

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



*“After Resurrection” by James He Qi
www.heqiart.com*

April 12th, 2026

**Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin
Acting Associate Minister**

Deacon’s Quote of the Day

***“What you do makes a difference, and you have to
decide what kind of difference you want to make.”***

~Jane Goodall

PRELUDE

If I Stand by God

J. S. Bach

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing a new song!

Many: A springtime shout out to new life!

One: Sing praise to our joyful Easter God

Many: Whose power brings new life out of death!

One: Immerse doubt and despair in the fountain of new life

Many: Our visions and hopes are refreshed, made new!

One: For God has taken ordinary things

Many: And made them extraordinary!

All: Alleluia and Amen!

***HYMN**

Thine Is the Glory (Pilgrim 193)

TRAINING CHOIR/YOUTH SINGERS

Feed My Lambs

N. Sleeth

Cathy Albanese-Gabbett & Marty Tentor, flutes

TIME OF CONFESSION

One: Redeeming God, with you there is always more life, more hope, more joy. When doubt assails us and we fail to recognize you at work in our lives,

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: When fear impairs our faith, and our eyes and ears and hearts do not know you,

Many: Christ, have mercy.

One: When anger and sorrow stop us from doing the risky work of love,

Many: Lord, have mercy!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved in Christ, look around you: as close as your own beating heart, and in the eyes of your nearest neighbor, grace abounds at the heart of all life. We are God's children, loved without condition, be at peace.

ANTHEM

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

L. V. Beethoven

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

MESSAGE

Resurrection Stories

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

***HYMN**

Standing on the Promises (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

Easter teaches us that laughter and love are at the heart of God's work. Joyfully we are able to give knowing that our gifts will help others to see the blessed miracle of God's creative joy.

OFFERTORY

O Lovely Peace

G. F. Handel

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Sing Hymns of Creation

Find/Choose some creation themed hymns to sing at your church. Some ideas include: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "The Ocean is a Call to Worship."

*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

Loving God, may these gifts given in love, be transformed like echoes of grace, delighting all who receive their blessings. May these gifts be used for ministry and mission that infuses hope into the lives of our neighbors close to home and across the globe. Amen.

*HYMN

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day (NCH 241)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Recessional

A. Corelli

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

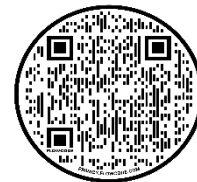
The Reader is Jennifer Shaw

Greeters are Linda and Bruce Wagner

Altar flowers are provided by Cathy Phillips and Steve Erban in loving memory of their parents, John and Najla Erban and Jim and Ruth Phillips.

Liturgy adapted from Susan A. Blain, Worship Ways.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for Michael, Raquel, Talita and Mateo Binder; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Carole Fontaine; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Aaron; Lt Ethan Connors, deployed in the Middle East; Joshua S.; Bob Podolski; Stan Holden; Timmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Ronniy Reis; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Stanley; Sharon; 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 in cities in the United States 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 Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Youth Room & 214

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

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

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 4/12:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

1:00pm: CPR Training, Adkins

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday, 4/13:

7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins

Tuesday, 4/14:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room

12:00pm Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: WYO Spring Concert, Sanctuary & Gifford Hall

7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Wednesday, 4/15:

11:30am: Martha's Circle, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 4/16:

9:30am: CoAM, Adkins

10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 4/17:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 4/19:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Rev. Dr. Berndt presentation, Adkins

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Standing On The Promises

Words and Music by
Russell Kelso Carter

VERSE

Ab
♩=104



1. -Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ, my King!
2. -Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
3. -Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, I now can see
4. -Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ, the Lord,
5. -Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, I can - not fall,



Through e - ter - nal a - ges let His prais - es ring;
when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
per - fect, pres - ent cleans - ing in the blood for me;
bound to Him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord;
lis - t'ning ev - 'ry mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,



"Glo - ry in the high - est!" I will shout and sing, stand - ing on the prom - is - es of
by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail, stand - ing on the prom - is - es of
Stand - ing in the lib - er - ty where Christ makes free, stand - ing on the prom - is - es of
O - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's Sword, stand - ing on the prom - is - es of
rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my All in All, stand - ing on the prom - is - es of

CHORUS



God. Stand - ing, stand - ing, stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God, my Sav - ior; Stand - ing,
God.
God.
God.
God.



stand - ing, I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.