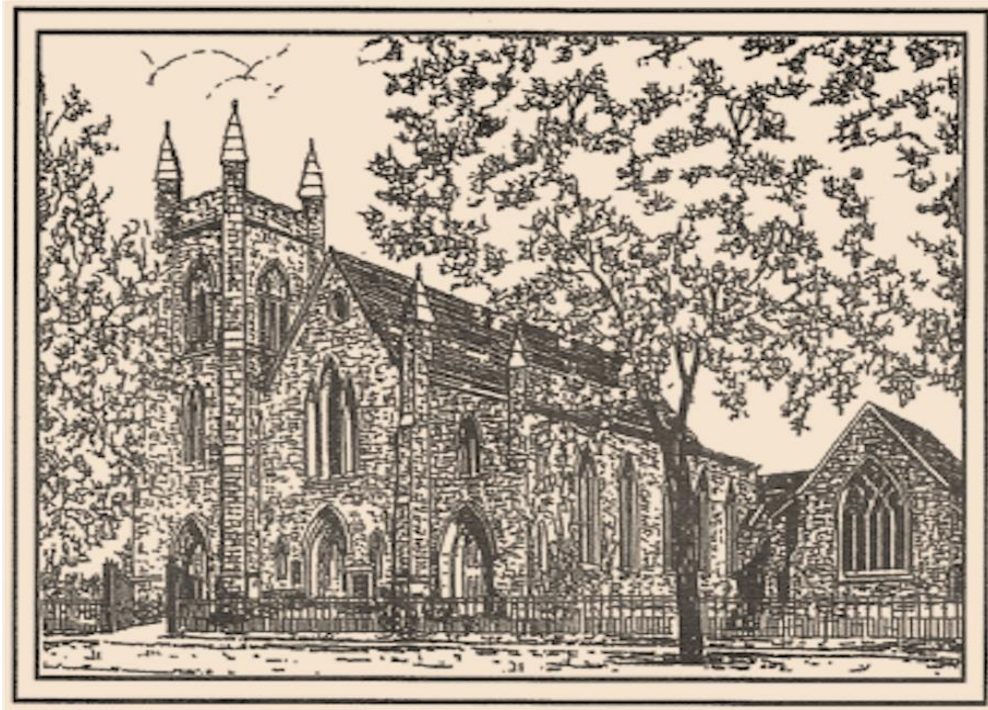


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Welcome and Announcements

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: In the name of the Lord Jesus—bread breaker, the light gatherer, cross carrier—welcome.

Many: **May the peace of the Lord Jesus—the peacemaker, the temple disturber, friend of the sinner, and companion on the road—be with us all.**

One: Let us draw close to the Lord Jesus—the savior, the healer, the teacher—and worship him.

All: **And let us ask ourselves, who do we say he is? Amen.**

***Invocation**

We gather together in the name of our God, the Maker of heaven and earth, who calls us away from the customs and attitudes of the world around us, and who invites us instead into a transforming relationship with the Holy One and with one another. Let's worship God together! Amen.

***Hymn**

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

(in bulletin, from NCH)

The New Testament Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Chuck Ramos

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 Matthew 16:13-20

Chuck Ramos

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of God is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but Abba, my Father, in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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**

"God Our Author and Creator"

(in bulletin, from NCH)

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

Message

"Loose Lips Sink Ships"

Rev. Dr. Nancy 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

All: You are making all things new.

One: A new heaven
A new earth
A new way of thinking
A new way of being.

All: You are making all things new.

One: No more death
No more mourning
No more crying
No more pain.

All: You are making all things new.

One: Renew our minds
to renew the world
by living out your
commandment of love.

All: You are making all things new. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"We Offer Christ"

(in bulletin, from NCH)

*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

Rondo in D

W.A. Mozart

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Chuck 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: Spill the Beans, <http://www.spillbeans.org.uk>; Cheryl Lawrie, <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>; Monthly Prayers page (now Weekly Worship), Christian Aid, <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>; and Literature & Liturgy; <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>.



FCC Prayer List

For cares and concerns in the world:

Our children and youth who are returning to a new school year

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:

Johnson family, undergoing transitions as both Jacob and Sarah return home, and thanksgivings that Jacob has found a full-time job at RWU

Matt Benson, who had surgery this past week

Church Ramos's sister, who is recovering at home after being in hospital

Raye, Lynne and Church Ramos' granddaughter, who is undergoing medical tests

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:

Katherine Harcourt 08/28	Matthew Benson 08/30	
Pam Vagnini 09/01	Gary Butler 09/04	Amy Halt 09/05
Isabella Crouse 9/08	Katie Evans 09/09	Sug Grant 09/10
Caleb Walsh 09/10	Erin Donovan 09/11	Douglas Fisher 09/13
Alexandra Delgado Damiano 09/18		Shannon Evans 09/21
Megan Fisher 09/23	Sandy Patterson 09/25	
Jacob Johnson 09/25	John Vaughan 09/29	

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 23, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
August 30, 2026	Sunday Worship Service 10:00am (AC in DeWolf Room)
Sept. 01, 2026	Tuesday Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm (Guiteras House)
Sept. 02, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Diman Room)
Sept. 06, 2026	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
Sept. 07, 2026	HOLIDAY (Labor Day)

Sept. 08, 2026	Monday Juniper Hill Cemetery Committee meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
Sept. 09, 2026	Tuesday Facility Meeting (DeWolf Room)
Sept. 10, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Diman Room)
Sept. 13, 2026	Sunday Worship: 10:00am RALLY DAY/ Blood Drive (in front of church)
Sept. 14, 2026.	Caregivers' Support Group 6:00pm (DeWolf Room)
Sept. 15, 2026	Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
Sept. 16, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Diman Room)
Sept. 18- 21	Rev Nancy away
Sept. 20, 2026	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
Sept. 23, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Diman Room)
Sept. 25 – 27	SNEUCC Annual Meeting (Worcester)
Sept. 26, 2026	Saturday Bristol Stone Church Coffee House 7:00pm (DeWolf Room)
Sept. 27, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am (DeWolf Room); special livestream service from the SNEUCC Annual Meeting, featuring the Rev. Sen. Raphael Warnock as the preacher
Sept. 30, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Diman 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

Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail office@FCCbristol.org

Pastoral Office Hours: You may also schedule an appointment

by contacting Rev. Nancy at nhsoukup@gmail.com.

“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/>.

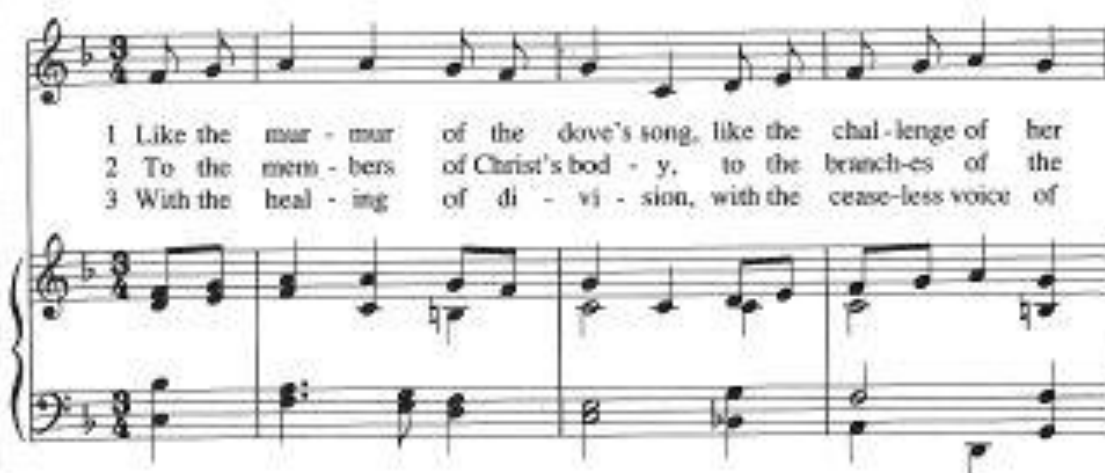


Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

270

Carl P. Dove, Jr., 1982

Isa. 38:14; Rom. 8:26; 12:4-5; John 15:1-5



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst us gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:

Carl P. Dove, Jr., wrote this text for The Hymnal 1982 (Episcopal), and especially for the tone Bridegroom. Born and educated in England, composer Peter Curtis has served as music director for churches in Massachusetts and on the faculty of Andover Newton Theological School.

Tune: BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6.
 Peter Curtis, 1969

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God Our Author and Creator

530

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

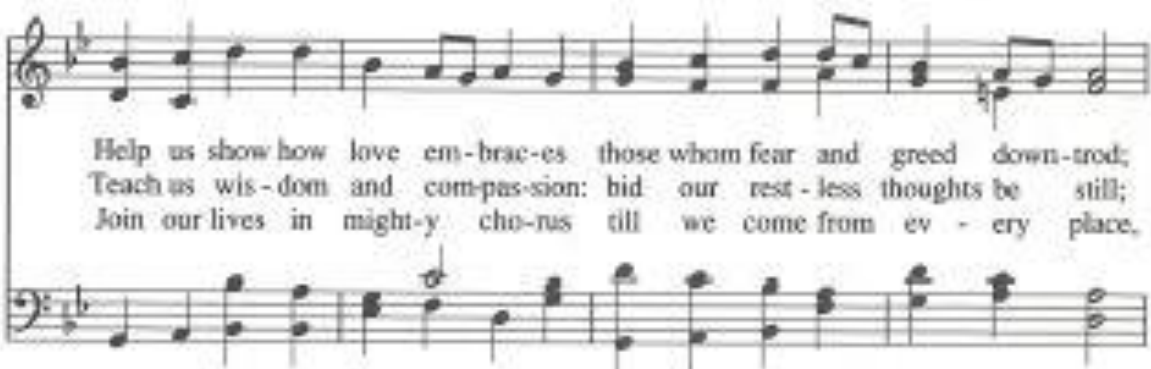
Unison



1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
 2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
 3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,



make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
 when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
 that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."



Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
 Teach us wis-dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest-less thoughts be still;
 Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,



in all yearn-ing hearts and fac-es let us see a child of God.
 by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
 with all those who went be-fore us, to the full-ness of God's grace.

In 1985, a hymn competition was held to commemorate the centennial of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. This winning text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., fulfilled the guideline that the hymn address mission in the context of daily life.

*Tune: JEFFERSON 878 J.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Hymn: John Ferguison, 1975*

We Offer Christ

Brian Wren, 1986

1 We of-fer Christ to all the world a-round us, born in-to faith,
 2 We of-fer Christ from all our best tra-di-tions, by grace a-lone,
 3 We of-fer Christ the bar-ri-er-be-strid-er, whose full-ness far
 4 We of-fer Christ and, God-be-loved, our Sav-ior now of-fers us,

re-leased from pride and shame; Em-braced by love, we show how
 a-mazed and strange-ly warmed, Cre-a-ted e-qual, stirred by
 ex-ceeds our lo-cal view, Whose Spir-it, breath-ing deep in
 born of the Spir-it's kiss, to love cre-a-tion and cre-

love has found us; at peace with God, we speak our Sav-ior's name.
 free-dom-vi-sions, self-crit-i-cal, pre-pared to be re-formed.
 ev-ery cul-ture, brings Christ to us, the same, yet strange-ly new.
 a-tion's Lov-er, with skill, com-pas-sion, jus-tice, care and peace,

"We Offer Christ" was commissioned by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina, for its 150th anniversary. The opening phrase derives from John Wesley's advice to Thomas Coke as he departed for America: "Offer them Christ."

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.30.
 David Evans, 1927



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



Blood Drive

First Congregational Church

Sunday, September 13
8:00am - 12:00pm

Bloodmobile
300 High Street, Bristol



Sign up at ribc.org/drives
and use code RR08461

Prepare to donate



Eat well
and hydrate



Bring a
photo ID



Feel good and
symptom free



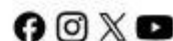
Must be 17+ or
16 with parental
consent form



Meet minimum
weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements
and COVID-19 information, visit
ribc.org/eligibility.

800.283.8385 • ribc.org



BRISTOL'S STONE CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE

2026 –2027 Season

September 26, 2026	Chris & Meredith Thompson	Folk	<u>www.CMThompson.com</u>
October 24, 2026	Brooks Williams	Blues and Americana	<u>www.BrooksWilliams.com</u>
November 14, 2026	Heather Pierson Trio	Folk, Jazz, Blues	<u>www.HeatherPierson.com</u>
December 2026	No Show		
January 23, 2027	Southern Rail	Bluegrass	<u>www.SouthernRail.com</u>
February 27, 2027	Fáilte (Fall-cha)	Irish Music	<u>www.FailteMusic.com</u>
March 27, 2027	Nick Bosse & Northern Root	Country	<u>www.NickBosse.com</u>
April 24, 2027	Mark T Small	American Roots Music	<u>www.MarkTSmall.com</u>
May 8, 2027	Bryan Titus	Folk, Americana, R&B	<u>www.BryanTitus.com</u>

Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House is located at the First Congregational Church (300 High Street in Bristol, RI).

Seating is limited. Early reservations are recommended.

Doors open at 6:45pm. All shows start at 7:30pm.

For ticket information, ticket purchase or to inquire about season tickets, please call 253-4813.

*** Tickets are \$25 for adults; students are half price; children 5 and under are free.**

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