

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



May 10th, 2026

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

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

~Abraham Lincoln

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies

J. Barnby arr. R. Koury

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP *inspired by Psalm 84*

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God! Our hearts long, indeed faint for the courts of the Lord;

Many: Our heart and our flesh sing for joy to the living God.

One: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O God.

Many: Happy are those who live in your house ever singing your praise!

***HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies (NCH 86)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have been baptized and claimed in the name of Jesus Christ for a lifetime of service. Yet we often worship autonomy and deny community. We ignore the commandments God has given us. God calls us to acknowledge our sin that we may live with abundant joy.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we have loved our own way more than we love you. We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us closer to you and the caring outreach that would link us with siblings who are yearning for your love. We are often timid in our witness to your powerful and transformative love. Forgive us, center us in your grace, and lead us on your pathway to fulness of life. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved in Christ, hear the good news that God has not abandoned us or left us to struggle alone. We have an Advocate who is always with us and are held in God's steadfast love. Tethered to Christ, we become a new creation and are offered fulness of life. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

ANTHEM

Praise His Holy Name!

K. Hampton

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:15-21, 25-27

MESSAGE

Final Instructions

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

***HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Pilgrim 228)

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 invited to bring our gifts in joyous response to all that God has given us and to the glory of God.

OFFERTORY

Meditation on "Gottschalk"

L. M. Gottschalk arr. D. Paxton

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Endangered Species Day

Happy endangered species day! Check out Creation Justice Ministries' resource page to learn about and celebrate endangered plants and animals. Visit creationjustice.org/endangered.

*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

O loving God, we give you thanks that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to keep your commands. Bless these gifts that they may be a blessing to those who hunger for hope and thirst for justice. Amen.

*HYMN

My Life Flows on in Endless Song (NCH 476)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Let Us All Praise the Lord

J. Pachelbel

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

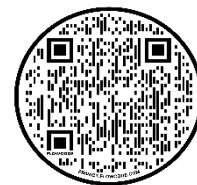
The Reader is Sue Phyfe

Greeters are Corrina MillerShank and JJ Shepard

Altar flowers this morning are a gift from Jennifer and Rebecca MacKenzie in loving memory of their parents Malcolm and Nancy MacKenzie, and in celebration of all mothers, as they honor the life of their beloved mother on Mother's Day.

Liturgy adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long and Taught by Love, Lavon Bayler.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for Michael; Bob Podolski; Wendy; Kierra; Chris Besaw on the passing of her sister Deb, Jim; Norma & Bill Garcia; the Binder Family on their upcoming move; 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, 5/10:

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

Monday, 5/11:

7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins

Tuesday, 5/12:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Wednesday, 5/13:

11:30am: Can We Talk?, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 5/14:

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 5/15:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

7:00pm: AOTG presents organist Henry Danaher, Sanctuary

Sunday, 5/17:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

1:00pm: "A Conversation on Screen Time" with Ash Brandin

(hosted by Family Zone)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm