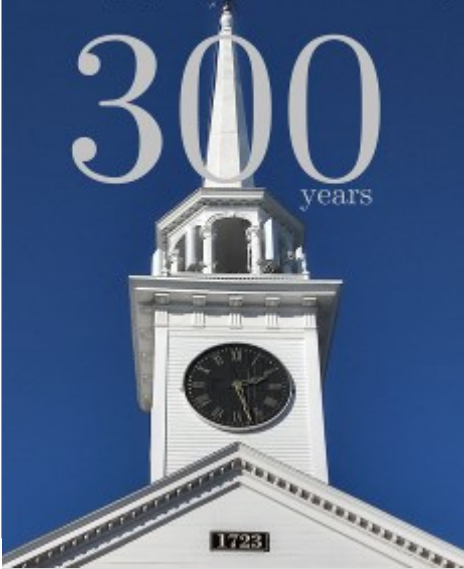


300 years



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*

# Church on the Green

A monthly newsletter from

## The First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
View from the South

### The Pastor's Corner

**Do you feel it? I do. The Spirit is on the move.**

In the course of my ministerial duties I find myself reflecting on and attempting to capture in words the essence that is so palpable at First Congregational Church. It is clearly God at work. But it's also us at work, me and you.

In broad strokes I think we have three core values that are undergirding and shaping our common life:

First there is a clear spiritual yearning, some may say spiritual intelligence or a drive for **spiritual discovery**, which is propelling our worship attendance, children's programming and overall energy. There is an undeniable sense of the Holy One that weaves throughout our church services, is mingling with us in coffee hour, and is beating in our hearts in the wee hours of the night. We long for a deeper, more informed, connection with our creator. Together we're unafraid to ask hard questions, to pray for each other, and to seek Jesus' presence in the world. This is foundational to who we are as a people of God.

Second, in our time together we have increasingly lived into our commitment to be an **inclusive community**. This value embraces and yet extends beyond our Open and Affirming statement. Together we are creating an atmosphere of welcome and inclusion not only for the activities of the church but for the church property itself. Do you know that we host daily AA meetings, 10 scout troops (boys, girls, and co-ed), that we're home to a driving school, robotics club, Tamil Cultural program, Aprende Spanish Immersion Daycare, Weight Watchers, Worcester Youth Orchestra, singers, quilters, UCC Central Association committees and so much more. Our building, as an extension of our ministry, says 'no matter who you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.'

Finally we, together, have a hallmark of **compassionate service**. Our faith compels us into action- caring not only for one another but for God's children across the region and throughout the world. There are small acts of kindness that take place every day in our congregation and bigger more organized efforts through our mission and outreach ministry. From collecting fruit for veterans to planting trees or helping at Community Harvest, through giving in UCC offerings or to cooking meals for Mustard Seed there are innumerable ways in which our faith is made manifest in our actions.

**As a whole, what we are doing, who we are becoming, what God has in store- in us and through us- makes a difference. BECAUSE OF YOU OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES.**

The ministry we undertake as a congregation, the transformational work of FCC, takes place because of YOU. When YOU come to worship- ministry happens, when YOU greet someone with a smile- ministry happens, when YOU give back through volunteer work- ministry happens- BECAUSE OF YOU OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES.



## The Pastor's Corner

This October each of us is invited to support the mission and ministry of FCC through our financial giving, your pledges and offering make a difference, each and every one of them. You are invited to prayerfully consider your pledge amount for 2024- which will be celebrated in worship on Stewardship Sunday October 22nd. If you happen to be someone who gives but does not pledge, your contributions are equally essential, and celebrated. [Click here for online pledge forms or to make a contribution](#). Together, we can and are making a difference.

In God's Love,

Pastor Holly

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### Here's a glimpse of worship highlights coming up in October:

- October 1st- World Communion Sunday
- October 8th- Baptism
- October 15th – New Member Sunday
- October 22nd- Stewardship Sunday
- October 29th- All Saints Sunday & Reformation Sunday



# PRAYER REQUESTS

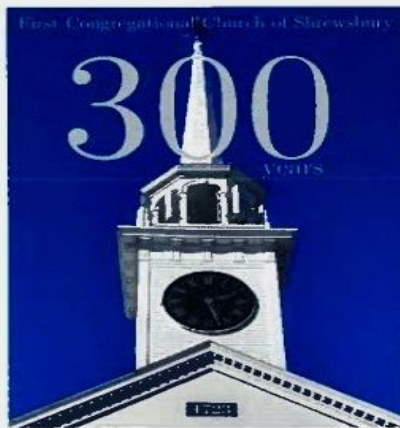
- ◆ Prayers for Elaine, Jennifer, and Valerie Shaw and their families, on the passing of Elaine's husband, Jim, and their Dad, families of Jon Scott and Kris Couture, for the families of Bev Fletcher's niece & family, Marie Murphy's brother John, and the Murphy family, the Lallier & Tentor families, for the Marston family on the death of Ed Marston, Paul & April Mullins on the passing of Paul's mother Rita, Tracey and Ross, Brenda Cofske, Julie Ann, Julia Dobner-Pereira, Jean Folsom, Rosemary Horesta, Anna, Norma Garcia's sister, Patricia, Roberta Jelinch's sisters, Sandi & Dawn, 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, and Florence Stowe.
- ◆ The people of Morocco and Libya for the major traumas experienced through earthquake and flooding
- ◆ The mission & works of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.
- ◆ For those impacted by the flooding in Leominster
- ◆ Those within our church family & all faith communities who are dealing with illness, caregiving, grief, mental health, unemployment, hunger, & homelessness in their daily lives
- ◆ Members of First Congregational Church in Spencer
- ◆ The people of Ukraine, Sudan, and other countries in our world dealing with war & unrest.
- ◆ The people of Turkey and Syria.
- ◆ Blessings to all the Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials and K9 teams for their dedication, as well as to the residents of Chester County, PA, who can finally breathe and sleep at night, knowing the escaped prisoner has been apprehended
- ◆ Blessings to the 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 more than 500 mass shootings since January of this year.



# 300TH ANNIVERSARY

**RSVP BEFORE OCTOBER 13TH**

Please join us for the  
300th Anniversary Celebration  
First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury



SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 4, 2023

*five thirty in the afternoon*  
First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury

19 Church Road  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

*Dinner with Concert to follow.*

*RSVP*

BEFORE 13 October 2023  
\$50PP Payable in advance by  
check or online.

Email: [finance@fccsm.org](mailto:finance@fccsm.org)

Remit to: 19 Church Road  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

CAN'T WAIT!

CAN'T MAKE IT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chicken Piccata

\_\_\_\_\_  
Baked Salmon

[Click HERE for  
On-line Payments](#)

All reservations must be  
made by  
emailing Lauren Morse,  
Financial Administrator,  
at [finance@fccsm.org](mailto:finance@fccsm.org)

Please indicate name,  
number of tickets,  
method of payment and  
meal selections.  
Payments can be made  
via personal check or  
online by selecting the  
option "Banquet".



# EVENTS

## Spooktacular

October 21, 2023 6pm

Wear your Halloween costume and enjoy an evening of music and stories for all ages

**First Congregational Church**

**19 Church Rd. Shrewsbury, MA**

[fccsm.org](http://fccsm.org)

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## October Kid's Zone Workshops Focus: **The Ten Commandments**

### **October 8th: (Indigenous People's Long Weekend)**

Group Activity including a movie, crafts and snacks

### **October 15th:**

Kid's Zone will be learning 10 Commandment through songs

### **October 22nd:**

Kid's Zone will re-write the 10 commandments in their own words and create a banner

### **October 29th:**

Kid's Zone will play games and learn 10 commandments with hand signs



Memory verse



### **Volunteers needed**

for all grade levels.

Teachers as well as Helpers

Please see the Christian Education Table in Gifford Hall after the church service to sign up!



All 9-12 grades ~ Youth are welcome!  
Bring a friend!

### **October**

Oct 1 – Apple Picking, meet at church @ 2:00pm \*Cost \$10 (plus any additional money for food)

Oct 8 – No YG meeting, Indigenous People's Day Weekend

Oct 15 – Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm, Apple pie baking

Oct 21-22 (Sat-Sun) - Youth Group Meeting at 4:30 (MS/HS), Pumpkin Carving, Spooktacular (6PM), Haunted Hayride & Lock-in (overnight)

Oct 22 – No YG due to Saturday overnight activity

Oct 29 – Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm



# MUSIC MINISTRY



## 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
<b>Total to be Borrowed from Antenna Fund as of 5/11/23:</b>	<b>\$154,577</b>

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](mailto:donwalger@gmail.com).



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## *Message from the Director of Music* from the Music Ministry

The Music Ministry has enjoyed being a part of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FCC. A special thanks to the 300<sup>th</sup> committee for organizing Uhlman's ice cream at the Arts on the Green event on July 16<sup>th</sup>, featuring Chuck and Mud and the Hole in the Dam Band. The event was moved indoors due to inclement weather. Thank you to the amazing volunteers who braved the rain, took orders and served ice cream to the audience in Gifford Hall. It made for a lovely evening, despite the rain.

Join us for the **Spooktacular** on **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm** in the Sanctuary. This year, we will take flight and feature music about birds and other winged creatures.

We're looking forward to celebrating together at the **300<sup>th</sup> Gala on November 4<sup>th</sup>**. The after-dinner concert will feature the keyboard musicians at FCC: Malcolm Halliday, Andrew Lefferts, Isabelle Zhao, Anna Marie Smith and myself. The music will feature composers of the last 300 years, including a few local to New England.



The final **Arts on the Green** event for 2023 will be **Caroling on the Common on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm**. Enjoy hot chocolate and the Worcester Brass Consort as we sing together at this annual event.

**Save the Date:** Next year, on **January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 4pm**, we will welcome baritone **Ron Williams** and pianist **Olga Rogach** for an afternoon of **African-American Spirituals** entitled **“Crossing over into Campground.”** The works they will be performing beautifully capture the significance and emotional resonance of the spirituals in the context of the enslaved African American experience. Snow date will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely, Curtis



# WIDER CHURCH

OUR CONTINUED SHARING

OCTOBER, 2023

PAIRS OF COTTON SOCKS



FOR

## WORCESTER FELLOWSHIP

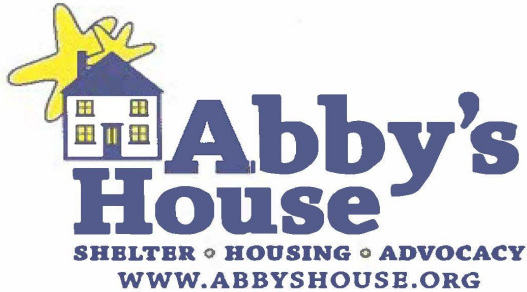
Worcester Fellowship is a church for all people. It is an outdoor Church in Worcester which reaches out to the homeless and at-risk adults. Besides Sunday Services, Thursday Cafe provides a place where all feel welcome and where the dignity and welfare of all guests are affirmed. Along with providing spiritual companionship, the Cafe provides a hot meal, sandwiches, new socks, new underwear, and toiletry items for their guests.

“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.”

Proverbs 18:16

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

# WIDER CHURCH



## 14TH ANNUAL 5K

### Hybrid Run/Walk & Online Auction

October 7th - 14th, 2023

#### IN-PERSON RACE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH AT 9:00 A.M.**

West Boylston Middle/High School  
125 Crescent Street,  
West Boylston, MA

#### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

##### 1. Run or Walk

Join us at the in-person walk/run on Saturday, October 14th at 9:00 a.m.

##### 2. Form a Team with Family & Friends

Everything is more fun when you do it with the people you care about. Create a team to support the women and children of Abby's House !

##### 3. Fundraise

Create a fundraising page on Racewire and invite your networks to support you! All proceeds raised benefit the Abby's House shelter, housing and women's services programs.

##### 4. Participate Virtually-October 7th - 14th

Not available to join us on Saturday, October 14th, or not local to Massachusetts? No problem. Join in on the fun and walk/run in the Abby's House 5k virtually.

##### 5. Bid in the Online Auction

Bid it to win it in our online auction! Visit [www.32auctions.com/5k2023](http://www.32auctions.com/5k2023) Saturday, October 7th at 9:00 a.m. - Saturday, October 14th at 8:00 p.m.

For more information or for sponsorship opportunities, contact Kelly Whalen, Senior Director of Development and Communications at 508-756-5486 x214 or at [kelly@abbyshouse.org](mailto:kelly@abbyshouse.org)

#### HYBRID RACE FEES & INFORMATION

Registration (before October 1st)

ADULT (age 15+): \$30

CHILD (ages 5-14): \$25

Late Registration (after October 1st)

ADULT (age 15+): \$35

CHILD (ages 5-14): \$30

REGISTER AT:

**[abbyshouse.racewire.com](http://abbyshouse.racewire.com)**

or scan the QR code below



SCAN ME



# MINISTRIES

## To the Church Community:

We would like to thank everyone from our Church Family who sent cards, thoughts, prayers and flowers to us during Rita's stay at the Rose Monahan Hospice Home and after her recent passing. It was truly amazing and we felt so loved and supported. Rita was a faithful person and receiving the notes and flowers from our church eased the days for her.

Love and Blessings,

~ The Mullins Family~  
Paul, April, Connor,  
Janey and Seth





# COMMUNITY NEWS



## The Shrewsbury Garden Club Presents Scarecrows on the Common

**September 18 - October 20**

For the nineteenth year the Shrewsbury Garden Club is sponsoring its annual Scarecrows on the Common Display.

Individuals, groups, businesses and clubs are encouraged to display their scarecrows for all to enjoy. There will be no judging but all registered entries will receive special recognition.

### **How to enter:**

1. Create your scarecrow(s) at home.
2. Bring them to the Town Common the week of September 18th
3. Choose a spot to display your scarecrow.
4. You are responsible for installation. No poles will be provided.
5. Name of club, group, business or individual(s) must appear on the scarecrow.
6. Your entry will remain outdoors for an extended period of time, no perishable goods such as pumpkins, gourds, squash, apples, tomatoes, etc. will be permitted. No electricity is provided but solar, battery or wind power is allowed.
7. Scarecrows MAY NOT be attached to the bandstand, memorial, newly planted trees or lamp posts.
8. Scarecrows MUST remain on the Common through October 20th and then REMOVED. Any scarecrows remaining after October 22nd will be discarded at owners expense.

The Shrewsbury Garden Club has the right to refuse any entry they feel unacceptable or inappropriate and are not responsible for loss or damage to scarecrows while on display.

After installation, please call the number below or e-mail [Hymedomain@yahoo.com](mailto:Hymedomain@yahoo.com) to register your contact information – name, phone number, e-mail

**For more information call 508-845-2630 or visit [www.ShrewsburyGardenClub.org](http://www.ShrewsburyGardenClub.org)  
Start planning your scarecrow now and let's make this the biggest display yet!**

# SUNDAY WORSHIP



## **All Saint's Day service is on October 29**

If there is a loved one who has passed away in the past year that you would like lifted up in worship please send their name to the church office ([office@fccsm.org](mailto:office@fccsm.org)) no later than October 22nd.

Thanks.

~ Pastor Holly ~

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**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](mailto:office@fccsm.org).

We appreciate your help keeping our church and people safe.



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FCCShrewsbury



## Church on The Green Newsletter October 2023 Issue



Please join us  
on Sunday  
mornings at  
**9:30am**



### **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

**Building Superintendent:** Daniel McCarthy  
building@fccsm.org

**Administrative Assistant:** Colleen King  
office@fccsm.org

**Sexton:** Benjamin Weiss  
ben@fccsm.org

**Nursery Care Provider:** Katie Salsgiver