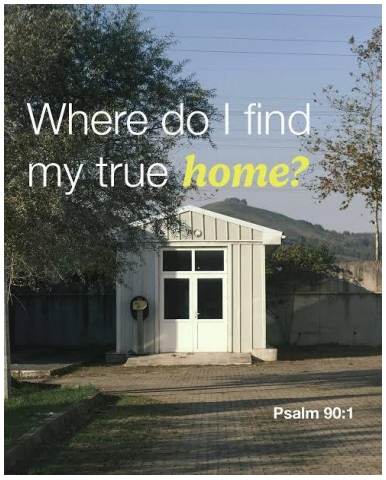
First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



November 15th, 2026

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"In Israel's Scriptures, God's concern is not restricted to insiders: it extends to strangers, to slaves, to women, and to any who are oppressed, for we are all children of God."

~Amy-Jill Levine

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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.

PRELUDE **Variations on 'Kresmer'** C. Curtis

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP
One: Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God. Attune your spirit to the One in whom we dwell.
Many: God's love surrounds us here today. God calls us to be children of the light.
One: We long to have a deeper faith, to live confidently in the hope of salvation.
Many: We seek to be faithful to the best we know. We want to pass our joy on the next generation.
One: Faithfulness gives us a sense of abundance in a world that preaches scarcity.
Many: We are here to build one another up as together we build the body of Christ.

***HYMN** **We Praise You, O God** (NCH 420)

CALL TO CONFESSION
Sometimes we are objects of scorn and contempt, but sometimes we are the ones at ease, filled with pride and thinking ourselves better than others. We cling to a false sense of peace and security amid injustice and oppression. The day of the Sovereign can surprise us like a thief in the night, are we prepared for his arrival?

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION
We are reluctant to talk about judgement, lest we be judged. We know we have not fully utilized the gifts and graces God has given us. We live in the nighttime of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving, faithful service. May we face our shortcomings, and may we use the days we have left for good.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Be filled with God's grace and know that each of us has a home in God's realm. The Holy One's anger softens; a gentle savior receives us with open arms. Rest in the knowledge that nothing, not even our shortcomings, keep us from God's love.

ANTHEM **In This Season** A. Lockaby

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- ***Josephine Faye Hansson, Child of Eric & Heather Hansson, Sister of Madeleine & Charlotte. Godparent: Catherine Todd***
- ***Carmen Patricia Mantyla, Child of Karen Quintana and Matthew Mantyla, Sister Mateo & Clemente. Godparents: Debra & Ray Mantyla***

Great Granddaughters of Janet Dearden

Invitation
Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.
People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.
Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Questions of the Parents

Question of the Congregation
Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?
People: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism
Act of Baptism
Act of Praise **Tune: BUNESSEN *("Morning Has Broken")***

Josephine, Carmen
We greet you on this glad morning,
Your day of life we now recognize.
Here is the water, we are God's people.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

Josephine, Carmen
We name you with thanksgiving,
Offer our prayers and sing you this song.
We are the church, your spiritual family.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

Gifts of Baptism & Celebration of God's Grace

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 90:1-12
MESSAGE Homesick Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN** **Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me** (NCH 441)

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 invest our resources so that they may multiply, not for our personal use but for the expansion of God's work in the world. The gifts we give today will be the foundation of the next generation of faithful Christians, may we give so that they may grow.

OFFERTORY **Welsh Tune** J. Parry arr. J. Smith
Shrewsbury Ringers

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT *Christmas Tree Shopping*
If you're going Christmas tree shopping, choose a real tree over a plastic one! Tree farms help to sequester carbon and provide habitats for birds and other wildlife.

***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**
Gracious God, use what we offer here to bring encouragement and hope to many who have lost a sense of meaning for their lives. Bless us and our offerings so that we may together build the Body of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN** **Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed** (NCH 537)
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **Now Thank We All Our God** J. Crüger arr. P. Manz & M. Thompson
Shrewsbury Ringers

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 Erin Canzano
The Reader is Karen Troy
Greeters are Jean Feldkamp and Cara Molyneaux
Altar flowers are provided by the family of Marcia Smith in celebration of her birthday on November 19th.
Liturgy adapted from Lavon Bayler, Lead by Love, Year A

GIVE HERE:

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for Benjamin Tipple; Sarah and her mother, Cindy; the family & friends of Jean Folsom; Randy; Pastor Karen's brother, Ken; Henry; Ralph; Sean Allen; Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest; Bretton; Dan; Bob Podolski; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; James Kelly; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Stanley; Sharon; Tracey Carner, 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 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, all military serving in the Middle East and around the world, and all who protect and care for us.



THIS WEEK AT FCC
Every day, 7am: AA, Cushing Hall
Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room
Every Monday, 7pm: AA,
Rm 213 (week 3) & Youth Room (weeks 1, 2, 4)
Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Youth Room & Rm 214
Every Thursday, 7PM OA (Overeaters Anonymous), Rm 214

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 11/15:
9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
11:00am: Breakfast Bag Lunch, Chapel
11:00am: Pastoral Relations Meeting, Adkins
5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

Monday, 11/16:
11:00am: Grief Group, Chapel
7:00pm: Leah Circle, Youth Room
7:00pm: Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 11/17:
NO Guided Meditation
12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

Wednesday, 11/18:
11:30pm: Martha Circle, Adkins
6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary
7:15pm: Bible Study, Chapel

Thursday, 11/19:
9:30am: CoAM, Sanctuary & Adkins
10:00am: Staff Meeting, CE Library
7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 11/20:
4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 11/22:
9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm