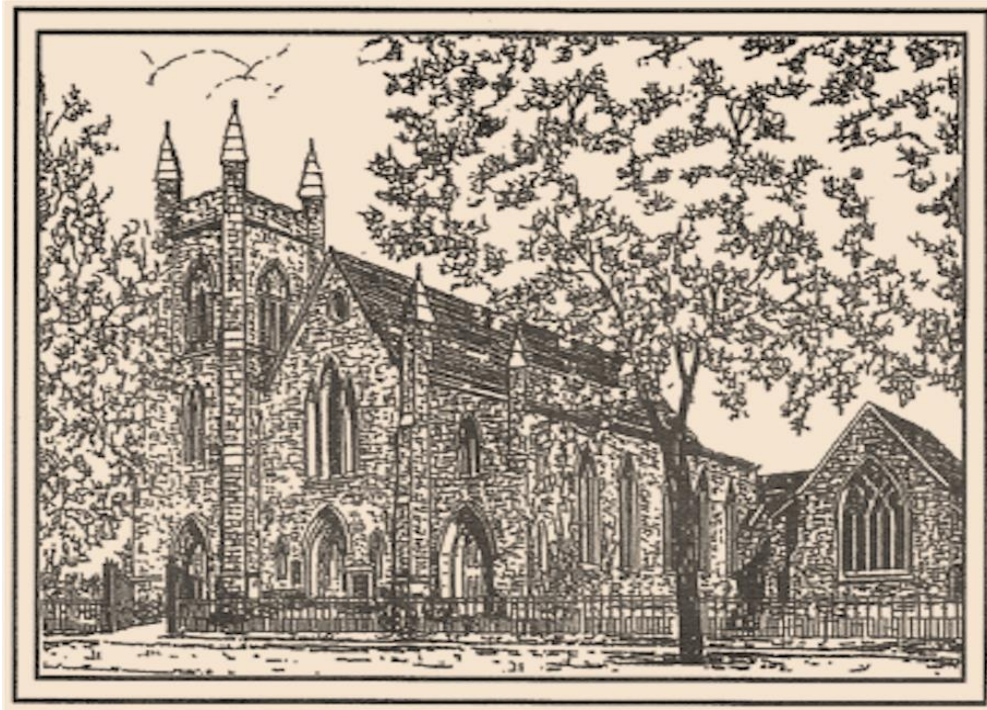


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

HOLY COMMUNION
REMEMBERING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Prelude

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

Arr. J. T.

Welcome and Announcements

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Awake from your sleep for night is gone,

Many: and the dawn of a new day has arrived!

One: Darkness once ruled our lives,

Many: but now the light of Jesus brings our salvation to life. Amen.

***Invocation**

You, O God, illumine our world with the light of a new day—the day of our salvation in Jesus’s name. Bring his presence here as we lay aside the deeds of past sad days and put on the shield of light and truth. It is by the eternal hope of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***A Prayer for Transformation**

God, you are speaking to us! Break through our slumbering. Break through our fatigue. Break our self-centeredness. Break the veil over our minds. Quicken our hearing! Quicken our seeing! Quicken our desires for you. Awaken our zeal for you. Awaken our love for your purposes. Awaken our desires for your world to come here as in heaven. We love you, Lord. Help us carry that into our everyday activities. Awaken to us, our Lord and our God. Amen

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of the Peace**

***Hymn**

“We Love Your Realm, O God” (in back of bulletin, from NCH#312)

The New Testament Reading

Romans 13:8-14

Rei Battcher

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

Rei Battcher

“If your brother and sister sin against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let that one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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**

“Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor” (in back of bulletin, from NCH#590)

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

Message

“Rising from the Rubble—25 Years since 9/11”

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

"Laughing With"

Regina Spector

***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**

God of all races, nations, and religions, you know that we cannot change others, nor can we change the past. But we can change ourselves. We can join you in changing our present and future where you "reign." Help us not to waste time bowing to false gods but to hear the God of all the earth and to do God's good bidding for our common world. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Jesus Is Here, Right Now"

(in back of bulletin, from NCH#348)

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 in 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

Almighty God, bless your beautiful world. Lead her leaders from falsehood into truth and justice. Guard and defend your children. Re-kindle in all the citizens of your world, the fire of your love. And inspire us to love one another and to be peacemakers. Through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

"Dona Nobis Pacem"

(to be sung as a round)

1
Do-na no-bis pa-cem, pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa-cem.

2
Do-na no-bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa-cem.

3
Do-na no-bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa-cem.

Trinity College, London, Rounds & Canons | Dona Nobis Pacem

***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

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

S. Miller, J. Jackson

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

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Rei Battcher ~

~ 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 by or adapted from the following: Cameron Douglas, *The Journal of Worship Resources*, Vol. 18, No. 1, <http://www.deerhaven.com/files/JWRAdvChrEpi10-11.pdf>, re:Worship: Proper 18 A; Rick, *Transformation Michigan*, <http://transformmi.com/archives/1370>, re:Worship: Proper 18 A; © 2002 Nathan Nettleton, *LaughingBird.net*, re:Worship: Words of Assurance: September 4, 2011; re:Worship: Offering Prayer: Romans 13: 8-14; Rabbi John L. Rosove, *A Prayer for the Anniversary of September 11th | Reform Judaism*; Fr. Richard Rohr, *Prayers for 9/11*, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/>, re:Worship: September 11 worship; www.ucc.org, September 11 Worship; re:Worship: Prayer for the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11; Dr. John Sentamu, <http://www.archbishopofyork.org/>, re:Worship: September 11 worship; and Memorial Church, Harvard University, *A Benediction in Remembrance of 9/11 | The Memorial Church*.



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:

Sally Evans, may she experience healing soon
Ron Grant, as he deals with changes in his health during the past year
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
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

For those who have died:

Kenny, a neighbor of Katherine Harcourt's parents, who passed away from complications of lung cancer, and support for his wife, Tracy, is struggling significantly with this loss.

Upcoming Birthdays:

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	

What's on the Church Calendar

Sept. 06, 2026	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
Sept. 07, 2026	HOLIDAY (Labor Day)
Sept. 08, 2026	Tuesday Facility Meeting (DeWolf Room)
Sept. 09, 2026	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Diman Room)

Sept. 10, 2026	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm (Guiteras House)
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/>.

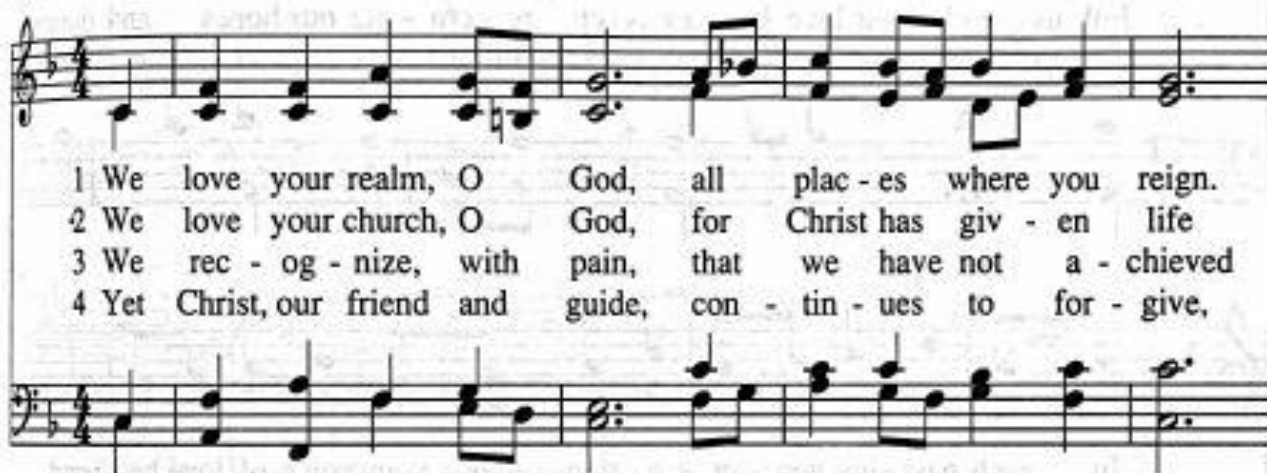


We Love Your Realm, O God

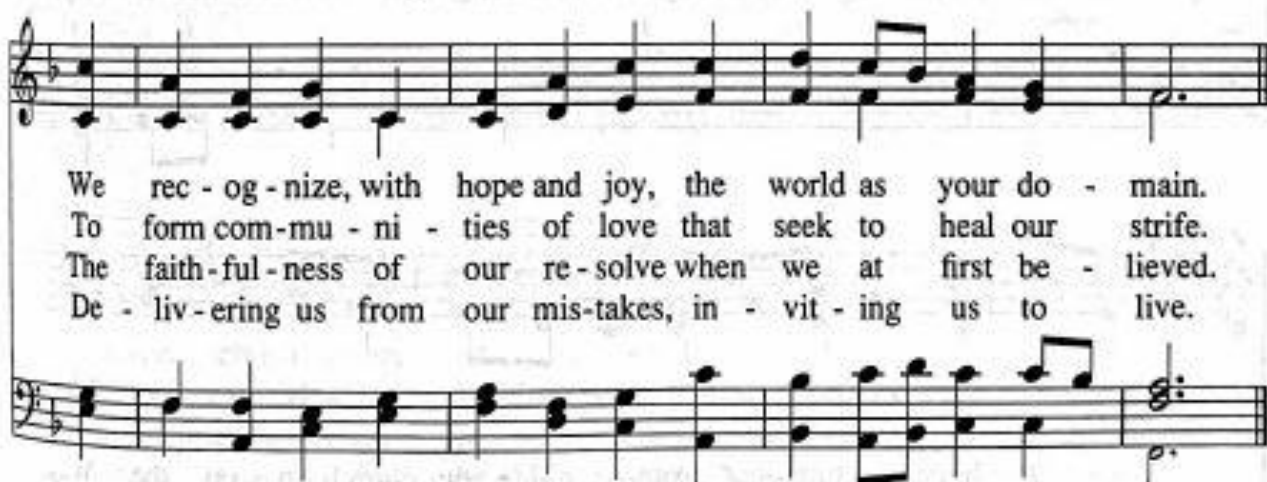
312

Timothy Dwight, 1801
Adapted by Lavon Bayler, 1992

Ps. 26:8



1 We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.
2 We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life
3 We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved
4 Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,



We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.

5 Beyond our brokenness,
we seek to know your ways
Of deep communion, solemn vows,
and hymns of love and praise.

6 We know your truth will last.
We trust your reign is sure.
Equip us for those daily tasks
that help your world endure.

This poem by Lavon Bayler, a United Church of Christ minister,
was inspired by and modeled after the oldest commonly used
American hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom" by Timothy Dwight.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor

590

Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994

Rom. 13:8-14

Unison

D F#m Am7 Em

1 Spir - it of Je - sus, if I love my neigh - bor,
 2 And if, when I have an - swered need with kind - ness,
 3 If I am hug - ging safe - ty or pos - ses - sions,

Gm D G A7

out of my knowl - edge, lei - sure, power or wealth,
 my neigh - bor ris - es, wak - ened from de - spair,
 un - curl my spir - it, as your love pre - vails,

D F#m Am7 GM7 F#7

o - pen my mind to un - der - stand the an - ger of
 o - pen my heart to hear the cry for jus - tice that
 to join my neigh - bors, work for lib - er - a - tion, and

Bm Em/G F#m7 Bm Em7 A7 D

help - less - ness that hates my power to help.
 strug - gles for the chang - es that I fear.
 find . . . my free - dom at the mark of nails.

Brian Wren gave this poem the subtitle "Pilgrimage of Confession" when it was first written, referring in part to the walk made by nine white South Africans in 1972 to draw other whites' attention to the injustice of migrant labor laws.

Words Copyright © 1978, rev. 1994 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: BENJAMIN 11.10.11.10.
 Jonathan McNair, 1994

Jesus Is Here Right Now

348

Leon C. Roberts, 1986; alt.
not fast

Je - sus is here right now. Je - sus is

Somewhat detached throughout

here. With this bread and wine true peace you'll

find; Christ Je - sus is here right now. (right now).

to beginning Last time, end

Composer Leon C. Roberts is perhaps best known for his "Mass of St. Augustine" and other liturgical compositions that appear in *Lead Me, Guide Me: The African-American Catholic Hymnal*. His work is greatly influenced by priest and composer Clarence Joseph Rivers.

Tune: JESUS IS HERE 6.4.5.4.6.
Leon C. Roberts, 1986



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.



LOOKING FOR VENDORS

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

RALLY DAY

**Sunday
September 13, 2026**

Help us welcome back our Sunday School and their families
on Rally Day Sunday, September 13!

We will have an intergenerational service followed
by a fellowship luncheon and Cake for Dessert

Would you or your family members like to participate in the service?

Are you interested in volunteering to help with set-up, or clean-up?

Please reach out to Rev. Nancy Soukup (nhsoukup@gmail.com)

The Christian Education Committee would love to have your help.

We welcome all to participate.



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

This year we have an added element to our Rally Day! The RI BloodBank bus will be parked in front of the church from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

There is a severe blood shortage in our state right now. We hope churchgoing people around us and neighbors will take this opportunity to give the "GIFT OF LIFE" that morning. See the flyer in this Stone Church Weekly about how to sign up with the QR code.



IMPORTANT NOTE: If you think you want to donate blood on Sunday, September 13, the best time to do this would be early before church or immediately after the service. Please let Rev. Nancy know this Sunday, August 23, if you

are signing up to see how this can be arranged with the BloodBank. In the meantime, please sign up using the flyer's QR code.

Rhode Island
Blood Center

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
- 17+ 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 Presents

*An Evening of Folk Music
Featuring*

Chris & Meredith Thompson



Saturday, September 26, 2026

Doors open at 6:45pm

Music starts at 7:30pm

Discover the Excitement

**BRISTOL'S STONE CHURCH
COFFEEHOUSE**

*Celebrating 20 Years of
Live Music*

Tickets are \$25.00 per adult; Students are half price; Children 5 and under are free.

Seating is Limited so Purchase or Reserve your seats early.

Please Call 401-253-4813 for reservations or ticket information.



BRISTOL'S STONE CHURCH COFFEEHOUSE 2026 –2027 Season

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

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.

Team Trivia Nights

(All Dates are Fridays @ 7pm)

October 9, 2026; November 6, 2026;

December 4, 2026; January 8, 2027;

February 12, 2027; March 12, 2027; April 9, 2027

Ask Friends and Family to Join in on the Fun

- *Up to 8 per Team*
- *No Charge*
- *Bring Snacks and a Beverage*
- *Light Refreshments and Snacks will be available*
- *Prizes for the Top Finishers*
- *Call (401) 253-4813 to pre-register your team or send an email to dubordrjd@cox.net*

