

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



May 11th, 2025

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you."

~Isaiah 66:13

PRELUDE

When There's Love at Home

J. McNaughton arr. L. Warriner

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, people of God, to greet the one who calls us; come alive to the Spirit's energy among us.

Many: God awakens us and restores our souls. Surely God's goodness and mercy are with us here.

One: God beckons us to join our hands and hearts with each other. We are invited to serve on Christ's behalf.

Many: Surely God will give us the strength and insight to put our faith into action.

One: The Holy One celebrates the contributions of humanity to the divine plan of creation.

Many: We worship so that our efforts might multiply. May God bless this time.

***HYMN**

Great Is Your Faithfulness (NCH 423)

CALL TO CONFESSION

How often do we find ourselves in a place of spiritual death, or at least dormancy? Where the things that once gave us pleasure now feel like chores. Where the efforts that once inspired our commitments have left us feeling disappointed and disillusioned? May we confess our apathy and be re-awakened to God's call:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, unknown to us except in fleeting glimpses, we live for the moments when your voice is heard and your will is clear. Forgive us for giving up so easily, for being distracted by simple pleasures, and worried about the opinions of others. Strengthen us in our resolve so that we may live boldly and courageously, through Christ.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The works of God surround us even now, bearing witness to the truth we know in our hearts: we are loved, forgiven and set free. In our freedom may we choose to dedicate our lives to others in Christ's service. God empowers us to live by faith rather than fear.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

R. Teichler

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:36-43

MESSAGE

Christ's Hands

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Like a Tree beside the Waters (NCH 313)

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

Surely the goodness of God overflows in our lives. Take time to count your blessings. The works of God are all around us. In these moments, we have the opportunity to offer ourselves; our time, our talents, and our treasure to extend God's work in the world.

OFFERTORY

By Peaceful Waters

D. Moore

***DOXOLOGY**

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Transform these offerings, gracious God, to fulfill your purposes among us. May we serve you night and day, wherever we are, in all we do. Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might be to our God now and forever more. Amen.

***HYMN**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (NCH 472)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ancient of Days

F. de Giardini arr. P. Taylor

Our Mission:

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 Sue Phyfe
Greeters are Kim and Jeff Goodwin and their children Charlotte and Beckett
Altar flowers are provided by Mary Innis in honor of the mothers in her family.
Liturgy is adapted from Lavon Bayler, Gathered by Love, Year C

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

For Kathy & Tom; Debra Wallace; Anne Hanieski; Kim, James and Anne Phyfe; Elizabeth Hein; the family and friends of Gloria Symonds; Mary; Gabriel and his fellow soldiers, deployed to Syria; Tom Stone; Susan, Beth Cullen's sister; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Kathy and all the friends and family of Dile Holton; Christina Hsu and her family; Diane Smith's mother, Anne Thompson, and the Smith family; Jackie P., her daughter Denise, and family; Stanley; Sharon; Ethan; Leon Bowman; Frank Trippi; Jean Stuart; Wendy Driscoll; Jennifer and Rebecca MacKenzie; Cathy Wentzell; Eileen F.; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Peyton; Jean Folsom; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi; Jan Smith; Brenda; Barbara Harlow.

-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 recovering from natural disasters happening throughout our 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 Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Chapel
 Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 5/11:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
 11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

Monday, 5/12:

7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins
 7:00pm: Personnel Committee, 214/Conference Room

Tuesday, 5/13:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room
 7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Wednesday, 5/14:

11:30am: Can We Talk?, Adkins
 6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers

Thursday, 5/15:

9:30am: CoAM, Adkins
 10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library
 7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 5/16:

4:15pm: Chimers, Chapel

Saturday, 5/17:

4:00-7:00pm: "Family Zone" Parent Outing/Childcare, Nursery & Gifford Hall

Sunday, 5/18:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
 11:00am: New Member Reception, Gifford
 11:00am: "15 Minutes of Fun", Gifford
 11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
 4:00pm: Malcom Halliday Organ Concert, Sanctuary & Gifford
 7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm