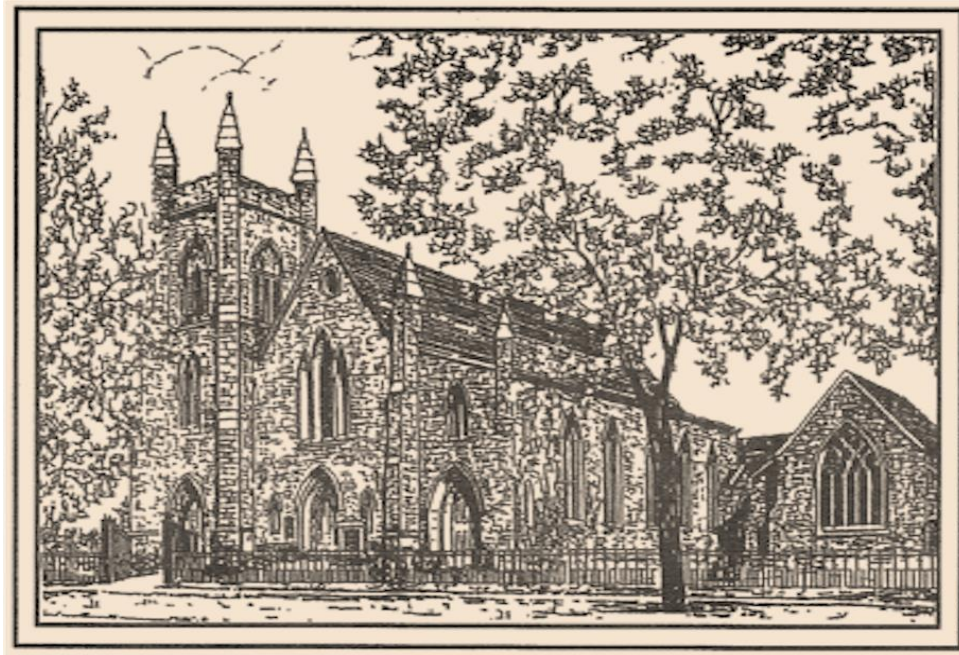


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 9, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Traditional Spiritual

Welcome and Announcements

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Loving God of power, justice, and peace in our broken world,

Many: we seek a new order!

One: Where there is courage to speak truth to power,

Many: we seek a new order!

One: Where there is mutual support in church and community,

Many: we seek a new order!

One: Where there is abundant time for healing,

Many: we seek a new order, where there is peace and freedom for all. Amen.

***Invocation**

Holy One, as we gather this morning to worship you, may we speak truth, so that our words may give grace to those who hear. May we pray in faith, so that our words may give grace to those who hope. May we sing with joy, so that our words may give grace to those who long to laugh. May we listen with open minds and receptive hearts, so that your words may give grace to us who seek truth. Amen.

***Hymn**

"For the Healing of the Nations" (in bulletin, Worship & Rejoice #621)

1 For the heal-ing of the na-tions, Lord, we pray with one ac-cord,
 2 Lead your peo-ple in - to free-dom, from de-spair your world re-lease,
 3 All that kills a - bun-dant liv-ing, let it from the earth be banned:
 4 You, Cre - a - tor - God, have writ-ten your great name on hu-man-kind;

for a just and e - qual shar-ing of the things that earth af-fords.
 that, re-deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and go in peace.
 pride of sta - tus, race, or school-ing, dog-mas that ob - scure your plan.
 for our grow-ing in your like-ness, bring the life of Christ to mind;

To a life of love in ac-tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 Show us how, through care and good-ness, fear will die and hope in-crease.
 In our com-mon quest for jus-tice may we hal-low life's brief span.
 that by our re-sponse and serv-ice earth its des-ti-ny may find.

WORDS: Fred Kaan (1929-)
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)
 Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Company

REGENT SQUARE
 8.7.8.7.8.7.

The New Testament Reading

Revelation 22:1-5

Grace Steere

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship there; they will see God's face, and God's name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night. They need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

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

John 18:28-40

Grace Steere

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So, Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

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**

"Amazing Grace" (in bulletin, from Worship & Rejoice #422)

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

G G/D D7 Em C G G/D D/C G/B

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
 3 The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
 5 When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

G G/B C G Em G/D D7 G

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
 he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; vs. 5, anonymous
 MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. Edwin O. Excell (1851-1921)

NEW BRITAIN
 C.M.

Message “And Pilate asked, ‘What Is the Truth?’”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin 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

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 Ballad No. 2

Liszt

***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**

O God of all nations and all people, we give you thanks for the gift of religious freedom in this land. We lament the rising tide of Christian nationalism and efforts to use public funds to promote one faith above others. Help us defend the right of all to worship freely, or not at all. Grant wisdom to our courts, and courage to our citizens. Through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who welcomes all into God’s embrace. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” (in bulletin, from Worship & Rejoice, #614)

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow;

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

***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

Mouvmont

Debussy

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Grace Steere ~

~ 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 from this service were written by or adapted from the following: Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>, re: Worship: Prayer: A New Order; Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>, re: Worship: Call to Worship Litany: As We Gather; John van de Laar, Sacredise, <http://sacredise.com/prayers/type/intercession/children-of-abram/>, re: Worship: global justice; Carol Penner, Leading in Worship. <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>; St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA, Resist Christian Nationalism – St. Peter's Church; and Rabbi Debbie Reichmann and Reverend Samantha Gonzalez-Block, IFFP Clergy, The Interfaith Families Project of Greater Washington (IFFP), Interfaith Prayer for Our Nation | Interfaith Families Project of Washington D.C.



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 Church Ramos' granddaughter, who is 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 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

August 09, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
August 11, 2026	Monday 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 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/>.



that

Starting in August 



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.

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

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