excerpt from Piano Sonata No. 14, Mov. 3 "

L. Beethoven

Brady Halt Harcourt, piano

~ 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: Katherine Hawker (2002), <http://liturgyoutside.net/>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Greatest Commandment; Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Because of Christ; Thom Shuman, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>, re:Worship: Confession: How to Love; Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, [http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/re:Worship: offering](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/re:Worship: offering;); Katherine Hawker, <http://liturgyoutside.net/>, re:Worship: offering; Rev. Elsa A. Peters, <http://impossiblethingswithgod.blogspot.com/>, re:Worship: Search results for Children; Johnny Baker, <http://jonnybaker.blogs.com/jonnybaker/2013/10/your-grace-is-enough.html>, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/MaundyThursday>; and ©2002 Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net re:Worship: Commission & Benediction: Proper 25A.



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

For thanksgivings in our lives:

All those who are graduating from schools of higher education this spring. May their future paths lead them to fruitful outcomes.

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:

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

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 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
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 Christian Education Committee 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.



Women's Resource Center

Wish List Donation Items

Survivors often leave abusive situations with little to no belongings, and donations of essential items help them start fresh. Our wish list includes basic necessities, household goods, and childcare supplies that provide immediate comfort and stability.

Special Requests and Urgent Needs – Spring 2026 (new items only):

- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Diapers, pull-ups and wipes, larger sizes 4, 5, 6 & 7
- Paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues
- Cleaning spray and wipes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Gift Cards: Stop & Shop, Walmart, Fuel and Convenience

**You may drop them off
here at the church in the Narthex or in
the DeWolf room, on Sunday**

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.

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