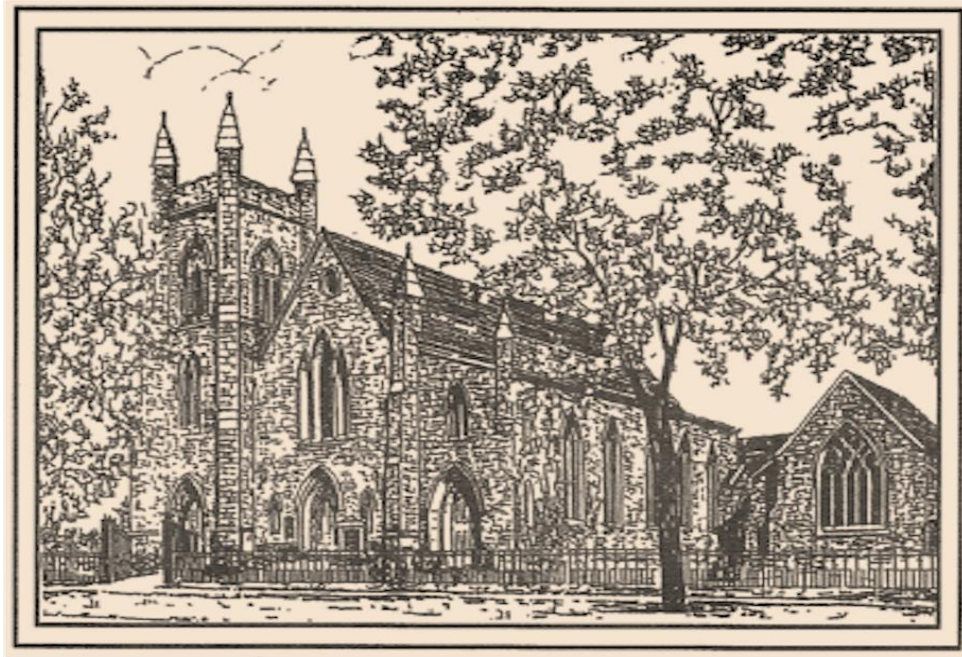


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**AUGUST 16, 2026 ~ 10:00 am**

**Prelude**

*“Excerpt from Ballad No. 2”*

Liszt

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

**\*Call to Worship**

One: We are called to love the Lord our God;

**Many: We are called to love with all our heart and soul;**

One: We are called to love the Lord our God;

**Many: We are called to love with all our mind and strength;**

One: We are called to love the Lord our God;

**Many: And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

**All: Come, let us love our God and share God’s love in this time of worship! Amen.**

**\*Invocation**

Let us start this service by reminding ourselves: that it is not we who chose Christ but Christ who chose us; that we are not here because of our goodness but because of Christ’s grace; that we are not here to enlighten ourselves but to allow Christ to enlighten us; that we have not come to be entertained but to worship God with heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

*“From the Crush of Wealth and Power”* (see back of bulletin from NCH #552)

## **The New Testament Reading**

Galatians 8:26-29

Lynne Ramos

For in Christ Jesus, you are all children through faith. Because many of you, who were baptized in Christ, have clothed yourselves in him, there is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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**

Luke 10:27-37

Lynne Ramos

[And the lawyer answered Jesus], "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And [Jesus] said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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**

*"They Asked, 'Who Is My Neighbor'"* (see back of bulletin, from NCH #541)

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

## **Message**

**"And, Who Is My Neighbor"**

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**

*"If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again"*

James Rowe

**\*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 thank you, God, for coming to us as a neighbor, a stranger, an immigrant, binding our wounds, and carrying us to safety, so that we might love you with all our heart, soul, and mind, and welcome the stranger, loving our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"O for a World"*

(see back of bulletin, from NCH #575)

**\*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**

*"Nearer My God to Thee"*

arr. L. Mason

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Lynne Ramos ~

~ 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: Rev. Mindi, Rev-o-lution, <http://rev-o-lution.org/>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Loving God; Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>, re:Worship: Call to Worship: Because of Christ; Rebeca Jiménez Yoder, Toronto Catholic District School Board, <https://www.tcdsb.org/Pages/default.aspx>, re:Worship: Hospitality Prayer; Monthly Prayers, Christian Aid, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>, re:Worship: Proper 15 A; Nathan Nettleton, "Short Preface," [www.laughingbird.net/LectionTexts/CP10.html](http://www.laughingbird.net/LectionTexts/CP10.html), Acts of Faith, [http://actsoffaith.org/resources/downloads/Year\\_A/09%20Immigration\\_final.pdf](http://actsoffaith.org/resources/downloads/Year_A/09%20Immigration_final.pdf), re:Worship: A Prayer for Neighbors; and © 2000 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net, re:Worship: Benediction: The Lord is One.



**FCC Prayer List**

**For cares and concerns in the world:**

For our country, as we are in the midst of an election season

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:**

Matt Benson, who is having surgery this week

For Church Ramos's sister, who is in hospital

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 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

### **Upcoming Birthdays:**

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 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**

|                        |                                                           |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>August 16, 2026</b> | <b>Sunday Worship Service 10:00am</b> (AC in DeWolf Room) |
| August 18, 2026        | Tuesday Church Council Meeting ( DeWolf Room)             |
| August 20, 2026        | Wednesday, Christian Education Meeting 6:30pm (Zoom)      |
| <b>August 23, 2026</b> | <b>Sunday Worship Service 10:00am</b> (AC in DeWolf Room) |
| <b>August 30, 2026</b> | <b>Sunday Worship Service 10:00am</b> (AC in DeWolf Room) |

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

## 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

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

## From the Crush of Wealth and Power

552

Kendyl L. R. Gibbons, 1992

Luke 10:34; James 5:14-16

1 From the crush of wealth and pow - er some-thing bro - ken in us  
 2 E - ven now our hearts are wa - ry of the friend we need so  
 3 When our love for one an - oth - er makes our bur - dens light to  
 4 Ev - ery time our spir - its lan - guish, ter - ri - fied to draw too

all waits the Spir - it's si - lent hour . . . plead-ing  
 much. When I see the pain you car - ry, shall I,  
 bear, find the sis - ter and the broth - er, hun - gry  
 near, may we know each oth - er's an - guish and, with

with a poi - nant call, bind all my wounds a - gain.  
 with a gen - tle touch, bind all your wounds a - gain?  
 for the feast we share; bind all their wounds a - gain.  
 love that casts out fear, bind all our wounds a - gain.

*This text was commissioned by the Unitarian Universalist Association for the 1993 hymnal Singing the Living Tradition. It was written for Peter Cutts' tune Bridegroom by Kendyl Gibbons, a Unitarian Universalist minister serving churches in Illinois.*

Tune: BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6.

Peter Cutts, 1969

Music Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company

## They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

541

Jan Wesson, 1981; alt.

Luke 10:29-37

Unison

1 They asked, "Who's my neigh - bor and whom should I love; for  
 2 There once was a trav - el - er set on by thieves who  
 3 A cer - tain Sa - mar - i - tan then came a - long to  
 4 I know who's my neigh - bor and whom I should love, for

whom should I do a good deed?" Then Je - sus re - lat - ed a  
 beat him and left him to die; A priest and a Le - vite each  
 bind up his wounds and give aid; He took him to stay at an  
 whom I should do a good deed; For Je - sus made clear in the

sto - ry and said, "It's an - y - one who has a  
 saw him in pain; but they turned a - way and walked  
 inn un - til well, and for all the ser - vice he  
 sto - ry he told, it's an - y - one who has a

need, yes, an - y - one who has a need."  
 by, yes, they turned a - way and walked by.  
 paid, yes, for all the ser - vice he paid.  
 need, yes, an - y - one who has a need.

Ruth Janelle (Jan) Wesson wrote this hymn for the dedication of her church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was encouraged to submit it to a Hymn Society competition. It was published at the society's national conference in 1982.

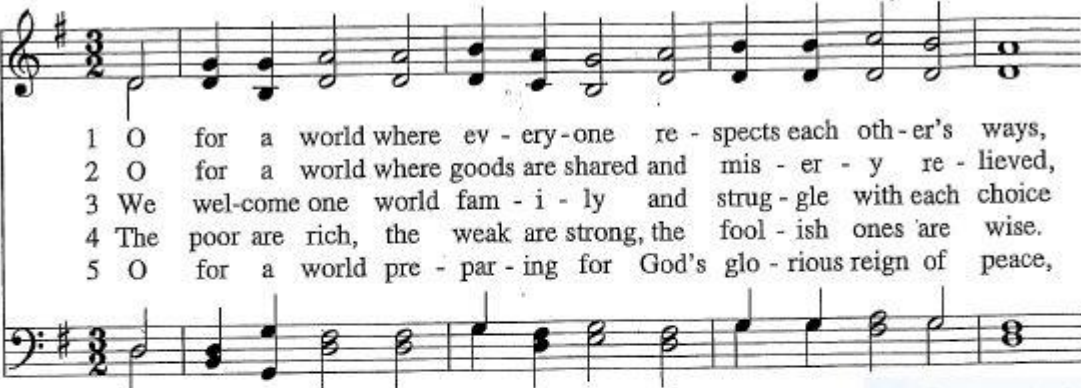
Tune: NEIGHBOR 11.8.11.8.8.  
 Jan Wesson, 1981

# O for a World

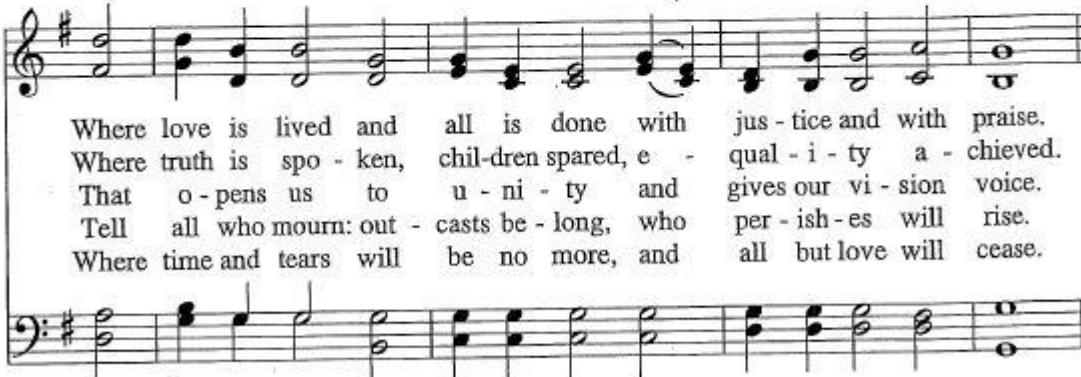
575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.  
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839