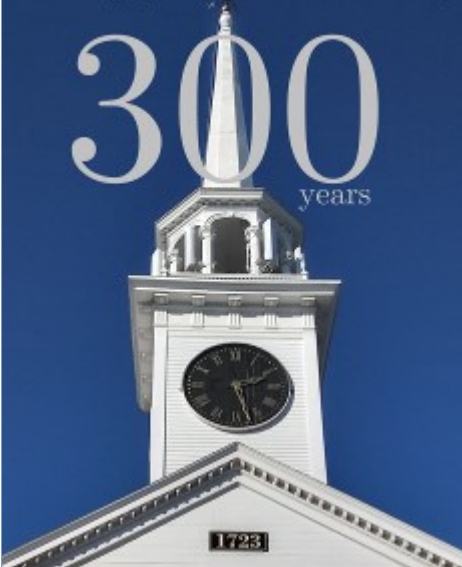


300 years



Church on the Green

A monthly newsletter from

The First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury

An Open and Affirming Congregation

MEETING HOUSE — 1766
View from the South

MEETING HOUSE AT SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
AS BUILT IN 1748
1766

JUNE 2023

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*“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”
Isaiah*

The Pastor’s Corner

What do National Olive Day, National Heimlich Maneuver Day, and National Chocolate Ice Cream Day have in common? They all fall during the month of June. There are lots of special recognition days and holidays each month, some more familiar than others. This June I want to call your awareness to two significant holidays.



First- June is National Pride Month- it is one month out of the year where we celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ community and work towards greater equity. For First Congregational Church, we will be celebrating Pride Month on June 11th as we welcome Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut to celebrate with us our commitment to being an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

We are not alone in lifting up Pride Month celebrations, there are events taking place across the Southern New England Conference. You can find more details about UCC Pride Events in the region by clicking on the 2023 Pride Guide (<https://sneucc.org/newsdetails/2023-pride-guide-17411877>).

The second celebration I wanted to mention is Juneteenth. A fairly recent

addition to the federal holiday schedule, Juneteenth is a celebration of the



emancipation of enslaved African-American people. Although

Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st 1863, freedom was not instantaneous for many captive people. For a great number in the South, freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas. This event is now commemorated in our federal Juneteenth Holiday each year. Here are five ways to explore Juneteenth in Boston, including free entrance to the Museum of Fine Art (<https://boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expos/5-ways-to-celebrate-juneteenth-2023-in-boston>).

These two holidays, while secular in nature, are deeply tied to our Christian faith. We worship a Creator who embraces diversity and calls upon all of us who are followers of Christ to love our neighbor, no exceptions.

(conclusion on page 2)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Helen McLaughlin, Jean Folsom, Rosemary Horesta, Rita, Anna, Norma Garcia's sister, Patricia, Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi, Jan Smith, Ed and Betsy Giles, Donald Gray, Wendy Ziesemann's sister, Tamara, Rebecca and Jennifer MacKenzie, Barbara Harlow, Bonnie Gibbs, Wendy and Tom, Lisa DiPilato, Florence Stowe.

The people of Ukraine, Sudan, and other countries in our world dealing with war & unrest.

The people of Turkey and Syria.

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

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

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

For the end of gun violence, and the families and friends of the victims of the 203 mass shootings since January of this year.

The Pastor's Corner (conclusion)

Our commitment to inclusivity and welcome is part of our weekly Sunday practice, as is our active commitment towards God's vision of justice and righteousness for all people.

Together on the journey.

Pastor Holly

Request for Payment of Capital Campaign Pledges for Organ Rebuild

The following is a summary on where we stand on our financing of the organ rebuild.

Total Cost of Rebuild:	\$433,820
Total Paid as of 5/11/23:	\$233,300
Remainder Due as of 5/11/23:	\$200,520
Pledges Received as of 5/11/23:	\$257,685
Balance of Music Ministry Commitment:	\$21,558
Total Available as of 5/11/23:	\$45,943
Total to be Borrowed from Antenna Fund as of 5/11/23:	\$154,577



Since the Capital Campaign is spread out over 3 years, people who participated in the Capital Campaign have the option of paying their pledges over that period of time. However, based on the current pledge payments, we are \$154,577 short of the \$200,520 that is due between June and the end of August. Unfortunately, we will need to borrow this amount from our Antenna Fund and paying it back as the pledges are received. Based on this, we are humbly asking, if at all possible, if you could submit any outstanding amounts that you have pledged for the organ rebuild as soon as possible to minimize the cost of borrowing from our Antenna Fund. If you have any questions please contact Don Alger at donwalger@gmail.com.

300TH ANNIVERSARY

Join us for tours of

THE SUMNER HOUSE
CHIAMPA FUNERAL HOME
INCLUDING
THE HIDDEN STAIRCASE!



SHREWSBURY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1830 SCHOOL HOUSE
INCLUDING PULPIT, BIBLE STAND,
WOODEN ROSETTE, SUMNER FAMILY
ARTIFACTS AND MORE!

Saturday, June 10, 2023

1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 pm



Refreshments will be provided by
Chiampa Funeral Home.

This event is offered free to members and
friends of FCC and their guests in honor of
our 300th Anniversary! Space is limited and
registration is required. Please sign up at
<https://tinyurl.com/bdhkhu46> or use the QR code.



300TH ANNIVERSARY

First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury Open House & Historic Tours

**1766
Meeting
House**

**1924
Gifford
Hall
Parish
House**



**1955
Chapel
&
Parlor**

**History
Staircase
&
more!**

**Sunday, June 4, 2023
Guided tours 2:00 - 3:30 pm**



First Congregational Church
19 Church Road
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
www.fccsm.org 508-845-7286
Sharing God's Love for 300 Years!

Refreshments will be served.
This event is FREE and open to
the public. All are welcome!
We are an Open and Affirming
Congregation.

300TH ANNIVERSARY



Save the Date!

*Our 300th Anniversary
Gathering & Celebration*

*Saturday,
November 4, 2023
5:30 - 8:30 pm*

Sharing God's Love for 300 Years!

Photo by Jerry Collaghan



Check out the new siding installed on the gable on the north side of the church (before and after).

Thank you to all members of our Building & Grounds Committee for all their hard work!!

OUR CONTINUED SHARING 1723 - 2023 JUNE 2023

During the month of June, we will be collecting bars of **Irish Spring** soap for Community Harvest Project in Grafton, MA. [Community Harvest Project](#) is a non-profit farm that engages and educates volunteers to plant, grow and harvest fresh fruits and vegetables for hunger relief. 'Celebrating 20 years of farming **in** the community **for** our community.' Each year they use between 400 and 500 bars of Irish Spring Soap as a deer repellent.



"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18

***Due to record-keeping and storage issues, please donate allotted items only in assigned month.*



EVENTS



ARTS ON THE GREEN PRESENTS

Chuck & Mud

and the

Hole in the Dam Band

Sun.
Jul 16
6:30 PM

Town
Common
19 Church
Road
Shrewsbury

Bring a chair!

Uhlman's Ice Cream
available for purchase!



A
free
will
offering
will be
greatly
appreciated!



First Congregational Church
19 Church Road
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
www.fccsm.org 508-845-7286
Sharing God's Love for 300 Years!



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Shrewsbury Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

CHRISTIAN ED

With love on
Father's
Day



Love is patient,
love is kind . . .
It always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres.
Love never fails.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY JUNE 4TH

Help us celebrate all the young and the young at heart on June 4th! Children and youth will be participating in many aspects of the church service. They have been rehearsing and are so excited to show you what they have learned in KidZone. All children are invited to participate in what every way they feel comfortable. Come join us!

CHILDREN'S FUN DAY: JUNE 11TH

The last official Day of KidZone will be filled with games and prizes, food and movies. Come play with us!

PICNIC BLANKET BLESSINGS

KidsZone will be ending in June for the Summer. Starting with the outdoor Service on June 18th, we will be offering Picnic Blanket Blessings for children on Sunday Mornings. There will be coloring pages and various activities to help keep children engaged and listening. Experience a different theme each week. Look for the Picnic Blanket on the Common each week (weather permitting).



Thank you to everyone who supported the Youth Group's Mother's Day Cake Pop Mission Trip Fundraiser!

JUNE SCHEDULE

June 4 – Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm
June 11 - Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm
June 18 – Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm

June 25 – July 1 – (Sun-Sat) **Mission Trip to New Rochelle, NY**

July and August – Summer Break...see you in September!

Mission Trip Prayer

Dear Lord, be with our Youth Group and their leaders as they move on an exciting adventure. Calm their fears, ready them for new experiences, bless them on their way, keep them safe in their travels, and give them a servant's heart. We ask these things through Jesus Christ, who came to serve. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY



On May 21st we celebrated Music Sunday! We talked about the courage it takes to be vulnerable and celebrated all of those involved in the music program at FCC. If you would like to learn more about why vulnerability is important, I recommend Brené Brown's TED talks and books on vulnerability.

Here are the lyrics to a modern jazz standard entitled "Here's to Life" written by Arthur Butler and Phyllis Jean Molinary. It was first recorded by Shirley Horn.

*No complaints and no regrets
I still believe in chasing dreams and placing bets
But I have learned that all you give is all you get
So give it all you've got*

It's the last two lines that apply so well to music and to life in general. Learning to make music well is a life-long investment. FCC certainly knows how to invest in music. We're refurbishing the Casavant organ! It's a sign that we know what we can achieve when we work together. We didn't take the cheap and easy way. It's a theme I see repeated throughout FCC. We know that if something is worth doing, it's worth doing right. The new parsonage, the beautifully painted walls in the Sanctuary and Gifford Hall, the new soundproofing between Cushing Hall and the Halliday Music Room, the new roof, new siding and updated office bathrooms are all examples of recent projects that reflect this ethic. I am grateful to FCC for including the music program in its investments in the future.

A good friend of mine was building a deck with his stepdad. When my friend would get a little too meticulous, his stepdad would remind him, "You know, we're not building pianos." Each time I visit the shop of Czelusniak et Dugal in Northampton, I am amazed at the craftsmanship and attention to detail. Rebuilding the Casavant is like building 50 pianos all at once. You can follow along with the progress on our YouTube channel FCCSM MKTG. You can look forward to more videos of the work being done at Casavant Frères in St. Hyacinth, Quebec and the installation process here at the church.

This summer, a group of handbell ringers and myself will be attending the Area 1 Festival Conference for the Handbell Musicians of America. We'll have many great stories to tell as we meet up with friends from all around New England and ring handbells together.

Sincerely,

Curtis



MINISTRIES



Leah Circle hard at work cooking night to replenish the care team freezer! With deep appreciation!!

Please join the Leah circle on June 19th at 6pm (earlier time) for our end of the year potluck dinner. All women of the church are invited. This will be a casual gathering full of conversations and ideas for the year ahead. So bring your favorite dish, beverages will be provided, and meet us in the youth room for an evening of fun. Any questions please call Sue Phyfe 508-842-2414.



Martha Circle's visit and tour of the new Shrewsbury Police station. The tour guide was Chief Kevin Anderson. Missing from the photo but present for the tour was Roberta Jelinch.



Interested in donating flowers to beautify our altar during worship? Please contact the church office at office@fccsm.org or 508-845-7286 to find out how. Dates currently available:

June 18, October 8, September 24, November 19, December 31



MINISTRIES



Mustard Seed Ministry

Half a Century of Service!

The Mustard Seed Ministry's purpose is to help feed nourishing food to the hungry in our community and to offer people the dignity they deserve whether it is in the form of conversation, food, shelter or clothing.

Worcester's Mustard Seed was established in 1972 by two Holy Cross undergrads; Shawn Donovan and Frank Kartheiser. They wanted to put the radical message of the Gospel into practice, so they started a Catholic Worker house. Michael Boover along with others joined this mission which was located on 195 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA and was officially opened to the community on the Feast of Saint Francis, October 4, 1972.

Mustard Seed later relocated to a much larger triple decker house on 93 Piedmont Street, Worcester and opened on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1974.

In the fall of 1982, Helen Hill encouraged our church to be a part of this worthwhile ministry. Approval was given and under her direction we began serving meat-loaf, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, applesauce, homemade desserts and milk on the first Saturday of each month for 100 to 150 people. Helen had been so helpful with their efforts, when she died in 1992, diners and staff at Mustard Seed held a moment of silence in her memory.

In July 1984, a fire destroyed the Mustard Seed house. Undaunted the next day the surrounding communities came together and under tents continued to serve the evening meals. The burnt house scent held no competition with the good faith all around.

During this time The Trim Connection, an exercise group, donated \$1,006 of its proceeds in exchange for the use of the church's hall, our church used this mon-

ey to provide Mustard Seed evening meals.

Mustard Seed's service was temporarily moved to Saint Paul's Cathedral on 38 High Street, Worcester until the house was rebuilt.

Several members have spoken about serving the Mustard Seed meals at Saint Paul's Cathedral.

In 1985, Mustard Seed's more spacious and functional house reopens.

In December 2014, the Mustard Seed House was sold for less than \$100 incorporating it with the state. The aging founder's hope was to get younger people more involved and to ensure Mustard Seed's long-term sustainability.

Donna Domiziano served as a dedicated volunteer for over 30 years running the Mustard Seed House to May 2015. She was devoted to help all who were in need. Many people refer to her as the "Rock" of the Mustard Seed. Donna still stops by to volunteer or visit.

In 2015, Mustard Seed no longer served evening meals on weekends.

Due to this change our church now serves dinner on the first Wednesday of just seven months: January, March, April, May, September, November & December.

In 2020 - present, Mustard Seed continue to serve throughout the pandemic by providing outside takeout meals 2020 -2021. Limited indoor seating or takeout meals are being provided in 2022. Although there was a reduction in the attendance rate by half Mustard Seed still remained a beacon of Hope!

A special thank you to the Congregation for your time and your financial support in this ministry. We are blessed to be able to provide all our meal services to Mustard Seed from 1982 to present.

(see conclusion on page 11)

MINISTRIES

Mustard Seed Ministry (Conclusion)

The diners are very grateful to you for these enjoyable meals and delicious cookies & sweets.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the May 3rd Mustard Seed dinner a wonderful success: Susanna Meyer, Sue Russell, Kathi Buzzell, Deb DelDotto, Joy Goethert, Jamie Sampsonis, Kristin Kilgore & her sister, Roberta Jelinch and Paul Mullins. Please know how very much the people at Mustard Seed appreciate your acts of kindness! Special thanks to Janet Pike for faithfully coordinating our meals & volunteers!!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Outdoor worship will begin on June 18th on the Common. Please bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us for worship, weather-permitting, throughout the summer!



Welcome to our
church
family

For God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only Son. John 3:16 (NIV)

Karen Freker & Wendy Ziesemann

Kristin & Tim Kilgore
(Children: Maddie and Sophie)

Erna Lallier

Jonathan and Holly MillerShank
(Child: Corrina)

Cara Molyneaux



TID BITS

Make your church the safest place in town.

To all our outside groups, committees, and ministries:

Churches are meant to be sanctuaries with open doors and safe spaces where people can enter and meet in peace and harmony.

Church building security is a topic that has become critical in the last ten years as problems such as intruders and property damage have been increasing. With the right protocols and systems in place, a church can better protect its community from unauthorized access, theft or violence.

First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury, is home to both internal committees and community groups such as the Scouts, Twelve Step groups, preschools, and more. The presence of young children has increased the need for safety.

Our church has implemented a variety of safety measures including key cards, which allow doors to the main exterior doors to remain locked.

Unfortunately, we have noticed that there are a variety of doors and windows that have been left open and/or unlocked, creating safety hazards for all.

We would appreciate if everyone using the building could follow these simple guidelines:

1. Enter through the main entrance only, using the key card.
2. Do not prop the entrance doors open or the door by the kitchen (unless carrying items in the building for limited amounts of time while an individual remains at the door).
3. Please be attentive to all posted signs regarding building use.
4. Open only essential windows and doors while in immediate use, close and lock promptly after use.
5. Exit the building through the main door, making sure all the doors and windows are locked and all lights are turned off.

A complete set of building use guidelines is available by contacting the office at office@fccsm.org.

We appreciate your help keeping our church and people safe.

In Christ,

Sabina Terrades
Property Manager



Congratulations to our graduates!!

James and Hannah Kane's daughter, Madison, graduated from Loyola University with a major in

Biology, with a business minor. Madison will be applying to Graduate School.

Sue and Dave Russell, grandson, Harrison Puntillo will be graduating from Shrewsbury High School.

He will attend Assumption University in the fall, majoring in Cybersecurity.

James and Christine Garvin's son, Noah, will be graduating from High School.

Our Financial Administrator, Lauren's son, Drew Morse, will be graduating from the Hopkinton High School and will be going to the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Economics, in the fall.

Also, congratulations to Susan and Ian Gregory's son, Jack, will be graduating from High School and will be attending UMass Amherst in the fall. He is this year's recipient of the Avis/Olson scholarship!

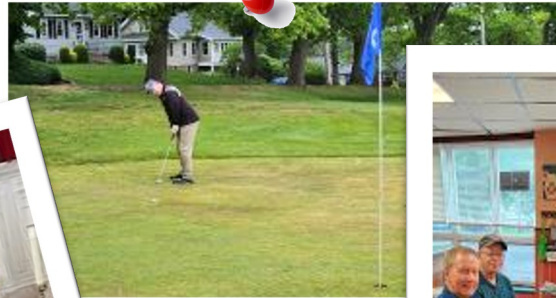
PAST EVENTS

New Member Sunday!



*Artemas Ward
Presentation*

FCC Golf League!



PAST EVENTS

KidZone! Let's say the Lord's Prayer!



*General Artermas Ward
Museum Tour*



PAST EVENTS

Music Sunday!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

19 Church Road
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-845-7286
www.fccsm.org



FCCShrewsbury



Church on The Green Newsletter June 2023 Issue



Our mission:

The purpose of this Church is to come together as Christians to serve God by studying and listening to the Word, and living by Christ's teachings. We are committed to reaching our through prayers, caring, sharing, serving and fellowship.

Senior Minister: Rev. Holly MillerShank
pastor@fccsm.org

Director of Music: Curtis Smith
musicdirector@fccsm.org

Financial Administrator: Lauren Morse
finance@fccsm.org

Christian Education Director: April Mullins
cedirector@fccsm.org

Church Administrator and Property Manager: Sabina Terrades
office@fccsm.org

Sexton: Benjamin Weiss
ben@fccsm.org

Nursery Care Provider: Katie Salsgiver

Please join us on Sunday
mornings at
9:30am

