First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



November 8th, 2026

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

Acting Associate Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

~ Mother Teresa

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PRELUDE **Variations on St. Anne** W. Croft arr. L. Smith

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord is coming. Whom will you serve?

Many: As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.

One: What has God done for you?

Many: Wondrous works. Unforgettable deeds.

Strengths in the wilderness; paths of liberation.

One: Say more.

Many: We'll never stop telling our story.

The next generation will hear it. Children not yet born will know it.

One: Hope in God, whose story will never end.

Many: Forever we will praise our faithful helper and deliverer!

***HYMN** **O God, Our Help in Ages Past** (NCH 25, vs. 1-4)

TRAINING CHOIR/YOUTH SINGERS **I Will Walk with Jesus** S. Schank arr. J. Shaw

Madeline Lallier & J. J. Shepherd, soloists

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our God is a God of glorious deeds and of wondrous works. Our hope is in God. But we do not always keep God's commandments. Together let us confess our sins before our merciful and mighty God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God, we say we want to see you, we say we want to know you, we say we want to serve you, but we do not always want to put in the work. We do not want to prepare for your coming by working for your kin-dom on this earth. We do not keep alert for signs of you among us, so we fit you in for an hour or so on Sundays. Forgive us. Inspire us to put our faith into action. Surprise and delight us with your presence so we might learn to always be ready for your arrival. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

All who seek God will rejoice and be glad. We proclaim that God is great because of this good news: by God's grace we are forgiven and offered new life. Be at peace.

ANTHEM **Send Me** S. Edwards arr. D. Blomberg

Anthem dedicated by Jennifer Shaw to the many hands at First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury that, in ways big and small, are answering the call to service, here and beyond our church walls.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:1-13

MESSAGE *Keeping the Lamps Trimmed and Burning* Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

***HYMN** **Steal Away** (NCH 599)

The The African American Spirituals project at FCC donates a portion of the music operations budget to the Black Excellence Academy in Worcester. It is our unofficial way of paying royalties on the African American Spirituals that we sing together.

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 will our neighbors be prepared for a crisis? Who will teach them where to find oil for their lamps? Who will help them to find spiritual resources of more value than material possessions? Our church is a resource, and our ministry is for the whole world. With glad and generous hearts may we bring our gifts.

OFFERTORY **Blessed Assurance** J. Knapp arr. R. Hughes

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT *Food Pantry*

Volunteer at your local food pantry! Especially during the holiday season, your help is appreciated. Help fight hunger while reducing food waste!

***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 set our hope in you, God of all ages and seek to serve you through these offerings. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.

***HYMN** **Blessed Assurance** (NCH 473)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **Eternal Father, Strong to Save** J. Dykes arr. L. Smith

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 Mary Innis
The Reader is Bernie Trafford
Greeters are Lyn and Al Wasilewski and their granddaughter Gigi Kibbe
Altar flowers are provided by Linda Holden with gratitude and thanksgiving.
Liturgy adapted from calltoworshipjournal.org and Taught by Love, Worship Resources for Year A, Lavon Bayler.

GIVE HERE:

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for Randy; Pastor Karen's brother, Ken; Henry; the Peck family on the passing of Ian's father, Ralph; the Erban and Phillips families; Sean Allen; 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; 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, all military serving in the Middle East and around the world, 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, 11/8:
9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
10:30am: Meeting w/ UCC Endorsement Office (Zoom), Adkins
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

Monday, 11/9:
11:00am: Grief Group, Chapel
7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins

Tuesday, 11/10:
12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins
7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Wednesday, 11/11:
OFFICE CLOSED: *Veteran's Day*
11:30pm: Can We Talk?, Adkins
6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary
7:15pm: Bible Study, Chapel

Thursday, 11/12:
8:00am: M&O Thursday Café, Kitchen
10:00am: Personnel Meeting, 214
7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 11/13:
4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 11/15:
9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
11:00am: Breakfast Bag Lunch, Chapel
11:00am: Pastoral Relations Meeting, Adkins
5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm