

A monthly newsletter from The First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury MAN Open and Affirming Congregation

Church on the Green

2023 NOVEMBER

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"Outso I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah

62360

The Pastor's Corner

We are going to start of November BIG- and I mean REALLY BIG!

The 300th Anniversary Gala and Concert will take place on Saturday November 4th- over a year of planning and preparation have gone into this historic event. There will be laughter and good food and words from our Executive Conference Minister Rev. Darrell Goodwin. In attendance will be several honored guests including prior ministers and staff members. The meal itself will be followed by an incredible selection of musical offerings by a diverse group of musicians, all of whom have deep connections to FCC. Reservations for the gala are closed but anyone is welcome to attend the concert at 7:30 in the sanctuary for a cost of \$10.

Sunday morning, November 5th, the festivities will continue with my Installation as the settled Senior Minister of First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury during our normal 9:30 worship service. This combination was designed with our 300th anniversary in mind, Saturday celebrating was has been, and Sunday honoring what is on the horizon.

An Installation Service is an act of an Association of the United Church of Christ (in our case, the Central MA Association of the Southern New England Conference). It is a service of covenantal commitment to the long-term relationship between pastor and people. Generally an installation service takes place approximately a year into the called minister's service, we're a little past that window, but all the more reason to celebrate and recognize this momentous occasion in our church's life, one that will lead us together, with God, into the next century of our ministry.

There will be several guests present for the service on Sunday morning including guest preacher Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, a dear friend of mine and current Conference Minister of Penn Central Conference. Representing the Association will be Rev. Carol Steinbrecher and our own Rev. Larry Iannetti. From the Southern New England Conference we will have both Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly and Rev. Dr. James Ross. FCC members including our moderator, members of the Pastoral Search Committee and Members of the Pastoral Relationship Committee will be participating as well.

The Pastor's Corner

A Gala and an Installation in the same weekend is a rare but exciting occurrence- I highly encourage your participation in both gatherings.

The rest of November will not be dull either! On Nov 12th Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplain and I will co-lead worship as she steps in to cover during my maternity leave. We anticipate welcoming 4 new members in worship that Sunday. After worship on the 12th there will be an information session for our 2024 budget. Similarly a listening session on our church's alcohol policy will follow worship on Nov. 19th.

Personally, our baby is due via scheduled c-section on November 22nd. The birth will be one of the many blessings for which we will be thankful for in this season. My maternity leave will be from November 13th through February 14th (Ash Wednesday). I will not be leading worship, responding to pastoral care calls or responding to email during this time. I will however be holding all of you in my prayers and I am confident of Rev. Dorshimer-Chaplain's fine leadership. She can be reached at <u>karen@fccsm.org</u>. The deacons of the church are also prepared to take on additional support roles, especially related to pastoral care and visitation during my time away. Please see Sue Russell of the Care Team or any member of the deacons if you or someone you know has a need.

I'll send in a birth update and PICTURES to be included in upcoming Looking Ahead Newsletters and the COG!

My prayers for all of us this exciting month and beyond.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Holly

A WORD OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION

THE. REV. LIZ GARRIGAN-BYERLY

EXECUTIVE MINISTER FOR AREA CONFERENCE MINISTRY



https://vimeo.com/874793850

CLICK LINK BELOW



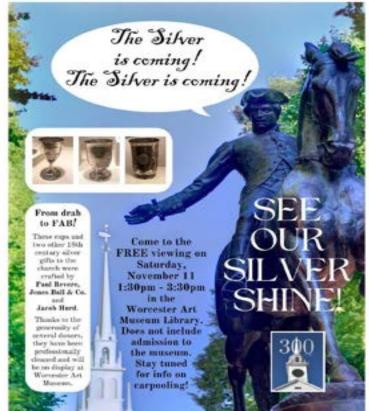
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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Scotty Robertson, Bruce Sadler and April Mullins on the passing of his wife and her mother, Lois Sadler; family of Patricia Heald; family of Joy Ackerman; family of Jim Shaw; Jane Currier; Stan Holden; Bev Fletcher's niece; Marie Murphy's brother, John G; Tracey & Ross; Julia Dobner-Peireira; Jean Folsom; Julie Ann; Rosemary Horesta; Norma Garcia's sister, Patricia; Roberta Jelinch's sisters, Sandi & Dawn; Jan Smith; Betsy & Ed Giles; Don Gray; Wendy Ziesemann's sister, Tamara; Rebecca & Jennifer MacKenzie; Barbara Harlow; Bonnie Gibbs; Wendy & Tom; Lisa DiPilato; Florence Stowe.
- Prayers for the victims and their families, the wounded, medical and mental health personnel, and all federal, state, regional, and local police and K-9 crews, FBI, & first responders who continue to deal with the horrific shootings that took police in Lewiston, Maine.
- For the end of gun violence, and the families and friends of the victims of the more than 500 mass shootings since January of this year.
- The people of Israel & Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti and other countries in our world dealing with war and unrest.
- The mission & works of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.
- Those within our church family and all faith communities who are dealing with illness, caregiving, grief, mental health, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness in their daily lives
- Members of First Congregational Church in Spencer
- Blessings to the government officials, first responders, health care workers, military personnel, and all who protect and care for us.



See Our Silver Shine!



Our church owns five silver items that are on loan to the Worcester Art Museum. Thanks to the generous donations of a few church members, they have been refurbished to their shiny glory. As part of our 300th anniversary celebration, you have an opportunity to view them at the Worcester Art museum on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. This showing is exclusively for our church. There will be no fee to see the church's silver items. However, if you want to view the museum galleries, you will need to return to the lobby and buy a ticket.

To see the silver items, arrive at the Lancaster Street entrance. This is the entrance with lots of stairs, but there is an elevator to the left of the stairs to take you to floor 2. From the lobby walk straight down the corridor to the education wing. At the end of the corridor, turn left and go to the end of that corridor. The entrance to the library will be in the corner on your right.

Someone from the museum, and the person who did the refurbishment, will be at the library to answer questions.

Here are the five items:

Beaker, mid-1700s

Jacob Hurd, American, 1702 or 1703-1758 silver

15.8 cm (6 1/4 in.) Oldest and most valuable item.

Two Standing Cups, late 1700s

Paul Revere, American, 1735-1818 One cup was given by Artemus Ward to the church

Communion Cup, 1852-1853

Jones, Ball & Co., American, 1852-1853

Communion Cup, 1816 American



HANDS FOR HOPE MINISTRY NOVEMBER SALE

The Hands for Hope Ministry has been busy! In October we donated 68 hats to our new Haitian neighbors staying at the Days Inn. In addition to our Hands for Hope members, many of the hats (with matching neck cowls) were made by Sue Stone and her Aunt Pauline. Sue told us that Aunt Pauline is 92 years young and is always looking for ways to keep busy. They started knitting the hats during Covid and have kept going, keeping them on-hand until the request came with the need of the new immigrants in town. We are still collecting hand-made hats, especially children's sizes. A box is in the church office where they can be dropped off.

13 hand-made scarves were donated to Kits for Kids, a non-profit in Marlboro that works with children entering the foster system or going through traumatic experiences. Jane LaPointe is pictured here wearing a few and delivering them along with some other supplies and let us know that Kits for Kids was thrilled with the donation, loved them and wanted to pass along their sincere thanks.

Also donated this month through Jane were pillowcases and handmade items made by the group to Compassus Hospice for people in hospice care. They are grateful to our group for bringing comfort to those in their last stages of life.

Hands for Hope will be having a November Sale before and after the service on Sunday, November 12th. Stop by and check out our handmade items and do some early Christmas shopping. More details will be in the Looking Ahead email. Proceeds from the sale will go to the church's General Fund to be used wherever the need is greatest.

The Hands for Hope Ministry meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 10AM in the Parlor. New members are always welcome, please stop in!







Room at the Table 2023

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with friends and family; the more the merrier.

This is the perfect time to add an extra leaf and widen the table.

Shrewsbury UCC would like to offer our members and friends the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends/church family.

While we know that almost every one of us has family/friends to celebrate with, sometimes they are not in the immediate area. And then there are sometimes circumstances (health/weather/work schedules) that prevent us from making the trip.

We are providing a "matching" service for members and friends who have an extra seat (or four) with those who would like to break bread with others and need a place.

The Care Teams are participating and are willing to offer transportation for those who need it. We are hoping to reach some of our members who do not venture out often.

If you know someone who fits into that category, please let Beth know and we will reach out to offer them a place at someone's table.

Details of how to sign up: There will be a table in Gifford Hall before and after services for sign up, or email or call Beth at <u>mailto:eahansen1@outlook.com</u>, or 508-530-2613.

If you are willing to offer transportation even if not participating in offering or needing a place, please let me know, and I will let you know if we need you. Thank you!

November 17, 2023, will be the last day to sign up.





SUNDAY Nov. 12 5pm

General Trivia Featuring Emcee Mike "Sarge" Riley **Boston Public** Address Announcer

\$20 per person Pizza & desserts included with ticket!

https://tinyurl. com/bdyyhc6c



First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury **19 Church Road**

Our sincere thanks to Chiampa Funeral Home for sponsoring Trivia Night at FCC!



First Congregational Church 19 Church Road Shrewsbury, MA 01545 www.fccsm.org 508-845-7286 Sharing God's Love for 300 Years!

Funeral Home "Celebrating Life and Memories"



Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Keeping Our Sacred Spaces Open & Safe

Events

KEEPING SACRED SPACES



Share 🕧 💟 🛅 🖸

WHEN

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time Add to my calendar

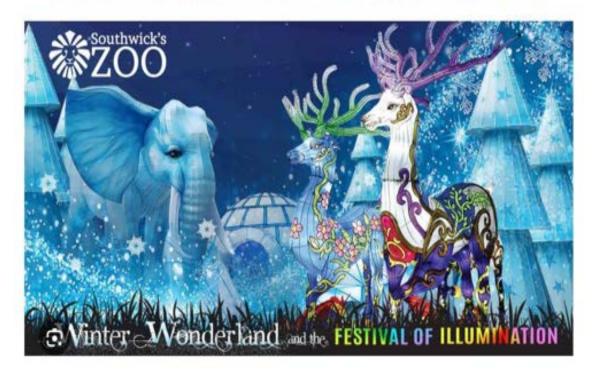
Register ----

WHERE

First Congregational Church, UCC 19 Church Road Shrewsbury, MA 01545 View map →

Church members are encouraged to attend, there is no cost but they must register through the event website. <u>https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/17660790?</u> month=11&year=2023&day=1&display=m

The Southwick Zoo Saturday, Dec. 16 @ 5:30pm



This season, Winter Wonderland and the Festival of Illumination come together to create one unforgettable family experience! The zoo's holiday tradition now includes a visit with Santa, a ride on Santa's Train, live entertainment, yummy holiday favorites and so much more. This WALK THROUGH event brings the wonder of the lanterns and the magic of the holidays together! 60+ church members went last year and gave it rave reviews! Don't miss out!

Church's special group rate is \$20 pp (Ages 3 years+)

The zoo is in Mendon, a 35 minute drive south from the church. Food will be available for purchase. Expect to spend at least one to one and a half hours to enjoy it all.

Sign-ups on "Sign-Up Genius" (<u>https://shorturl.at/bsTY2</u>) or in Gifford Hall during coffee hour starting on Sunday, Nov. 12th through Dec. 3.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION







All 9-12 grades ~ Youth are welcome! Bring a friend!

November

Nov 5 – No Youth Group. Pastor Holly's Installation-Sunday service—come show your support!

Nov 12 – Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm. Care Packages/Cards for college students.

Nov 19 – Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm.



MUSIC MINISTRY



A Message from the Director of Music

A big thank you to all those who made the Spooktacular a fun evening. Jennifer & Elaine Shaw and Kathi Buzzell did a wonderful job of decorating to set the scene. Members of the Senior Choir and soloists dressed up and sang songs about birds. Isabelle Zhao played the harpsichord, and I joined her

on the Walker Box organ.

Members of the Youth Group animated the evening with birds and a butterfly suspended from The penguin family with Daisy Duck fishing line from the bal-

cony. My sister, Anna Marie Smith, joined me on the piano for duets. Jennifer Shaw also read a Halloween story. In Gifford Hall, the Youth Group displayed the Jack O'Lanterns they had carved. After the event, we enjoyed homemade treats baked by volunteers.



Isabelle Zhao at the Harpsichord



Members of the Feathered Friends Choir

The one thing missing from the evening was the Casavant pipe organ. The refurbishment of the Casavant is almost complete. The console has been lifted to the balcony and is in the process of being connected to the windchests in the pipe chamber. The pipe chamber Proceeds from the Spooktacular will help pay for the refurbishment and help ensure that it will be back for next year's Spooktacular.

Sincerely, Curtis



Chuck the Seagull singing The Wind Beneath My Wings



AN UPDATE ON RELIEF TO UKRAINE FROM FIRST CHURCH IN MARLBOROUGH

On February 24, 2022, Russian forces invaded Ukraine. Due to the bombings of schools, hospitals and houses within just the first two weeks, over 1 million Ukrainians and other nationals fled the country for safety. All in all, over 6 million refugees made their way to and through Poland in the next year. This was the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

In early March 2022, The Rev. Dr. Kazimierz Bem from First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) UCC, who is originally from Poland, made a plea to the congregation to aid those refugees. Our initial collection goal was to raise \$2,000 USD to send to the Diakonia of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poland, as many small Lutheran, Reformed, and Methodist churches in Poland took in a considerable number of refugees. And then our outreach efforts went viral....

We are pleased to announce that as of October 2023 we have received **\$175,986** for Ukraine relief. Of course, we did not do it by ourselves, but with the aid and generosity of 41 United Church of Christ congregations. **First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury is among those UCC congregations**.

Half of the money (\$89,000) was sent directly to Diakonia in the early days to provide immediate assistance to the congregations that had opened their doors, church halls and manses to the influx of the refugees. Over the next year, as more funds became available, the second half was sent to individual congregations to support their programs, especially the heating costs for the places that were still housing the refugees. We have tried to focus on smaller congregations providing aid (some as small as 10 members). This past summer we also earmarked summer church programs for refugee children. Aid has been given by these congregations regardless of the refugees' ethnicity, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

All in all, through the Diakonia and individual congregations we have helped in providing aid to 11 Lutheran, Reformed and Methodist congregations and at least 550 refugees: women, men, children, many of them living with disabilities. The aid went for (amongst others): renovating houses and flats for families to live in long term, paying medical bills and psychological support, language classes for the refugees, childcare and daycare for children while their parents are looking for work or working, a youth drop-in-center where Ukrainian and Polish children could play and learn together, summer vacation for families, and continued professional and psychological support to refugees and their families.

In the words of one family to the host pastor and congregation: What you have done for me, and my children has no price. I thank God so much for allowing me to get to know such sensitive and wonderful people. Thank you to all the parishioners who cared and helped us, to everyone who did not pass by our misfor-tune. May God bless you and send you a happy and long life on this earth with a peaceful sky overhead.

While many of the 6,000,000 refugees that passed through Poland have moved on, over 2,000,000 remain. Some of the congregations continue to aid the refugees with programs for youth, families, language classes and psychological support. If you would like to continue to support them – please send checks to First Church in Marlborough, 37 High Street Marlborough, MA 01752 with "Ukraine Relief" in the memo line. We are hoping to wire another donation before Christmas.

On behalf of all the congregations in Poland, the Diakonia, and of course the refugees – please accept our deepest appreciation and gratitude for opening your hearts and lives to the "stranger in your midst".



MINISTRIES

Thank you to all who participated in Martha Circle's Tribute to Helen McLaughlin on Sunday October 15th. Helen had an eclectic collection of art, knick knacks and decorations for every holiday. Helen's daughter asked Martha Circle to help her find new homes for these items. As a result of our sale, we received almost \$400 which will be donated to the general fund of First Congregational Church. More importantly, we had a lot of fun and think our shoppers did also. Most of the unsold items were donated to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic charity with several thrift stores nearby. Some items are being saved for the Church Fair of 2024. It was a far-reaching gift from our beloved friend and church member, Helen.





Prayer Group

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20)





MINISTRIES

300TH ANNIVERSARY

NOVEMBER GIVING OPPORTUNITY MIGRANT FAMILIES IN SHREWSBURY



Roughly 85 **FAMILIES** are currently living at the Days Inn in Shrewsbury. The families have many needs, one of the most important being supplies for babies and toddlers This month we are requesting donations of the following baby supplies: Nestle Nido powdered formula for 1–3-year-olds (Walmart, BJ's, Amazon), baby bottles, sippy cups, diapers (any size), diaper wipes or diaper ointment.

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

2 Corinthians 9:6



ST. ANNE'S THANKSGIVING COLLECTION



First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury will hold its annual St. Anne's Thanksgiving collection on Sunday November 12.

Members of the Mission and Outreach Ministry will be in Gifford Hall after worship with turkeys on our heads & baskets in our hands to gratefully accept your donations.

The money collected will help to purchase food cards which will be distributed, along with food items, by St. Anne's Human Services volunteers to those in Shrewsbury who would otherwise not be able to afford a Thanksgiving meal.

If you are unable to be at church on the 12t^h, you may also donate by sending a check to the church office, made out to First Congregational Church with Thanksgiving Collection in the memo section or donate online through our church's website using the Give button and specify St. Anne's Thanksgiving Collection. Please submit all online or mailed donations by Tuesday, November 14.

The need is great this year. Please consider helping to make someone's Thanksgiving a truly blessed one.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

-The Mission and Outreach Ministry

COMMUNITY NEWS



Turkey Trot for the Memory: Join us for a 2-mile fun run/walk or a 5-mile run.

The Trot kicks off at 8AM on Thanksgiving morning at Shrewsbury Common.

To register, please visit:

TurkeyTrotForTheMemory.org

All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter.

COMMUNITY NEWS

November Caregiving Education Event Series:

November is National Caregiving Month and to celebrate, AARP Massachusetts is hosting a free, virtual event series built to benefit Massachusetts caregivers through education and the opportunity to network with other caregivers. Look below and sign up/register for any and all sessions that interest you. Every Thursday in November.



Medication Literacy: Making Informed Medication and Health Decisions

Thursday, November 2 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Insufficient medication literacy - the ability to obtain, process and use information about medicines - may be one reason that some older adults struggle with taking their drugs. Taking the right medicine in the right way and at the right time can be challenging, as is managing multiple drugs for yourself or a loved one. This discussion will explore what medication literacy is, how different levels of literacy can impact the ability to make sound medication decisions, and ways to improve your medication literacy.

Register <u>Here</u>.

The 6 Pillars of Brain Health

Thursday, November 9 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

It's never too late to focus on your brain health. In this interactive session you will learn about the six pillars of brain health, activities that support brain health and you will hopefully leave inspired by others and their suggestions. This session is a good overview for anyone interested in learning more about brain health and will provide you with information on the latest research in brain health, lifestyle suggestions and resources to learn more.

Register here.

Essentials of Caregiving

Thursday, November 9 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

No matter where you are in the journey of caregiving – just beginning to anticipate a need, helping to coordinate a big move, or taking care of someone full-time – having a good framework to help guide you and your loved one as you make decisions will make the process easier. During this session, we will share a framework to help you navigate the caregiving journey successfully. Topics to be covered include assembling a care team, creating a caregiving plan, and strategizing on ways to prioritize self-care, too.

Register here.

Making Cents of Caregiving Costs

Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

In this informative session, you'll be introduced to essential information caregivers need to know to manage the costs and complexities of caregiving more easily - creating a health care plan, choosing a power of attorney and budgeting for housing and transportation costs, for example. AARP's Financial Workbook for Family Caregivers will be reviewed, and we'll explore how to incorporate the financial tips into your caregiving. Additional resources will be provided.

Register Here.

Downsizing and Decluttering

Thursday, November 30 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Gain some tactics that can help make your downsizing or decluttering project less daunting. Having too much stuff can impede people from relocating or even getting health care into their homes. This engaging presentation will explore why stuff is so important to some people and will share practical, easy-to-follow tips on how to go about downsizing and decluttering. Learn how to get started! Bring your questions, as there will be time for Q&A.

Register Here.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Make your church the safest place in town.

To all our outside groups, committees, and ministries:

Churches are meant to be sanctuaries with open doors and safe spaces where people can enter and meet in peace and harmony.

Church building security is a topic that has become critical in the last ten years as problems such as intruders and property damage have been increasing. With the right protocols and systems in place, a church can better protect its community from unauthorized access, theft or violence.

First Congregational Church Shrewsbury, is home to both internal committees and community groups such as the Scouts, Twelve Step groups, preschools, and more. The presence of young children has increased the need for safety.

Our church has implemented a variety of safety measures including key cards, which allow doors to the main exterior doors to remain locked. Unfortunately, we have noticed that there are a variety of doors and windows that have been left open and/or unlocked, creating safety hazards for all.

We would appreciate if everyone using the building could follow these simple guidelines:

- 1. Enter through the main entrance only, using the key card.
- 2. Do not prop the entrance doors open or the door by the kitchen (unless carrying items in the building for limited amounts of time while an individual remains at the door).
- 3. Please be attentive to all posted signs regarding building use.
- 4. Open only essential windows and doors while in immediate use, close and lock promptly after use.
- 5. Exit the building through the main door, making sure all the doors and windows are locked and all lights are turned off.

A complete set of building use guidelines is available by contacting the office at <u>office@fccsm.org</u>.

We appreciate your help keeping our church and people safe.





Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am

Our mission:

The purpose of this Church is to come together as Christians to serve God by studying and listening to the Word, and living by Christ's teachings. We are committed to reaching our through prayers, caring, sharing, serving and fellowship.

Senior Minister: Rev. Holly MillerShank pastor@fccsm.org

Director of Music: Curtis Smith musicdirector@fccsm.org

Financial Administrator: Lauren Morse finance@fccsm.org

Christian Education Director: April Mullins cedirector@fccsm.org

Building Superintendent: Daniel McCarthy building@fccsm.org

Administrative Assistant: Colleen King office@fccsm.org

Sexton: Benjamin Weiss ben@fccsm.org

Nursery Care Provider: Katie Salsgiver

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

19 Church Road Shrewsbury, MA 01545 508-845-7286 www.fccsm.org



FCCShrewsbury



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