

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



November 2nd, 2025

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"The saints are men and women who have joy in their hearts and spread it to others. Never hating, but serving the other, is the greatest need. To pray and to live in joy: this is the way of sanctity"
~Pope Francis

PRELUDE

Saints Bound for Heaven

E. King & W. Walker arr. S. Scott

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We cry out to God for the help we need. How will we know we have been heard?

Many: **God stands with us through life's trials and temptations.**

In our time of despair, God sends visions of new possibilities.

One: In the everydayness of life, we hope to catch glimpses of the Holy.

Together we long for hope and new possibilities.

Many: **Surely God is in this place.**

God is recalling us to a higher purpose and an expanded vision.

One: God's righteousness is everlasting. God's love is victorious over death.

Many: **We seek to grow in faith and in love for one another.**

We wish to experience peace and to work for justice.

***HYMN**

For All the Saints (Pilgrim 306)

TRAINING CHOIR/YOUTH SINGERS

The Kingdom of the Lord

N. Sleeth

Jennifer Shaw, director

CALL TO CONFESSION

Grant us today a vision of your reign and an awareness of your presence, mighty God. Draw us away from the distortions of the world to a clearer understanding of your ways. Re-direct us in our grief and our distractions to focus on your grace which surpasses our diminutive expectations.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most High God, we confess that we have not aspired to the best that we know. We have neither set our hope on Christ nor treated others with the love and respect we crave for ourselves. We ask you to challenge the selfish distortions of our times. Help to stave the self-centered appetites of rampant individualism so that we may be satisfied by the bread of life and the cup of everlasting joy.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God executes judgement among us. Forgiveness is not cheap grace, for God, continues to expect faithfulness in all things. We are accepted in the family of God, our values are put right, and we are filled with hope.

ANTHEM

Rivers of Living Water

K. Marrolli

Cathy Albanese-Gabbett, flute & Chelsea Cressman, violin

This anthem is dedicated in loving remembrance of Robert J. Chaplin by Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 and Luke 19:1-10

MESSAGE

Transforming Love

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Graced with Garments of Great Gladness (NCH 334)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

All Saints Day Litany of Remembrance

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Holy Meal- *At FCC we practice an open table, all who wish to participate are invited to share in this sacred supper. Please take a piece of bread when passed and hold it until we eat in unison, likewise with the cup of juice. May God's spirit be present to us as we share together.*

Prayer of Gratitude (In Unison)

Jesus Christ, lamb and shepherd, we remember you here, as we remember all your saints. Help us to remember you not just in this sanctuary but in our homes and schools, our cars and offices to remember that every part of our life is infused with your grace and that we are never alone but surrounded by a cloud of witnesses united by your love. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Our inheritance as Saints of Heaven, prompts us to share our abundance with the world. Our pledges and gifts this day give witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. May these offerings promote dignity, understanding and faith in this church and around the world.

OFFERTORY

One Bread, One Body

J. Foley arr. L. Larson

Cathy Albanese-Gabbett, soprano

*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 (In Unison)

God of glory, in thanksgiving for your abundant goodness, we seek to reach out to others as you have reach out to us. We want to treat our sisters and brothers as co-equals in the kingdom of God. May these offering prove to be a blessing to those who give and those who receive. Amen.

*HYMN

Now Is the Time Approaching (NCH 609)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious

W. Owen arr. J. Mansfield



Inspired by God's Generosity

Stewardship Update

As of 10/30/25 117 Pledges = \$354,317.40 Goal \$350k

Use QR code or physical pledge card to make your 2026 pledge now



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 MaryEllen Lane

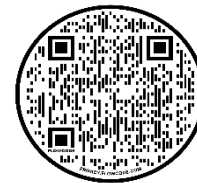
The Reader is Bill Whitehead

Greeters are Delayna and Chris Griffith

Altar flowers are provided by Stephanie and John Ambra in celebration of National Adoption Month

Liturgy adapted from Gathered by Love, Lavon Bayler

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

-Prayers for Kathy Holton; the family and friends of Christina Hsu; Sue Russell's brother, Ronnie and his wife, Kathy; Timmy; Lynn Urso and her family; Brian Scott; Jay Scott; James Kelly; the Canzano family; Bernice Forrister; Kevin; Ronniy Reis; a friend undergoing brain cancer treatment; Kathy; Bob; Debra Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Diane Smith's mother, Anne Thompson; Stanley; Sharon; Leon Bowman;; 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 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, 11/2:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

Tuesday, 11/4:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

9:30am: Grief Group, Chapel

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

Wednesday, 11/5:

12:00pm: Mustard Seed, Kitchen

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

7:00pm: CLT, Adkins

Thursday, 11/6:

10:00am: SNEUCC Monthly, Adkins

7:00pm: CE Ministry, Youth Room

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 11/7:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 11/9:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Creation Justice Info Session #1, Adkins

2:00pm: GRG Zentangle, Adkins

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

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.

All Saints Day 2025

We offer to God the names of family and friends of First Congregational Church who have passed from this world into the next during the last twelve months:

Alan Scott

Anna Pereira

Anne B.
Hanieski

Axel Bostrom

Betsy Shelby

Brian Scott Story

Christina Hsu

Connie Stewart

David French

David Rudman

Dile Holton

Don Gray

Donald Selby

Elizabeth Hein

Emily Jane
Holton

Fany Iuster

Florence Stowe

Frank Trippi

Gerard McCook

Gloria Symonds

Hilda Fryer

JoAnne Turgeon

John Gagliardo

Jordan Nemes

Linda Rosendahl

Mark Smith

Mary Naples

Nancy McKenzie

Nancy Perkins

Paul Gallagher

Paul German

Phil Krause

Robert Ricker

Susan Adams

Susan E. Lund

Tom Driscoll

Virginia Aikens



*May the light of Christ's love
console those who mourn, may
God's promise of everlasting life
bring peace on earth &
forevermore.*