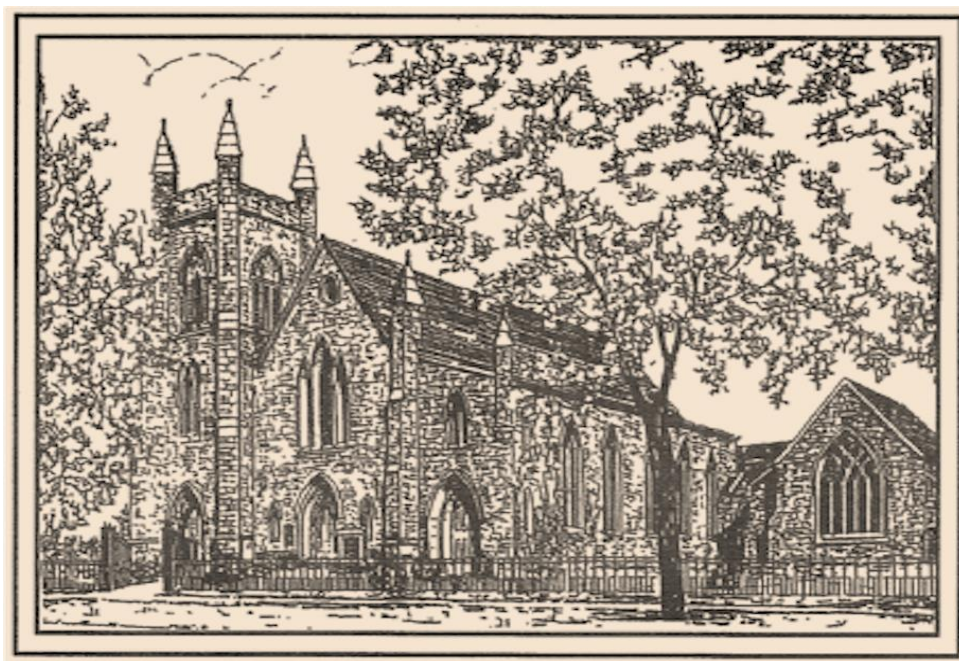


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 19, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“Images, Book 1, Mov. 1”

Debussy

Welcome and Announcements

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

*Call to Worship

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world and dwells in our lives.

Many: **We need not look up to find God; we need only to look around—within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.**

One: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God; we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

Many: **We worship the God who inhabits our world and dwells in our lives. Amen.**

*Invocation

Holy Love, God of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, we come before you knowing you go before us and you keep us safe. We come to this place in space and time across distance and difference as your offspring to receive an inheritance of your promise and to renew our lives in your covenant. Let our spirits receive your word and our hearts ignite with your compassion, mercy, and righteousness. Let your ways spread in us and through us as we worship and follow you. Amen.

Joy in the Morning 533

Unison

1 There'll be joy in the morn-ing on that day, there'll be
 2 There'll be peace and con-tent-ment ev - er - more, there'll be
 3 There'll be love and for-give-ness ev - ery - where, there'll be

joy in the morn-ing on that day, for the day-light will dawn when the
 peace and con-tent-ment ev - er - more, ev - ery heart, ev - ery voice on that
 love and for-give-ness ev - ery-where, and the way of the Lord will that

dark-ness is gone, there'll be joy in the morn-ing on that day.
 day will re-joice, there'll be peace and con-tent-ment ev - er - more.
 day be re-stored, there'll be love and for-give-ness ev - ery-where.

WORDS and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992); arr. Roland Tabell (1934-)
 Words and Music © 1977 Hope Publishing Company

JOY IN THE MORNING
Irregular

The Old Testament Reading Genesis 28:10-19

Susan Morettini

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

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**

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

(in the bulletin) The NCH #500

DISCIPLESHIP

500

We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder

Gen. 28:10–17

African-American spiritual

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in 3/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, using a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, with the first part being the most prominent. The second part is a variation of the first, and the third part is a final, slightly different variation. The score is presented on two systems of staves, with the lyrics written below the notes.

1 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der,
2 Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er,
3 Rise, shine, give God glo-ry, rise, shine, give God glo-ry,

we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, bear-ers of the cross.
ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, bear-ers of the cross.
rise, shine, give God glo-ry, bear-ers of the cross.

Like many spirituals, this one uses a story from the Hebrew scriptures as its starting point and the element of the ladder as a creative device to draw us into the narrative. In like manner, the following twentieth-century adaption of the song by Carole Etzler employs the story of Sarah, the matriarch of the Hebrew people, and extends the direction of the pilgrimage from the upward climb of the ladder to the outward embrace of a circle.

Tune: JACOB'S LADDER 8.8.8.5.
African-American spiritual

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

Message “And You Shall Spread Abroad to the West and to the East and to the North and to the South”
Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Sharing our Joy and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

A Prayer by Walter Brueggeman

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

“Excerpt from Nocturne No. 9 in c minor”

Chopin

***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**

Heavenly Creator, thank you for the truth of your Word and your never-failing promises to your people. Thank you for Jacob's dream in which he saw a stairway to heaven and for the promise you gave him that all peoples of the earth would be blessed by his descendants and that you would not leave him or forsake him. May we be faithful in our service to you, resting in the assurance that you will never leave us or forsake us. In Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Glory, Glory Hallelujah”

(in the bulletin) The NCH # 2

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

Exod. 15:20; Gen. 28:12; Ps. 81:6

African-American spiritual

1 Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, since I
 2 I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter, since I
 3 Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" since I
 4 I am danc - ing Mir - iam's dance now, since I
 5 I am climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, since I
 6 Ev - ery round goes higher and high - er, since I

laid my bur - dens down. Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le -
 laid my bur - dens down. I feel bet - ter, so much
 laid my bur - dens down. Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le -
 laid my bur - dens down. I am danc - ing Mir - iam's
 laid my bur - dens down. I am climb - ing Ja - cob's
 laid my bur - dens down. Ev - ery round goes higher and

lu - jah, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 bet - ter, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 lu - jah!" since I laid my bur - dens down.
 dance now, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 lad - der, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 high - er, since I laid my bur - dens down.

Despite their physical captivity, the enslaved of antebellum America often found an inward freedom through their faith in Jesus the liberator. This liberation, which permitted them to sing rejoicingly, anticipated their eventual physical emancipation.

Tune: GLORY, GLORY 8.7.8.7.
 African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

***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

“Great Gate of Kiev” from Pictures at an Exhibition

Mussorgsky

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~
~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~
~ Our lay liturgist today is Susan Morettini ~
~ 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: Walter Brueggemann, in *Prayers for a Privileged People*, <http://www.amazon.com/Prayers-Privileged-People-Walter-Brueggemann/dp/0687650194>, <http://prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com/>, re: Worship: Proper 11 A; Presbyterian Church USA, https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf, re: Worship: Proper 11 A; Prayer of Dedication, from *Knowing God*, <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Genesis/28/15>, Prayer for Genesis 28:15; and Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, *You Shall Spread: Service Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Year A*, *Worship Ways*, UCC, After Pentecost 8A - July 19 - 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 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:

Tara, Steve Aveson's daughter-in-law who has been newly diagnosed with cancer
Nick and his family, as they find themselves between chemo cycles, living on hope and strength
of character
Josephine
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
Barbara and Jack Ringland
Grace Steere
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
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
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
Nick Chaccone, for recovery
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

For those who have died:

Charlotte Griffith, who died on Thursday morning, and for her family Karen and Mark Dietrich and Brent Griffith and all her grandchildren.

Upcoming Birthdays:

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		
Nathan Dieterich 08/10	Evan Fournier-Swire 08/10	Liam Donovan 08/12
Drew Carpenter 08/15	Charlotte Burnham 08/16	Katherine Harcourt 08/28
Matthew Benson 08/30		

SHARE YOUR MUSIC TALENTS THIS SUMMER

This summer, we are inviting anyone who could like to participate musically in a worship service on Sundays to let Nikita Zabinski know. You can sing, play an instrument—anything—and you can be any age. The tendency is to be shy to come forward but don't underestimate yourself. Sign up on the sheet attached here.

What's on the Church Calendar

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 24, 2026	Friday Calling hours for Charlotte Graffith 6pm-8pm (DeWolf Room)
July 25, 2026	Saturday Celebration of life Charlotte Griffith (2:00pm DeWolf Room)
July 26, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
July 28, 2026	Tuesday RI Blood Bank Bus, 8:00am - 12pm (in front of the Church at 300 High Street)
July 30, 2026	Thursday fitness class 9:00am - 10:00am (DeWolf Room)
August 02, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
August 04, 2026	Monday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
August 4-6, 2026	Church Office Closed Barbara will be on vacation
August 09, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
August 11, 2026	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
August 13, 2026	Thursday CE Meeting 6:00pm(Zoom)
August 13, 2026	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm Guiteras House)
August 16, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
August 18, 2026	Tuesday Church Council Meeting (DeWolf Room)
August 23, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
August 30, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)

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/>.



Starting in August

Let Your Impact Shine

Be a bright spot in your community!

Every specially marked \$11.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold at our selected Stop & Shop during August sends \$1 to our organization, helping us continue our mission and create local impact.

BENEFITING ORGANIZATION:

First Congregational Church in Bristol
300 High Street
Bristol, RI 02809
FCCBristol.org / 401/253-7288

AT THIS STORE LOCATION:

STOP & SHOP
605 Metacom Ave
Bristol, RI 02809

STOP&SHOP
stopandshop.2givelocal.com

Bloomin' 4 Good Program



KEEP THOSE RECEIPTS 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.

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 \(13\)](#)

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!!

Applications for vendors are available for Harvest Moon Bazaar. Please call the church office at 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