

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



June 21st, 2026

**Rev. Holly MillerShank
Senior Minister**

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.”

~Unknown

PRELUDE

Faith of Our Fathers

H. Hémy arr. J. Mansfield

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, nations of the earth, to bow before God.
Distant galaxies proclaim the Creator of all things.

Many: **We are humbled by the wonders of creation.
We are amazed by God's mighty works.**

One: This infinite God cares for each one of us.
God hears our cries and responds to our needs.

Many: **In our days of trouble, we call on our God.
We are confident that God listens and answers.**

One: Let us also call on God with our prayers of thanks.
Let us celebrate the wondrous things God provides.

Many: **God cares for us, and asks that we care for others.
We gather to give thanks and to be sent out with purpose.**

*HYMN

Faith of Our Fathers (Pilgrim 365)

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's grace has been poured out among us that we might respond with compassion and action. Let us bring to God all the brokenness of our lives, our alienation from our Creator, from persons we are called to love, and even from our own best selves.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God we are poor and needy in matters of the spirit. You have offered us newness of life, but we are fearful of its cost. We are not worthy of your love and cannot earn your forgiveness. How is it that when we accept your grace we sense a freedom we have never before enjoyed? Help us to live as forgiven and forgiving people.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, we are lifted up to walk in newness of life, accepted and forgiven. Old divisions and misunderstanding are overcome in the steadfast love of God. This is the Good News we celebrate this day.

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
Shrewsbury Ringers

D. Kocher arr. S. Tucker

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 9:35-10:8

MESSAGE

Compassion and Action

Rev. Holly MillerShank

*HYMN

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow (NCH 475)

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

We are commissioned to go forth in Jesus' name. We give so that our resources can empower acts of compassion and justice. Let us dedicate our offering to building up others in God's love.

OFFERTORY

Festivity on "Westminster Chimes"

E. Lorenz

Shrewsbury Ringers

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Blue Theology Mission Station

Blue Theology is a mission station for learning about and caring for God's marine creation! As a member of Kids Zone what they have learned this year about God's work through water.

*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

For all of the great and wondrous things you have done for us, O God, we are grateful. You give us strength to go on when we are discouraged and you remind us of our purpose in life. Bless these gifts that they might serve others as Christ has commanded. Amen.

*HYMN

Giver of Life, Where'er They Be (NCH 603)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Regal March

H. Morris

Shrewsbury Ringers

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 Kevin Gabbett

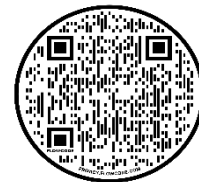
The Reader is Jennifer Shaw

Greeters are Linda and Bruce Wagner

Altar flowers are provided by Karen Freker and Wendy Ziesemann in loving memory of their fathers, John Craig Freker and Raymond Henry Ziesemann.

Liturgy adapted from Taught by Love, Lavon Bayler

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for the Snowden family on the passing of Becca's father; Rosemary on the passing of George Horesta; the Holden family on the passing of Linda's husband, Stanley; Patrick Kenney; Bretton; Dan; the family of Fran Whitney; Cindy and Sarah; Michael; Bob Podolski; Wendy; Kierra; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Aaron; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; Jimmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; 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, 6/21:

9:30am: Worship, Sanctuary

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

Monday, 6/22:

7:00pm: Men's Ministry, Adkins

Tuesday, 6/23:

OFFICE CLOSED

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Deacons, Adkins

Thursday, 6/25:

3-6pm: CSA Pick-up, FCC parking lot

Sunday, 6/28:

9:30am: Outdoor Worship on the Common

2:00pm: Zentangle for Kids, Adkins

HS Youth Group Mission Trip: June 20 – June 28

Pastor Holly vacation June 22- July 5

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: