

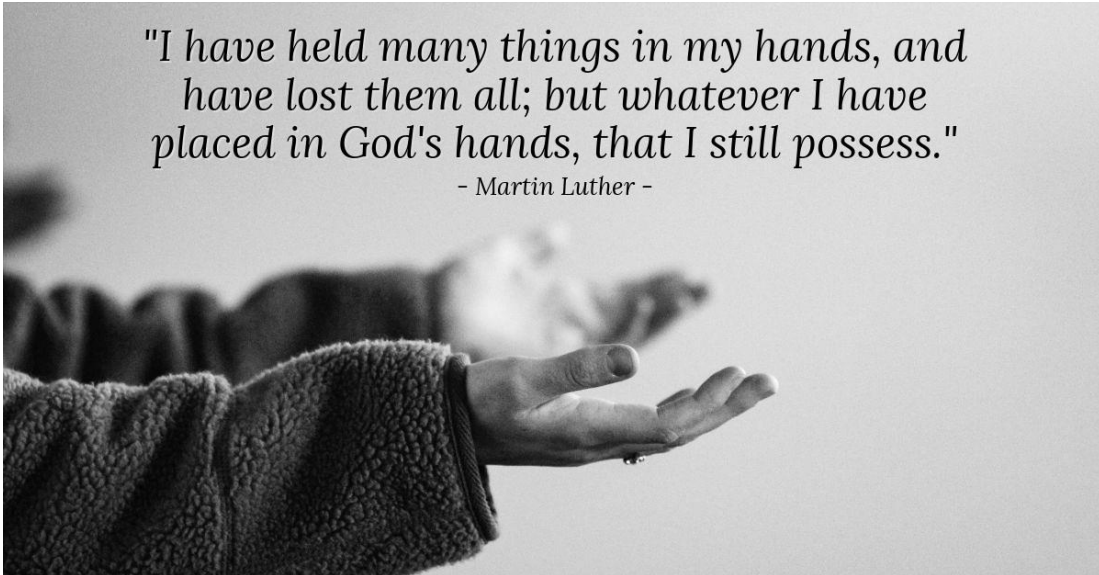
# First Congregational Church

*Gathered in 1723*

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

*"I have held many things in my hands, and  
have lost them all; but whatever I have  
placed in God's hands, that I still possess."*

*- Martin Luther -*



**October 27th, 2024**

**Rev. Holly MillerShank**

**Senior Pastor**

## *Deacon's Quote of the Day*

***"As long as you still have hope, it will give you enough  
light to guide you through the darkness."***

***- Roger Lee***

**PRELUDE**

**Aria**

J. S. Bach

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING & \*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PASTORAL GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God is gathering us from many different places. No one is worthy, but all are invited.

**Many: God lifts us up when we stumble. God cares for us amid our pain and losses.**

One: We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble. Happy are those who take refuge in a loving God.

**Many: Our lips our for laughter and joyous singing. We join in shouts of praise to God Most High.**

One: God is good, we give to God because God has given everything to us.

**Many: We will bless God through our giving. We will share the abundance of our lives and celebrate God's holy name!**

**\*HYMN**

**Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (NCH 551)**

**TRAINING CHOIR/YOUTH SINGERS**

**I See You, God**

M. Burrows

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

We who are called to be a servant people have often forgotten what it means to sacrifice ourselves for others. Success becomes more attractive than service, and so we focus on getting ahead, which often means leaving behind those who cannot keep up. This is a time to confess selfish motives and hurtful actions.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We confess, O God, that we have made you a distant deity. We listen to what others say about you, but we have seldom sought you out for a closer relationship. We are dominated by our doubts instead of by our practice of prayer. We ask for mercy as we face up to the wrongdoing we have tried to ignore. Instill in us a new appreciation of righteousness, and help us to grow in our faith and actions.**

**GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Our God, who has reached out to us in love, welcomes even our timid answers. God is most generous in blessing us and lifting us beyond our losses and fears. In Christ, we are linked with God's saving grace for all time and eternity. Let us praise God, recognizing that faith has the power to heal and send us forth in the service of others.

**ANTHEM**

**Be Thou Exalted, O God**

F. Williams

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 10:46-52

**SERMON**

Take heart; get up, he is calling you

**\*HYMN**

**Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone (see insert)**

## 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

#### OFFERTORY

Offertory on Olivet

L. Mason arr. D. Hegarty

#### \*DOXOLOGY

Tune: OLD HUNDRETH

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.

#### \*DEDICATION OF PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS

Hear our prayer O God, dedicating these financial gifts and our gifts of promises made through our pledges. May others be helped by what we give. We offer more than money, we offer ourselves. May the love we share break open our hearts and encourage others to follow you. Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to truth, constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption for those who seek your grace. Empower us and our ministry in Christ's name. Amen.

#### \*HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (Pilgrim 348)

#### BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

March for Occasional Oratorio

G. F. Handel

*Susan Walko-flute, Lee Klein-oboe, Dawn Gardetto-clarinet & Keith Ward-bassoon*

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 Matt Lallier*

*The Reader is Tom Porter*

*Greeters are Delayna and Chris Griffith*

*Altar Flowers are provided today by Craig and Sue Phyfe in loving memory of their parents Churchill and Janet Phyfe and*

*Leonard and Yvonne Sternberg.*

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

**GIVE HERE:**



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Christina's sister, Susan; Erna's sister, Linda; Ben Hancox, son of Rena & Chuck Mayberry; Andrea & Paul Dobner on the passing of Andrea's mom; Eileen F.; Thomas; Lt Ethan A. Connors & the DelDotto family due to his recent deployment to the Middle East on board the Abraham Lincoln; Connie Lawn; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Peter, friend of Pete & Marie Murphy; Paul German; Joseph Evasius & the 181st Infantry Regiment; Mary; Phil; Melissa; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Christina Hsu; Peyton; John Heald; Bev Fletcher's niece; Marie Murphy's brother, John; Jean Folsom; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi; Jan Smith; Anne Thompson; Don Gray; Brenda; Rebecca and Jennifer MacKenzie; Barbara Harlow; Wendy and Tom; Lisa DiPilato; and Florence Stowe.

-For everyone impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and all other forms of severe weather, as they continue to rebuild their lives amid all the devastation.

-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.

-For those grieving or suffering due to the 10,235 gun violence deaths (not including suicides) ...since the start of 2024

- For those who have lost loved ones to suicide (if you or someone you know is considering harming themselves call 988 for help)

- For those who are affected by natural disasters.

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

-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.

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

- Prayers for the United States as we approach the national & state elections on November 5th.

## 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

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### Sunday, 10/27:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Newcomer Brunch & Info Session, Chapel

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

### Monday, 10/28:

10:30am: Parkinson's Chorus, Chapel

10:00am: Hands For Hope, Parlor

7:00pm: Mission & Outreach, Zoom

### Tuesday, 10/29:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room

6:00pm: "Theology on Tap", O'Connor's Restaurant, West Boylston St., Worcester

### Wednesday, 10/30:

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

### Thursday, 10/31:

8:00am: Mission & Outreach Café, Kitchen

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Halliday Music Room

### Friday, 11/1:

4:15pm: Chimers, Chapel

### Saturday, 11/2:

9:00am: HS Textile Fundraiser, Parking Lot

9:00am: Harvest Fair & Flea Market, Gifford Hall & Cushing Hall

### Sunday, 11/3:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Newcomer Brunch & Info Session, Chapel

7:00pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm