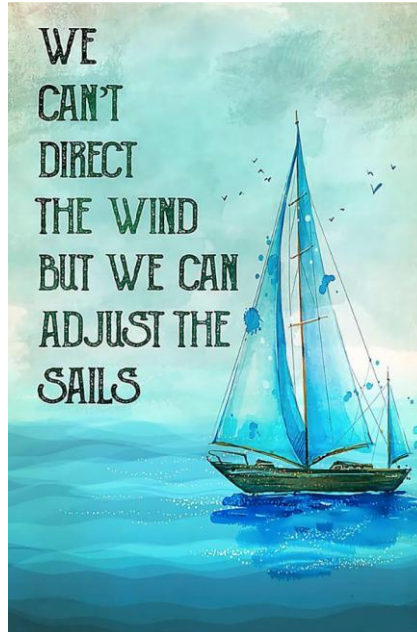


# First Congregational Church

*Gathered in 1723*

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An Open and Affirming & Creation Justice Church of the United Church of Christ



**October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Rev. Dr. Sarah Drummond**

**Guest Minister**

***Deacon's Quote of the Day***

***"Acts of kindness are the prayers we offer with our hands."***

***— Native American Wisdom***

**PRELUDE**

**Are Ye Able**

H. Mason arr. L. Pugh

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

Lyn Wasilewski

**PASTORAL GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come away from the storms of misplaced loyalty. Come, seeking to meet the God of all creation.

**Many: We have come to praise God and give thanks. We believe God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: We come together that our faith might be strengthened.

We seek the fortitude to live by all we profess.

**Many: God's awesome deeds have saved many who have blown off course.**

**Surely God's steadfast love will lead us to safe harbors.**

One: God continues to deliver us in times of distress.

When the wind blows, we are called to listen for God's voice.

**Many: We rejoice that God is near and available to us.**

**We hear God welcoming us to this time of prayer.**

**\*HYMN**

**Not My Brother, nor My Sister (NCH 519)**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

God is not fooled by our pious words of faith. God knows how easily we are distracted by pastimes and possessions. Too often we focus our attention on reliving the past than boldly leading into God's future. God invites us to reconsider our priorities.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of all mercy, you have planted within us a desire to observe justice and do righteousness. We want to be fair and honorable. Delighting in life shared openly and honestly with others. Instead, we are often defensive, fearful and distracted. Save us from our disbelief, help us set our sails in your direction. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Rejoice, knowing that God is always near. Our prayers are heard. The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ. Find joyous focus for life in all that is honorable, just, pure and excellent. Live with confidence in the Lord.

**ANTHEM**

**What If I Could Tell You**

H. Sorenson

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Exodus 32:1-14**

**MESSAGE**

Stiff-Necked People

Rev. Dr. Sarah Drummond, Founding Dean, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity

**\*HYMN**

**Take My Life and Let It Be (Pilgrim 404)**

**WORDS OF APPRECIATION**

## 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

God invites us to invest our time and resources in ways that build rather than destroy; in works of lasting value rather than temporary distractions. Through the church, we seek to offer a quality of life focused on the worth of every individual, on justice for all and excellence in all things. May our offerings and our lives praise God.

## OFFERTORY

**Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs**

J. Crüger arr. J. Prentiss

## CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

*Recycled Halloween*

*Host a recycled Halloween party. Challenge your kids or adult guests to create a costume solely out of recycled items. Costumes can be eco-themed too (animals, bugs, recycle-monsters, native plant species, eco-heroes)!*

## \*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

**May our offering help prepare many to engage in the work of Christ in the world, through study, action and prayer. We offer these gifts that they may be multiplied through the wider church. Amen.**

## \*HYMN

**Nun danket alle Gott** (NCH 419, vs. 1-3 in English, v. 1 in German)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**Postlude on 'Kingsfold'**

D. Paxton

Our Guest Preacher today is Rev. Dr. Sarah Drummond. Sarah Drummond is the Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. She graduated from Yale College with a major in Ethics, Politics, and Economics; Harvard Divinity School with a Master of Divinity; and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with a PhD in Urban Education, specializing in administrative leadership. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and the author of six books, with a seventh on the way! We celebrate First Congregational Church's long and multi-faceted relationship with Andover Newton Seminary.

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*

*The Deacon is Beth Hansen*

*The Reader is Bill Garcia*

*Greeters are Linda and Bruce Wagner*

*Altar flowers are provided by Rick and Lucinda Hepp in loving memory of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Kearns and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Hepp.*

*Liturgy is adapted from Taught by Love, Lavon Bayler*

**GIVE HERE:**



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers Steve, Josh, Ben and all who loved Cathy Phillips; for Sean Allen; Marion Marston; Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest; Bretton; Dan; Cindy and Sarah; Bob Podolski; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; James Kelly; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Stanley; Sharon; Tracey Carner, 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 as well as 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 Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

Every Monday, 7pm: AA,

Rm 213 (week 3) & Youth Room (weeks 1, 2, 4)

Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Youth Room & Rm 214

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

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### Sunday, 10/11:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

### Monday, 10/12:

**OFFICE CLOSED:** *Columbus Day*

7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins

### Tuesday, 10/13:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

### Wednesday, 10/14:

11:30am: Can We Talk?, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

7:15pm: Bible Study, Chapel

### Thursday, 10/15:

9:30am: CoAM, Adkins

10:00am: Staff Meeting, CE Library

12:00pm: Personnel Meeting, 214

5:00pm: Cathy Phillips Calling Hours, Parlor & Gifford Hall

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

### Friday, 10/16:

11:00am: Cathy Phillips Funeral, Sanctuary

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

### Saturday, 10/17:

6:00pm: Spooktacular, Sanctuary & Gifford

### Sunday, 10/18:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Haunted Hillando

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm