



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

spiritual discovery • inclusive community • compassionate service

January 25th, 2026

**Rev. Holly Miller Shank
Senior Minister**

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“Peace starts within each one of us. When we have inner peace, we can be at peace with those around us. When our community is in a state of peace, it can share peace with neighboring communities, and so on. When we feel love and kindness towards others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace.”

-Dalai Lama

PRELUDE

If I Stand By God

J. S. Bach

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Many: **Holy One, Heavenly God, Sovereign and Creator, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

One: Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten one, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Many: **Have mercy on us, you are seated at the right hand of Majesty: receive our prayers this day.**

All: **For you alone are the Messiah, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the triune God. Amen.**

***HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory (Pilgrim 366, vs. 1, 3 & 5)

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Many: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

One: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Many: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. This is the Good News! Amen.

ANTHEM

There Is a Happy Land

T. Osiek

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

SERMON

Called to Community

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Standing at the Future's Threshold (NCH 538, vs. 1-3)

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

The Holy One Says; "Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry? Listen to me and do what I say, and you will enjoy the best food of all. Listen now, my people; and come to me; come to me, and you will have life!"

OFFERTORY

Offertory on "Wareham"

L. Smith

***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**

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. May these offerings be blessed so that God's light may shine before all people. Amen.

***HYMN**

Called as partners in Christ's Service (NCH 495)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

God of Majesty and Hope

B. Miller

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.

The Senior Minister is Rev. Holly MillerShank

The Acting Associate Minister is Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

The Director of Music is Curtis Smith

GIVE HERE:



The Deacon is James Garvin

The Reader is Sam Stewart

Greeters are Delayna and Chris Griffith

Altar flowers are provided by Dave and Diane Smith in loving memory of Stephen T. Smith.

Liturgy is adapted from United Church of Christ Book of Worship

PRAYER REQUESTS

--Prayers for Tom, Bonnie, & Katelyn; Sue Russell and her brother, Ronnie on the passing of his wife, Cathy; Carol Baker; Diane Smith; the family & friends of Officer Stephen LaPorta of Uxbridge; the family of Tom Stone, husband of Sue Stone; Joshua S., Bob Podolski; Stan Holden; Timmy; Brian Scott; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Kevin; Ronniy Reis; Kathy; Bob; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompekk; Stanley; Sharon; 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, 1/25:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: 302nd Annual Meeting, Gifford Hall

Monday, 1/26:

10:00am: Hands for Hope, Parlor

7:00pm: Men's Ministry, MS Lounge

Tuesday, 1/27:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

Wednesday, 1/28:

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 1/29:

10am: Ministry Team Meeting, CE Library

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 1/30:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 2/1:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Soup "er" Sunday, Gifford Hall

11:00am: Family Zone 2026 planning meeting, Youth Room

11:00am: 21+ Biloxi, MS mission trip info session, Chapel

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm