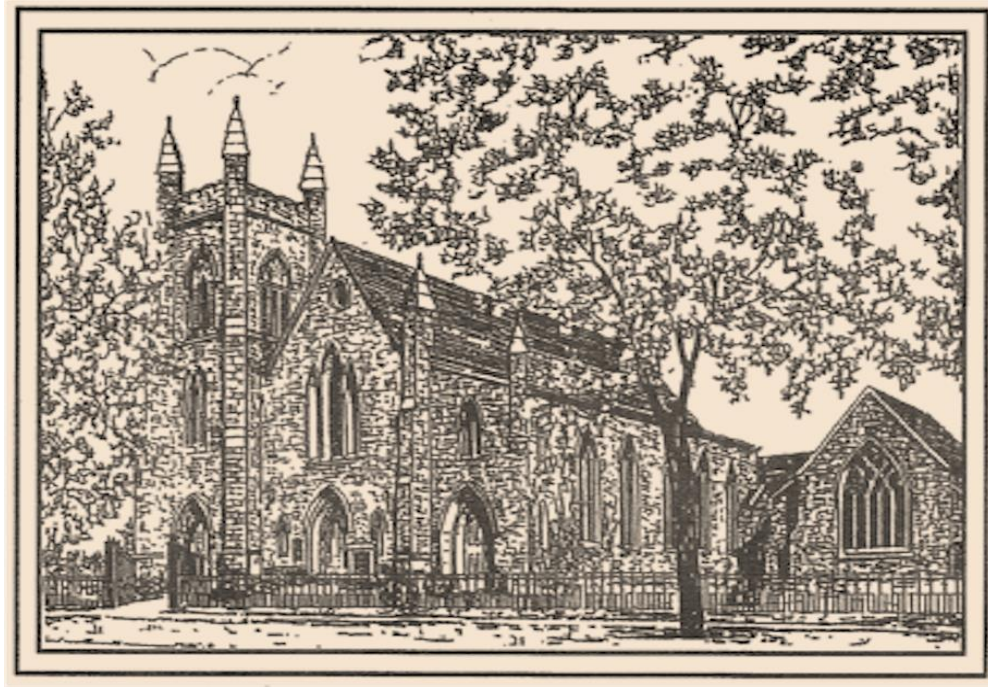


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

HOLY COMMUNION TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

T. Dorsey

Welcome and Announcements

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 96)*

One: O sing to God a new song; sing to God all the earth.

Many: **For great is the Creator and greatly to be praised; God is to be revered above all gods.**

One: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but God made the heavens.

Many: **Say among the nations, “God reigns. The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. God will judge the peoples with equity.”**

One: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the fields exult and everything in it.

Many: **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Creator, for God is coming, for God is coming to judge the earth. God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with truth. Amen.**

***Invocation**

Come and worship, all you who love and serve the God—outsiders and insiders; old-timers and newcomers; and the young, old, and the in-between. Come as you are, for this is God’s house—a house of prayer for all people, and God welcomes each one who comes. Amen.

***A Prayer for Transformation**

One: Come, draw near to the One who made you, the One who is beyond borders, beyond control and coercion. Come, draw near to the One who judges the world with righteousness, inviting us to be a people of truth and equity, reflecting the diverse abundance of God’s grace.

Many: **O God, who is beyond borders, though we are made in your image, so often we have tried to create you in ours.**

One: We have adorned our country’s flags with the image of the cross,

Many: **desecrating that place where you conquered state power and sin.**

One: We have confused our political preferences with your divine will.

Many: **We have even dared to believe you love us best.**

One: We have caused harm upon bodies and faiths we see as less faithful, or less American, or less patriotic than our own.

Many: **We acknowledge the violence done to people when we allow state and religious power to collude. Forgive our comfortable and profitable idolatries, and burst forth from all the boxes we have forced you into, bringing in your wake abundant life for all people, for all nations. Amen**

Assurance of Grace

***Hymn**

“We Trust the One Who Brought to Life” Stephen M. Fearing, 2026/Kingsfold

We Trust the One Who Brought to Life

A Paraphrase of Psalm 146

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2026

Meter: CMD

Tune: KINGSFOLD

Music: *English County Songs, 1893*

Em C G/B D G Am C Dsus4 D

We trust the One who brought to life the earth, the sky and sea,
Trust not the pass - ing breath of those whose voi - ces roar and rage,
God keeps the faith when lead - ers scheme to si - lence and op - press.
To you O God, we lift our praise; for you, our hearts a - rise;

5 Em Am D G/B D G Am Em

who au - thors ev - 'ry breath we breathe, and holds e - ter - ni - ty.
who think them - selves a - bove re - proach, who rise in ev - 'ry age.
God sets the pris - 'ners free in love and raise - s the di - stressed.
in you, we mor - tals place our trust; with you, we name the lies:

10 Gmaj7/B Em Am Em G /B C Dsus4 D

Though i - dols tempt at ev - 'ry turn, to God a - lone we sing.
Bear fruits that praise our Li - ving Lord, whose reign en - dures a - lone.
God watch - es o - ver strang - ers' ways, up - holds the bruised and bent,
the lies of vio - lence, greed, and fear, the lie of scar - ci - ty.

15 Csus2 Am G D G /B C Am Em

We train our hearts to seek and serve the just - ice God will bring.
Though mor - tals die and turn to dust, our God is on the throne.
and brings to ru - in wick - ed ones, 'till all their pow'r is spent.
In you, we find the truth of life, the truth that sets us free.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 56:1-8

Sug Grant

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance will be revealed. Happy is the mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil. Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say, “The Lord will surely separate me from his people;” and do not let the eunuch say, “I am just a dry tree.”

For thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

Acts 10:34-38

Sug Grant

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message that was sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

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

"In This Time of Great Reflection" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026/Restoration
(Prayer card requests will be collected by the Deacons during this hymn.)

In This Time of Great Reflection

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

Restoration

Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835



The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1. In this time of great re - flec - tion on two hun - dred fif - ty years,
2. Here is what holds us to - geth - er: Mer - cy, love, com - mu - ni - ty.
3. We re - call our na - tion's sto - ry. Keep us hon - est, God a - bove!
4. Will we work for ra - cial jus - tice? Will we turn from fear and hate?
5. In this time, O God, re - store us to the land we're called to be—

We re - mem - ber, as a na - tion, times we've pros - pered, times of tears.
We're to seek to care for neigh - bors in a just so - ci - e - ty.
In our quest for wealth and glo - ry, we have in - jured ones you love.
What is now the pub - lic wit - ness that you call us to cre - ate?
where all peo - ple here a - mong us know your blest com - mu - ni - ty.

"We shall be," a prea - cher told us, "as a ci - ty on a hill"—
If we fail to help the nee - dy and to build a land that's just,
Through en - slave - ment, through dis - place - ment, we have cho - sen ways of sin.
As we ce - le - brate our coun - try, help us, Lord, to un - der - stand:
May we seek to be that ci - ty, not with pride but as a prayer.

not to praise us but to warn us: We've a du - ty to ful - fill.
we will sim - ply be a by - word as the world looks on at us.
We've been vio - lent. We've stayed si - lent. So our light of love stays dim.
All of us must share the boun - ty and the good - ness of the land.
May we love and serve you hum - bly, in our land and ev - ery - where.

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

“It Is Well with My Soul” P. Bliss
Vocals - Susan Donovan, Susan Morettini, Glen Donovan, Tony Morettini

***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**

We pray justice for the falsely accused, freedom for the wrongly imprisoned, healing for the tortured or abused, care for the orphan and widow, concern for the refugee and dispossessed, and above all forgiveness for our emotional detachment. May we weep as you weep. love as you love. and not be afraid to be angry for the sake of your children wherever they might be. Amen.

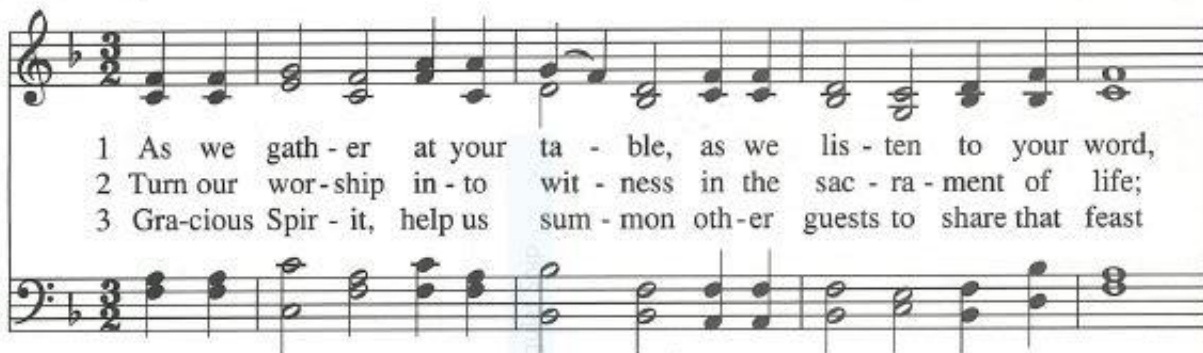
***Hymn**

“As We Gather at Your Table”

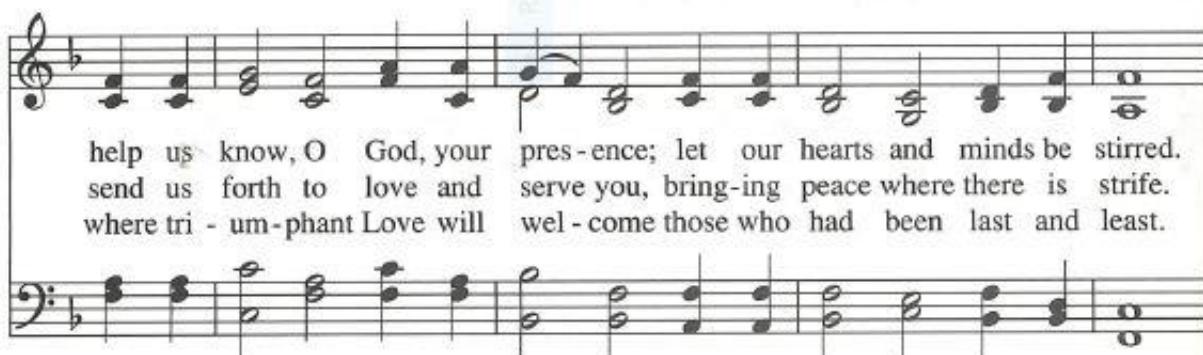
(in bulletin, from NCH #332)

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

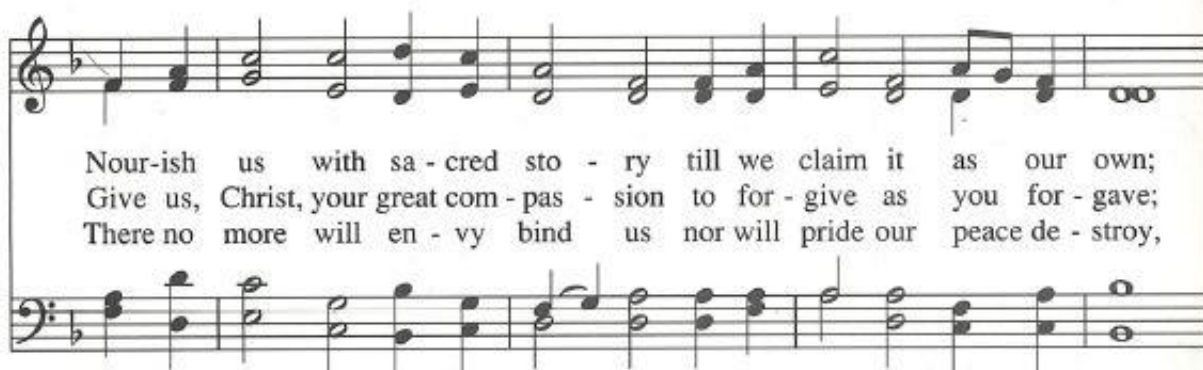
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



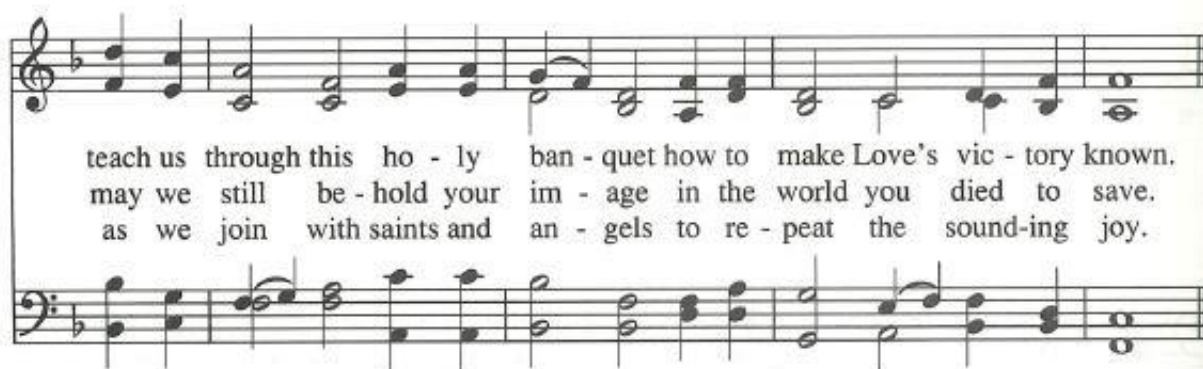
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

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 into 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 Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We are molded, each one of us, in the image of God, and within our souls there is a fingerprint none can erase. We pray for those who have no regard for anyone but self, who put no value on human life. We are not called to be judge or jury, but we are called to be agents of change in this world, bringing Christ's transformative love to forgotten places. Amen.

****Closing Hymn***

"This Is My Song"

(in bulletin, from NCH#591)

1 This is my song, O God of all the na-tions, a song of
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
 beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
 sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899
 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

***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

“We Remember You”

W. Harrah

~ 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 for this service are written by or adapted from the following: Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche and Rev. Dr. Jacob Bolton with influence from Cole Arthur Riley, “God of All A Liturgical Witness Against Christian Nationalism,” prepared in 2025 by GACEIR, General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Final.FAQs and liturgy for XN Nationalism; re:Worship: Call to Worship: August 14, 2011; Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>, re:Worship: offering; Copyright © John Birch, Faith and Worship - Prayers and Resources, re:Worship: Prayer of Compassion; a Prayer for Grace, London, UK; John Birth, A communion prayer – Jesus and the powers – Re-Imagining Worship; “Re-imagining Worship as Acts of Defiance and Alternatives in the Context of Empire,” www.faithandworship.com/prayers_peace.htm; Prayers for Peace; and A Buddhist Prayer, Author Unknown, Prayers for Peace.



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:

Raye, Lynne and Chuck Ramos’s granddaughter, who is currently undergoing medical tests

Jacob, who is seeking a full-time job at RWU

Caroline Jacobus, who is recovering from hip surgery

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
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
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 Chaconne, 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

Upcoming Birthdays:

Nathan Dieterich 08/10
Drew Carpenter 08/15
Matthew Benson 08/30

Evan Fournier-Swire 08/10
Charlotte Burnham 08/16

Liam Donovan 08/12
Katherine Harcourt 08/28

SHARE YOUR MUSIC TALENTS THIS SUMMER

This summer, we are inviting anyone who would 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

August 02, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
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 Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House) 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/.](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 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.



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
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