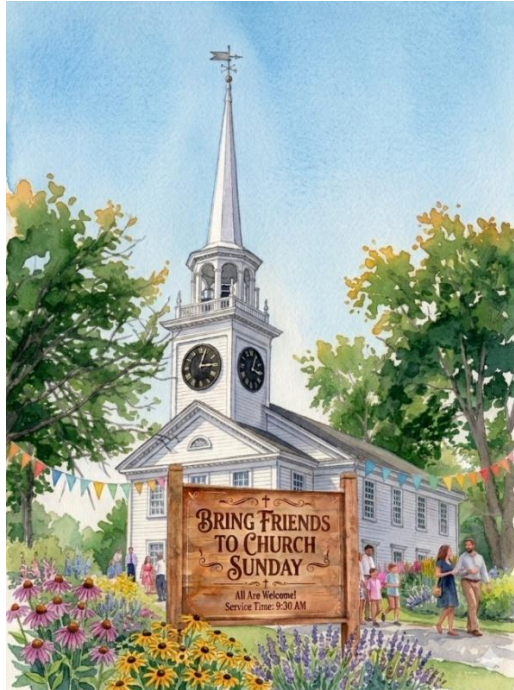


First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



October 18th, 2026

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“Should we feel at times disheartened and discouraged, a simple movement of heart toward God will renew our powers. Whatever he may demand of us, he will give us at the moment the strength and courage that we need.”

— François Fénelon

PRELUDE

To Greet the Morning

D. Paxton

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Sandi Trippi-Leroux

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In God we have our dwelling, as does the universe,
surrounding all creation, it's light years to traverse.

Many: The Spirit here enfolds us with steadfast love and power.

Come, celebrate God's presence in this and every hour.

One: A thousand years are nothing amid infinity,
yet every moment is a gift of God's divinity.

**Many: Here everyone is valued, to all our God lays claim,
inviting our discipleship and calling us by name.**

One: God promises a homeland, a place where we belong.
God calls us to be holy and turn from doing wrong.

**Many: We shall not act unjustly, ignoring others' fate,
but loving every neighbor, we chose compassion over hate.**

***HYMN**

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (NCH 459)

TRAINING CHOIR/YOUTH SINGERS

I See You, God

M. Burrows

CALL TO CONFESSION

Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty, our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. We enter this time of confession asking your forgiveness for our willing neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others, and our failure to feed the spirit within us.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God hears our prayers and responds with kindness and mercy. We are forgiven and empowered to live lives filled with hope, purpose and compassion. Our cups overflow, surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life.

ANTHEM

Come and Go To That Land

B. Boyd

Anthem dedicated by Craig & Sue Phyfe to celebrate 50 years of marriage.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

MESSAGE

Get Dressed

Rev. Holly MillerShank

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (NCH 23)

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 give not for our own benefit but for the wellbeing of others. May our offerings be a joyous outpouring of our gratitude for God and for one another. May they be transformed into opportunities for spiritual discovery, inclusive community and compassionate service.

OFFERTORY

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

B. Brandt

Shrewsbury Ringers

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home.

*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

God we offer these gifts in your Holy Name, transform them, and us, to reflect your values in the world. Amen.

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory (NCH 436)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Spirit of Joy

R. Noland

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 Matthew Lallier

The Reader is Bill Garcia

Greeters are Ann Adams, Dave Russell and Elaine Shaw

Altar flowers are provided by Rebecca Krause, "Grateful and giving blessings to all celebrating October wedding anniversaries. Sending love and light."

Liturgy is adapted from United Church of Christ Book of Worship and a poem for Proper 24 by Lavon Bayler

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Blessings that Lt Ethan Connors & the crew of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln are home from the Middle East

- Prayers for Jean Folsom; Norma Garcia; Ralph; the family & friends of Ellen Kelly Smith (Fairbanks); Steve Erban, Ben, Josh and all who loved Cathy Phillips; Sean Allen; Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest; Bretton; Dan; Cindy and Sarah; Bob Podolski; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; 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, 10/18:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Haunted Hillando

Monday, 10/19:

7:00pm: Leah Circle, Youth Room

7:0pm: Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 10/20:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Council, Adkins

Wednesday, 10/21:

11:30am: Martha Circle, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

7:15pm: Bible Study, Chapel

Thursday, 10/22:

10:00am: Personnel Meeting, 214

11:00am: Ministry Team Meeting, CE Library

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 10/23:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 10/25:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Deacons' Retreat, Adkins

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm