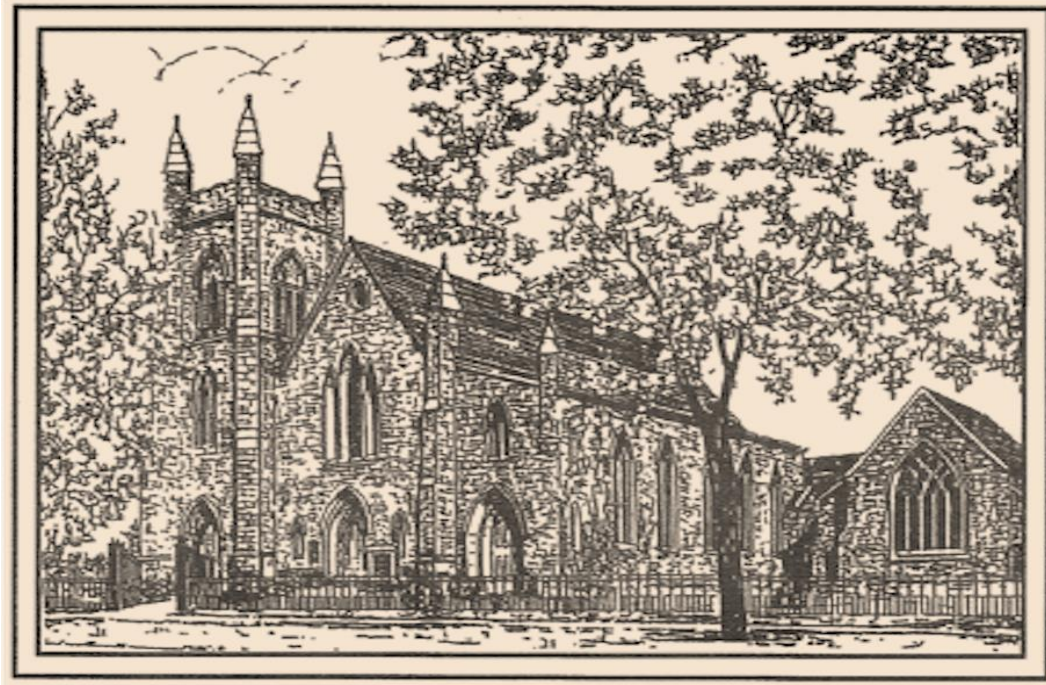


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

**JUNETEENTH SUNDAY  
JUNE 14, 2026 ~ 10:00 am**

**Prelude**

*“Swing Low”*

Traditional Spiritual

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

*“Surely The Presence”*

L. Wolfe

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Hear, O people of God, and declare that the Lord is our God.

**Many: Our Lord is indeed God, the One who is Creator of heaven and earth and all who dwell in it.**

One: We gather in response and gratitude to God’s invitation and love for us.

**Many: We’ve come to worship the God who created all humanity in God’s image and likeness, equal in dignity and worthy of regard and care.**

One: Let us worship our great God together.

**Many: To the God of justice, love, and peace, we lift up our hearts and minds and voices.**

One: Because even in the midst of injustice and oppression, this is still the day that the Lord has made.

**ALL: And we shall rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.**

**\*Invocation**

**Loving and Liberating God, You desire the freedom and flourishing of all creation. We ask you to make yourself known to us as we worship today. On this annual observance of the emancipation of enslaved African people in this country, prepare our hearts to listen and digest what we hear about the legacy of enslavement. Remind us that this was not just a problem of our southern history but also of our northern history as exemplified within our own harbor of Bristol. Clarify and reorient our hearts and our minds so that we devote ourselves to ministries of justice, liberation, and love to and for all in this country and the world. In the name of Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*“In Christ There Is No East or West”*

NCH #394

**The Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 78:1-8

Sug Grant

My people, hear my teaching;  
Listen to the words of my mouth!  
I will open my mouth in parables,  
I will utter things hidden from of old—  
the things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us  
We won't hide them from our children;  
We will tell the next generation.  
We'll tell them of  
your praiseworthy deeds, Yahweh,  
your power, and the wonders you have performed.  
You set up statutes for our forebearers,  
and established the law in Israel,  
which you commanded our ancestors  
to teach their children  
so the next generation would know them—  
children yet to be born—  
and as they come up,  
they would tell their own children.  
Then they would put their trust in you  
and not forget your deeds, but keep your commandments—  
unlike their ancestors,  
a stubborn and defiant generation,  
whose hearts were fickle,  
whose spirits were unfaithful to God.

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 4:14-21

Sug Grant

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me

to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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**

*"Steal Away"*

NCH #599

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

**Message**

*"We Won't Hide Things from Our Children"*

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**

*Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen*

**Offertory Invitation**

**Offertory**

*"Come Down, Lord"*

S. Pethel

**\*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**

**Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us, to resist the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

NCH #593

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

*"Hallelujah"*

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

**Postlude**

*"Wade in the Water"*

Arr. R. McVey

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~  
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~  
~ Our lay liturgist today is Sug Grant ~  
~ 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: Prayers used in this service were written by or adapted from these sources: Juneteenth Worship and Prayer Resources, Calvin Institute, Juneteenth Worship and Prayer Resources | Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; Prayers & Reflections for Juneteenth, by Ellie Hutchison Cervantes, June 13, 2023, Episcopal Formation in the Bay Area: Prayers & Reflections for Juneteenth - Justice Revival; and Christine Longhurst, re:Worship: offering.



## **FCC Prayer List**

### **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 as she moves into new apartment

Grace Steere, as she recovers from surgery

Matt Benson, 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

Ray, Lorraine, and Kathleen for peace and healing

Sally Evans

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 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  
 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:**

|                     |                    |                      |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 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  
Clifford Gustason 06/27  
Edward Wiacek 06/29

Samuel Harcourt 06/26  
Gail Carney 06/28

Brady Harcourt 06/26  
Jen Capron 06/28

## What's on the Church Calendar

**June 14, 2026**    **Sunday Worship 10:00am** (Sanctuary)  
                          **Fourth of July Reading of the Declaration of Independence 4:00pm**  
                          **Gazebo, Bristol Commons**

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)  
                          **Fourth of July Interfaith Service 2:00pm** (Mt. Carmel Church)

**July 5, 2026**     **Fourth of July Worship Service 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](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.



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**

## Bristol-Warren Village

*A part of the Village Common of Rhode Island*

### Stretch, Strength and Balance Fitness Classes



**Thursdays 9 AM – 10 AM**

Join **Becca Capodilupo**, Fitness Instructor with 25 years of teaching experience, as she leads exercise classes designed for all ability levels at the First Congregational Church 300 High Street, Bristol.

- Each session includes a **gentle warm-up**,
- **strength** and balance exercises, and
- relaxing stretches to improve mobility, endurance and **flexibility**.



Registration and signing a liability waiver are required.  
Please call Becca at (508) 843-8518 to sign up!

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • www.FCCBristol.org  
Church location 300 High Street • mailing & office address 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809