

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



January 11th, 2026

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

**“Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth,
in order to be held in a woman's arms.**

- St. Augustine

First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury (FCCS) is a vibrant, inclusive and
compassionate community of worship and mission.

We want our faith to transcend the things that separate us, to be tangible to endure tests of life and time and to be
environmentally responsible, protecting God's creation. Led by the Holy Spirit, we look to Jesus Christ to guide us toward
companionship, justice, and the inspiration to serve God and our community.

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PRELUDE

When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

J. Black arr. M. Hayes

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A voice of power and majesty calls out to us: I am your God; I have called you in righteousness.

Many: We are amazed that God knows us and calls us. By God's spirit we receive life.

One: God takes us by the hand and leads us. In covenant with God, we extend light to the world.

Many: Eyes are opened and prisoners are freed. Justice and peace prevail, by God's strength.

One: Worship with joy and give glory to God's name. Listen for the new thing God declares.

Many: We remember that we have been baptized. May we live as those with whom God is pleased.

***HYMN**

Sweet, Sweet Spirit (NCH 293)

CALL TO CONFESSION

As we remember today the baptism of Jesus, we rejoice that we, too, have been baptized into the family of faith. Our lives have been committed to the way of Jesus. Yet, we have wandered from the way of life.

Confession allows us to turn around and rediscover the paths God intends for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, we confess that our lives have not glorified you. God of justice, we admit our complicity with systems of injustice. God of light, we are aware of the shadows we create that keep others from seeing you. All-inclusive God, we repent of our narrow vision and our tendency to exclude. Purge us of the idols that keep us from full commitment to the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We believe that Jesus is God's son, the one with whom God is well pleased. Through this One on whom God's spirit was poured out, with a brilliant dove descending, we know ourselves to be beloved by our Creator.

Forgiven and called we are sent forth.

ANTHEM

I Can See the River Jordan

J. Althouse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Vivienne Claire Cressman, child of Chelsea and Luke Cressman, sister of Josephine and Isabelle.

Invitation

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Questions of the Parents

Question of the Congregation

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Act of Praise **Tune: BUNESSEN (“Morning Has Broken”)**

**Vivienne we greet you on this glad morning,
Your day of life we now recognize.
Here is the water, we are God's people.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.**

**Vivienne we name you with thanksgiving
Offer our prayers and sing you this song.
We are the church, your spiritual family.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON

Bathed in the Spirit

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Take Me to the Water (NCH 322)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

How can we share the message that justice and peace are God’s intention for all humankind? We combine our individual efforts through the church, joining in programs, projects and outreach that reflect God’s light into the world. Our gifts of gratitude are one way of sharing.

OFFERTORY

On Jordan’s Stormy Banks

M. Durham arr. M. Hayes

***DOXOLOGY**

Tune: Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore: One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, the earth be replenished and those who are bound discover freedom. Amen.

***HYMN**

On River Jordan’s Banks I Stand (NCH 598 vs. 1, 3 & 5)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

V. Labenske

The Senior Minister is Rev. Holly MillerShank

The Acting Associate Minister is Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

The Director of Music is Curtis Smith

The Deacon is Beth Hansen

The Reader is Bernie Trafford

Greeters are Nancy Colby and Elaine Shaw

Altar flowers are provided by Kathi Buzzzell in loving memory of Al and Jean Haynes from their daughters, Kathi Buzzzell and Carol Correia and in celebration of the one year birthday of Beckham Robert Buzzzell.

Liturgy is adapted from Taught by Love: Lavon Bayler

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

--Prayers for Karen Freker; Andrea Pereira on the passing of her dad; the family of Diane & Dave Smith; Stan Holden; Mei Hsu; Sue Russell's brother, Ronnie and his wife, Kathy; Timmy; Brian Scott; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Kevin; Ronniy Reis; Kathy; Bob; Debra Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Stanley; Sharon; Leon Bowman; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi.

-For those within our church family and all faith communities who are dealing with illness, caregiving, grief, mental health crisis, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness in their daily lives.

-Prayers for all those dealing with violence & loss and those recovering from natural disasters throughout our country and the world.

-For the people of Ukraine, Haiti and the Middle East whose lives continue to be shattered by war, as well as the many landscapes that are currently embroiled in conflicts.

-The mission & works of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.

-Blessings to government officials, first responders, health care workers, military personnel, and all who protect and care for us.



THIS WEEK AT FCC

Every day, 7am: AA, Cushing Hall

Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Chapel

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

Every Thursday, 7PM OA (Overeaters Anonymous), Rm 214

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 1/11:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

Coffee Hour: Social Circle "15 Minutes of Fun"

11:00am: Creation Justice Info Session, Adkins

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday, 1/12:

11:00am: Timothy Pedjoe Funeral

7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins

Tuesday, 1/13:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Wednesday, 1/14:

11:30am: Can We Talk?, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 1/15:

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 1/16:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 1/18:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm