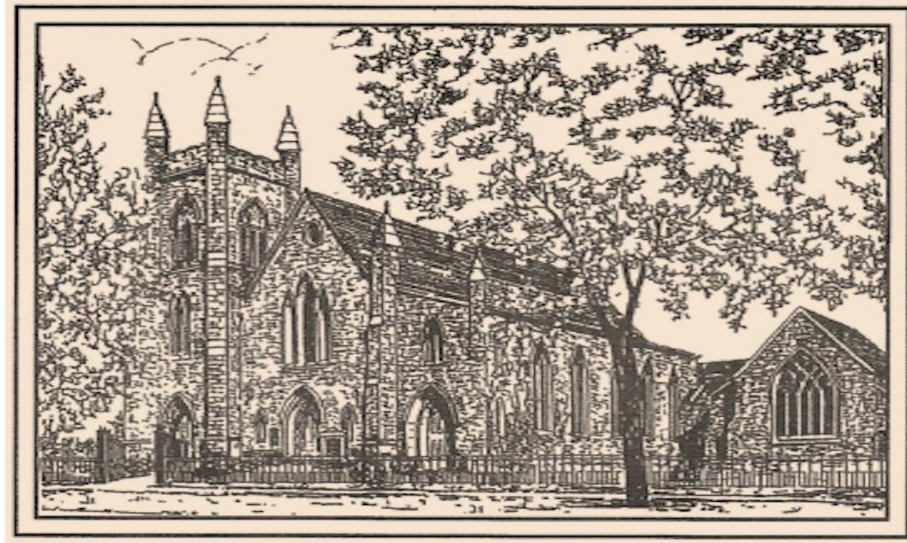


sss`First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

**HOLY COMMUNION
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 4TH CELEBRATION**

JULY 5, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“My Country ‘Tis of Thee”

Samuel Francis Smith

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

Many: Let our joy be complete!

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

Many: Love one another!

One: Family, neighbors, strangers, and those from beyond our land will join in the new song:

Many: No longer servants but friends!

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

Many: Rejoicing in the friendship of God. Amen.

***Invocation**

O Beloved One, all the ends of the earth marvel at your deeds of power. We feel your presence as growth returning to our weary souls. We rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love revealed in the risen Christ. Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love. Fill us with generosity and courage so that we may be called your friends and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

***A Prayer for Transformation**

As a community of believers, Holy One, we open ourselves to your restorative presence.

We are surrounded by beauty, yet we often fail to wonder.

We are symbols of hope, yet we often succumb to despair.

We are blessed beyond measure, yet we often allow greed to shape our generosity.

We are uncommonly free, yet we often bind ourselves to yesterday's failures.

We are gifted and graced as a people of faith, yet we often fail to let our light shine.

We are loved beyond measure, yet we often fail to pass on your love unconditionally.

In these moments of shared silence, encourage us to lay down our burdens, release our fears, forgive our failures, reclaim our hopes, and align ourselves with your deep wisdom. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Passing of the Peace

Please turn to your neighbor and greet them with—

“The Peace of the Lord Be With You,” and respond with “and also with you.”

***Hymn**

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

PH #429

The Old Testament Reading Micah 4:2-4

Many people will come and say: “Come, let us climb Yahweh’s mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, so that we may be instructed in God’s ways and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction will be given from Zion and the work of Yahweh from Jerusalem. Yahweh will judge between many peoples and arbitrate between mighty and distant nations. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never will they learn war anymore.

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 New Testament Reading Hebrews 11:8-16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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**

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”
(Prayer card requests will be collected by the Deacons during this hymn.)

PH #440

Message

Excerpts from the Rev. Henry Wight’s Sermon, July 4, 1809,
Sixth Minister of First Congregational Church, Bristol, RI

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

NCH #769
George Whelpton

*Hear our prayer, O God,
hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us,
and grant us your peace.*

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

Sy Miller, Jill Jackson

***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**

Giving God, make us a people who not only receive your gifts, but empower us to give in
mutual measure so that all needs are met. Bless these gifts and amplify their impact as a
witness to your goodness and so all may flourish in your name. Amen.

***Hymn**

“This Is My Song”

NCH #591

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

One: May the Spirit of love be with you.
Many: And may the love of Christ be with you.
One: Open wide your cautious hearts.
Many: May the hope of our Creator pour peace in our souls.
One: Let us give thanks to the one who created this time and space.
Many: From our joy we give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Forward through the Ages”

NCH #377

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

NCH #809

Thomas A. Dorsey/Artelia W. Hutchins

God be with you,
God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again
O God be with you,
God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

William Steffe

~ 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: Rev. Susan A. Blain, Friends of God: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Church of Christ. Worship Ways, re: Worship: Search results for Rev. Susan A. Blain; Rev. Dr. June C. Goudey, God's Freedom is Beyond Measure, United Church of Christ, <http://www.ucc.org/>, re: Worship: Confession: Blessed Beyond Measure; John W. Vest, <http://johnvest.com/>, re: Worship: Prayers of the People: July 4; Rev. Teri Peterson, the Presbyterian Church of Palatine, IL, LiturgyLink, communion-independence day — LiturgyLink; United Church of Christ in Medfield, <http://www.uccmedfield.org/>, re: Worship: Independence Day Prayer; and Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Drink: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Year A, United Church of Christ, Worship Ways, After Pentecost 6A - July 5 - United Church of Christ.



FCC Prayer List

For cares and concerns in the world:

We pray for our country on this 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. May we uphold the values and promises our founders made to seek liberty and justice for all

Members of our local community who are experiencing food insecurity

Prayers for peace in the Middle East and the Ukraine

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

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:

Nick and his family, as they find themselves between chemo cycles, living on hope and strength of character

Josephine

Jay, Dyan Vaughn's son, who is recovering from an infection

Charlotte Griffith

Chris Desusa, to be safe and well

Kathy Conoway, Sug Grant's niece, whose breast cancer has come back after eight years in remission; she will be getting additional treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix

For Change Management and blessings for Jacob Johnson moving home and for Sara as she moves into new apartment

Barbara and Jack Ringland

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

Bob and Sally Evans

Pat Cory, who is recovering at home from a recent illness and for her family and all who are supporting her

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, 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
 Kellie and Juan Morales's daughter
 Bruce C., who is in rehab, and Pat P., both friends of Ed Wiacek

Upcoming Birthdays:

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

July 5, 2026	Sunday Fourth of July Worship Service 10:00am (Sanctuary)
July 7, 2026	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
July 9, 2026	Thursday fitness class 9:00am - 10:00am (DeWolf Room)
July 12, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
July 14, 2026	Tuesday Facility Committee Meeting (DeWolf Room)
July 16, 2026	Thursday fitness class 9:00am - 10:00am (DeWolf Room)
July 19, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
July 23, 2026	Thursday fitness class 9:00am - 10:00am (DeWolf Room)
July 26, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
July 30, 2026	Thursday fitness class 9:00am - 10:00am (DeWolf Room)

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. Thanks.

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.





AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church in Bristol

Sign up for Helping with Ecumenical Meals



You have been invited by The First Congregational Church to sign up for **AUGUST Ecumenical Meals 13 MEALS.**

Please consider cooking, baking, assembling or delivering as part of a team or as an individual. This is a great opportunity for the whole family. We have 13 recipients and will update when the current church delivering turns over the job to our Church on the last Saturday in August.

We have 5 Saturdays to prepare for, which is a wonderful blessing for our church to have the opportunity to bring light and nourishment to all who receive meals from the program.

WE NEED COOKS AND DRIVER FOR AUGUST SATURDAYS.

Thank you for considering to serve through the Ecumenical Meals Program.

To sign up go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACA72BA7F94-62680882-august/83485705#/>

[FCCBristol/EMeals: August 2026 Ecumenical Meals \(13\)](#)

Church Office (401) 253-7288 • Office@FCCBristol.org • 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809



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

STRETCH, STRENGTH AND
BALANCE

FITNESS CLASS

THURSDAYS 9AM TO 10AM

First Congregational Church, 300 High St. Bristol, RI



WORKSHOP DETAILS

Join experienced fitness instructor, Becca Capodilupo for a gentle exercise class designed to improve mobility, endurance, and flexibility.

EXERCISES WILL INCLUDE

- gentle warm-ups
- strength and balance exercises
- relaxing stretches

All experience levels welcome.

Participants must be able to get up from a chair without assistance.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED CALL BECCA TO SIGN UP!
(508) 843-8518

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