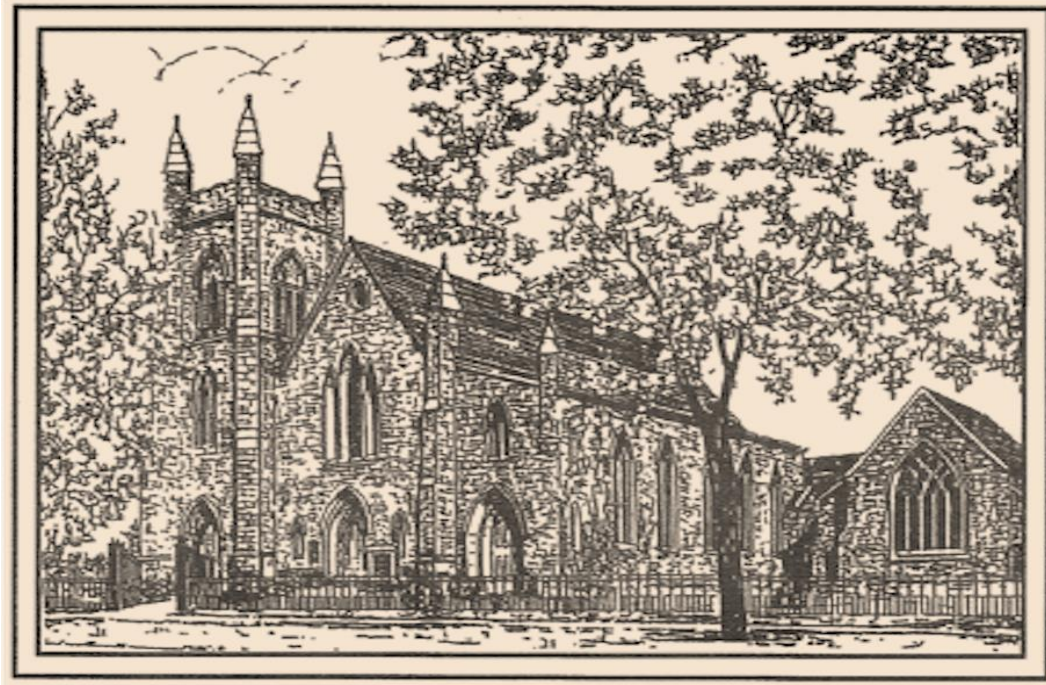


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

**PRIDE SUNDAY  
AND FATHER'S DAY  
JUNE 21, 2026 ~ 10:00 am**

**Prelude** *"Faith of Our Fathers"* arr. J. Walsh

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit** *"Surely The Presence"* L. Wolfe

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ** Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

**One:** Creating God, blessed are you and blessed is this time and place. Thank you for the people gathered here.

**Many:** **We are here! Being the Church! We have not retreated! We are standing in praise!**

**One:** Reconciling Redeemer, you are the mender of our souls and the healer of our broken bodies. You lift us up—strengthening and sustaining, nurturing and nourishing, healing and helping.

**Many:** **Holy Fire, ignite a new spark in the heart of each one gathered here.**

**All:** **Light our way. Warm our bodies. Inspire our tongues to speak a new word, to shout another praise, and to sing an amazing song that will bring to us life and to you glory! Amen.**

**\*Invocation**

**Eternal One, Source of all life, and Giver of all that is good, you put on the fullness of our humanity for the sake of healing your beloved but broken creation; open our minds, liberate our hearts, and strengthen our souls that we might not live in fear but walk in your way of perfect, healing, self-giving love. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, Merciful God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**A Father's Day Prayer**

**\*Hymn**

*"In the Midst of New Dimensions"*

NCH #391

**The New Testament Reading 1**

Acts 1:1-11

Rei Battcher

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of God. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that God has set....But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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!**

**New Testament Reading II**

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21

Rei Battcher

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."  
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."  
And let everyone who is thirsty, "Come."

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen

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**

*“Welcoming God”*

Sung to “Blessed Assurance”  
NCH #473 C.W. Gillette

*Children are welcome, Christ said one day,  
When the disciples urged them away.  
Children are welcome at Jesus’ knee:  
God’s own example for ministry.  
Welcoming God, You open the Way:  
Even the smallest worship and pray,  
Singing with faith and serving You well,  
Your life to know and good news tell.*

*All people are welcome, wrapped in God’s love;  
Through God’s own Spirit, we’re partners again.  
Partners as prophets, ministers, too:  
No more divided—made one anew.  
Welcoming God, You open the way;  
Those once divided join now to pray,  
Serving at Table, preaching Your Words,  
So that Your love for all will be heard.*

*Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,  
Eating with Jesus and being made new:  
Some like Zacchaeus turned right around;  
Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.  
God of great love, You stand at the door,  
Welcoming people outcast and poor.  
So You forgive and call us to be  
Filled with the joy of Your jubilee.*

*So may we welcome into our pew  
All who in Jesus are being made new—  
All those who seek him, wanting to know,  
Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.  
Welcoming God, You stand at our door,  
As someone different, outcast or poor.  
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, You search  
May we all welcome You in Your church.*

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

**Message**

“Welcoming God, You Are the Way”

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

*"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*

arr. K. Christopher

### \*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

**Listen! Listen for the voice of God, naming us all: Holy. Beloved. Cherished. Valued. We believe you delight in us! Make us people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and goodness in unexpected places. Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us. We trust in you, Holy One, to reveal to us the sacredness of every life, of every way of being, of every physical manifestation of your Spirit. May it be so! Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*"God of Many Faces"*

Sung to "Be Now, My Vision"

NCH #451 Text by Amy Cerniglia

*God of many faces, we offer our praise,  
singing your glory through all of our days.  
Hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,  
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.*

*God of many genders, our world reflects you,  
sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,  
woven into a city with jewels of all shades,  
houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.*

*God of many names, we invite you to show  
us the new names that reflect our true souls.  
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word  
that will dwell in our bones, groaning new life once heard.*

*God of many bodies, abide within ours,  
shifting more each day through time and through scars.  
Come to sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,  
holier every day, still becoming more true.*

### \*Benediction

## \*Benediction Response

“Hallelujah”

### Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

“Colors Outside the Lines”

G. Light

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Rei Battcher ~

~ 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: The prayers used in this service were written by or adapted from the following: *A Place in God's Heart, A Place at Christ's Table: Worship Resources for the Welcoming Church Movement, Creating God From the More Light Presbyterians Retreat & Mission Weekend* New Orleans, LA, 2006, *Guide Us to Openness; Prayer | Rainbow Cathedral; Pride Eucharist with Blessing and Commissioning, Sunday, June 1, 2025*, Copyright © 2025 - The Episcopal Church, [www.episcopalcommonprayer.org](http://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org), original Prayers of the People composed by the Task Force on LGBTQ+ Inclusion, *Worship-Bulletin-June-01-2025-Pride-Eucharist-Digital.pdf*; Rev. Derek Terry, *Open and Affirming Sunday 2024, Open and Affirming Sunday - UCC Open and Affirming Coalition; Closing Hymn, Welcoming God Sung to "Blessed Assurance"* Tune: ASSURANCE Irr., Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette Co-Pastor, Limestone Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware; *Together in Worship*, ed. Calgary Inter-Mennonite Church, *Liturgy-Pride-Sunday-2017.pdf*; M Jade Kaise, *queer calls to worship - enflashed*; "God of Many Faces: ©2019 Amy Cerniglia [amycerniglia@gmail.com](mailto:amycerniglia@gmail.com), *Songs-for-the-Holy-Other-2020.pdf*; and Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, *From the Tombs: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Pentecost. UCC Worship Ways, After Pentecost 2C - June 22 - United Church of Christ.*



## 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 Chaccone, for recovery  
Ryan Higgins, Lilly Kilver'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:**

The birth of Celeste Bernardino's new granddaughter, Lilo

**For those who have died:**

The family of Joe Negro, who died unexpectedly week before last.

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

Alison Gamon 06/22	Tracy Ukura 06/22	Carlie Pisasale 06/24
Samuel Harcourt 06/26	Brady Harcourt 06/26	Clifford Gustason 06/27
Gail Carney 06/28	Jen Capron 06/28	Edward Wiacek 06/29

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Penelope Pires 07/01	Kathy Ann Berry 07/02	Marina Temple 07/02
Nick Burnham 07/03	Celeste Bernardino 07/04	Scarlett Drawbridge 07/05
Xochitl Quezada-Grant 07/08	Bronwen Bailey 07/10	Susan Donovan 07/11
Gail Cotta 07/11	Ella Drawbridge 07/24	Carla Finn 07/25
Marty Roussel 07/25	Jo-Ann Wilbur 07/27	Glenn Donovan 07/27
Cassidy Allen 07/28	Julia Allen 07/31	

**What's on the Church Calendar**

<b>June 21, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am (Sanctuary)</b>
June 25, 2026	Thursday Christian Education Committee Zoom meeting 7:00pm
<b>June 28, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship 10:00am (Sanctuary)</b>
	<b>Fourth of July Interfaith Service 2:00pm (Mt. Carmel Church)</b>
<b>July 4, 2026</b>	<b>Bristol's 4<sup>th</sup> July Parade</b>
<b>July 5, 2026</b>	<b>Fourth of July Worship Service 10:00am (Sanctuary)</b>
July 7, 2026	Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
<b>July 12, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)</b>
July 14, 2026	Facility Committee Meeting (DeWolf Room)
<b>July 19, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)</b>
<b>July 26, 2026</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)</b>

**Are you selling or know someone who is selling a used car?**

**An important request from Gina Damiano**—Gina has been looking to buy a used car for some time. She has a critical need to find one. If you or someone you know is selling a car, please let Gina know by calling her at 401-243-3381 or emailing her at [gina021466@yahoo.com](mailto:gina021466@yahoo.com). Thanks.

Please visit our website for more information about the Church and Events go to **[fccbristol.org](http://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!

97th Annual  
First Congregational Church  
300 High St Bristol RI

# HARVEST MOON BAZAAR

NOV 21  
10 AM TO 3 PM

**2026**

FREE PICTURES WITH **SANTA!**  
CHICKEN SALAD  
CHILI & HOT CIDER

BAKED GOODS  
HANDMADE KNITS  
CRAFTS  
FLOWERS & VENDORS  
SILENT AUCTION!!

Application for vendor's are available for  
Harvest Moon Bazaar  
Please call the church office 401/253-7288

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