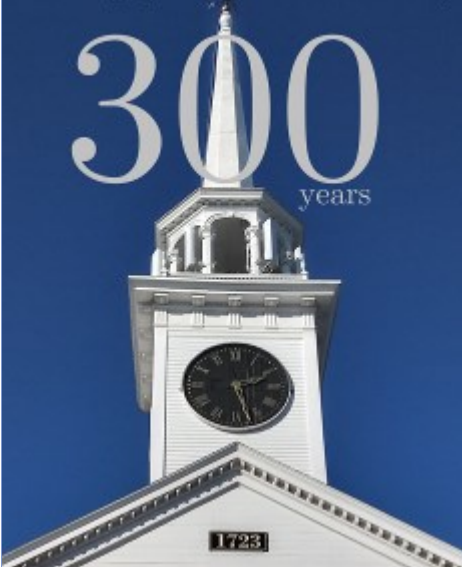


300 years



Church on the Green

A monthly newsletter from

The First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury

An Open and Affirming Congregation

MEETING HOUSE — 1766
View from the South

MEETING HOUSE AT SHREWSBURY MASSACHUSETTS
AS BUILT IN 1748
1844 W. 1911

APRIL 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ Events.....3
- ⇒ Christian Ed.....6
- ⇒ Music Ministry.....7
- ⇒ 300th Anniversary.....8
- ⇒ Ministries.....10
- ⇒ Tid Bits.....13
- ⇒ Past Event Pictures.....14



“Remember Jesus of Nazareth, staggering on broken feet out of the tomb toward the Resurrection, bearing on his body the proud insignia of the defeat which is victory, the magnificent defeat of the human soul at the hands of God.”

*Frederick Buechner
“The Magnificent Defeat”*

The Pastor’s Corner

The journey towards Easter is the most compelling week of the Christian calendar. Similar to how our collective minds have amalgamated the story of the nativity and Christ’s birth, so too have we melded together overtime pieces of all four of the Gospels into our story of Holy Week.

Included on the next page is an infographic highlighting the pieces of the Holy Week story, which are shared across all four Gospels, the ones included in all four synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke) and the pieces which occur only in a singular Gospel.

All four of our Gospels record Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. However, only the synoptics include the cleansing of the temple on Monday. Mark has Jesus going back and forth between Jerusalem and Bethany where Martha, Mary and Lazarus live, while only the Gospel of John includes the lesson of washing the disciples’ feet.

Why this is important for our faith today is that many people experienced the highs (shouting Hosannas) and lows (shouting crucify him) of Christ’s passion. And in any human experience different people take away different key areas of focus, meaning and importance. A question we can ask of the text is why is this important within the

larger story of Mark/Matthew/Luke/John’s gospel? How does this part of the story increase our knowledge of Jesus and our understanding of our Christian faith?

One of the other constants across the four gospels is that it is women who are the first to bear witness to the resurrection. I look forward to bringing their astonishment, their awe, their response to the Risen Christ as part of our Easter Sunday worship services (6:30am in the cemetery, 9 & 11am in the Sanctuary).

With joy for the journey,

Pastor Holly

PS- I will be taking post-Easter/School vacation time away in Pennsylvania. I will be out of the office April 11th-20th. Rev. Larry Iannetti will be preaching on April 16th.



“Women Arriving at the Tomb” by He Qi

HOLY WEEK

| EVENT | SUN | MATTHEW | MARKE | LUKE | JOHN | LOCATION |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Triumphal entry into Jerusalem | | 21:1-11 | 11:1-10 | 19:29-44 | 12:12-19 | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
| Jesus looks around the temple | | | 11:11 | | | JERUSALEM |
| Jesus returns to Bethany | | | 11:11 | | | BETHANY |
| MON | | | | | | |
| Jesus curses the barren fig tree | | 21:18-19 | 11:18 | | | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
| Jesus cleanses the temple | | 21:12-13 | 11:15-18 | 19:45-48 | | JERUSALEM |
| Certain Greeks ask to see Jesus | | | | | 12:20-36 | |
| Jesus rebukes unbelief | | | | | 12:37-50 | |
| Jesus returns to Bethany | | | 11:19 | | | BETHANY |
| TUE | | | | | | |
| Disciples see the fully withered fig tree | | 21:19-22 | 11:20-26 | 21:37-38 | | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
| Jesus' authority questioned by leaders | | 21:23-27 | 11:27-33 | 20:1-8 | | JERUSALEM |
| Parable of the two sons | | 21:23-27 | | | | |
| Parable of the vine-dressers | | 21:33-46 | 12:1-12 | 20:9-19 | | |
| Parable of the wedding feast | | 22:1-14 | | | | |
| Pharisees question about paying taxes | | 22:15-22 | 12:13-17 | 20:20-26 | | |
| Pharisees question about the resurrection | | 22:23-33 | 12:18-27 | 20:27-40 | | |
| Scribe questions about the great commandment | | 22:35-40 | 12:28-34 | | | |
| Jesus' question about David's Lord | | 22:41-46 | 12:35-37 | 20:41-44 | | |
| Woe to the scribes and Pharisees | | 23:1-39 | 12:38-40 | 20:45-47 | | |
| Poor widow's mite | | | 12:41-44 | 21:1-4 | | |
| Prophecy of destruction of Jerusalem and the Lord's coming | | 24:1-51 | 13:1-37 | 21:5-36 | | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
| Parable of the ten virgins | | 25:1-13 | | | | |
| Parable of the talents | | 25:14-30 | | | | |
| Parable of the sheep and the goats | | 25:31-46 | | | | |
| WED | | | | | | |
| Sanhedrin plots to kill Jesus | | 26:1-5 | 14:1-2 | 22:1-2 | | JERUSALEM |
| Judas agrees to betray Jesus | | 26:14-16 | 14:10-11 | 22:3-6 | | |
| THU | | | | | | |
| Preparation for the Passover | | 26:17-19 | 14:12-16 | 22:7-13 | | |
| 6:00 PM Jesus and the disciples assemble for the Passover feast | | 26:20 | 14:17 | 22:14-16 | 13:1 | |
| Disciples argue over who is the greatest | | | | 22:24-30 | | |
| Jesus washes the disciples' feet | | | | | 13:2-17 | |
| Jesus identifies his betrayer | | 26:21-25 | 14:18-21 | 22:21-23 | 13:18-30 | |
| Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper | | 26:26-29 | 14:22-25 | 22:15-20 | | |
| The commandment of love | | | | | 13:31-35 | |
| Jesus predicts Peter's denial | | 26:31-35 | 14:27-31 | 22:31-38 | 13:36-38 | |
| Jesus gives discourse in the upper room | | | | | 14:1-30 | |
| Jesus and the disciples sing a hymn and depart the upper room | | 26:30 | 14:26 | | 14:1-31 | |
| FRI | | | | | | |
| 12:00 AM Jesus' discourse on the way to Gethsemane | | | | | 15:1-16:33 | |
| Jesus prays for his disciples | | | | | 17:1-26 | |
| Jesus prays in Gethsemane | | 26:36-46 | 14:32-42 | 22:39-46 | 18:1 | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
| Jesus is betrayed and arrested | | 26:47-56 | 14:43-52 | 22:47-53 | 18:2-12 | |
| Jesus is brought before Annas | | | | | 18:13-14 | JERUSALEM |
| Jesus is brought before Caiaphas | | | | | 18:24 | |
| Jesus is condemned and mistreated by the Sanhedrin throughout the night | | 26:57-68 | 14:53-65 | 22:54, 66-72 | | |
| Peter denies Jesus three times | | 26:58, 69-75 | 14:54, 66-72 | 22:54-62 | 18:15-18, 25-27 | |
| Sanhedrin formally condemns Jesus | | 27:1 | 15:1 | 22:66-71 | | |
| Judas goes out and commits suicide | | 27:3-10 | | | | FIELD OF BLOOD |
| 6:00 AM Jesus appears before Pilate | | 27:2, 11-14 | 15:1-5 | 23:1-7 | 18:28-38 | JERUSALEM |
| Jesus appears before Herod | | | | 23:8-12 | | |
| Jesus appears before Pilate again | | 27:15-23 | 15:6-14 | 23:13-22 | 18:39-40 | |
| Jesus is scourged and mocked by the Romans | | 27:27-31 | 15:16-19 | | 19:1-3 | |
| 9:00 AM Pilate consents to Jesus' death | | 27:22-26 | 15:12-15 | 23:20-25 | 19:4-16 | |
| Jesus is led away to be crucified | | 27:31-34 | 15:20-23 | 23:26-32 | 19:16-17 | CALVARY |
| Jesus on the cross for the first three hours | | 27:35-44 | 15:24-32 | 23:33-43 | 19:18-24 | |
| 12:00 PM Jesus on the cross for the final three hours | | 27:45-50 | 15:33-37 | 23:44, 46 | 19:25-30 | |
| Miracles accompanying the crucifixion | | 27:51-56 | 15:38-41 | 23:45, 47-49 | | |
| 3:00 PM Joseph buries the body of Jesus | | 27:57-61 | 15:42-47 | 23:50-55 | 19:31-42 | GARDEN TOMB |
| Jewish leaders secure the tomb | | 27:62-66 | | | | |
| SAT | | | | | | |
| The women observe the Sabbath day | | | | 23:56 | | AT HOME |
| SUN | | | | | | |
| The women come to the tomb and find Jesus risen! | | 28:1-8 | 16:1-9 | 24:1-8 | 20:1 | GARDEN TOMB |

EVENTS

PLEASE REGISTER IN ORDER FOR US TO PLAN FOR FOOD!!!



PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

Play your favorite games, bring your own to share, or try some new ones!



Play Shrewsbury's newest board games, *Freedom North* and *The Rocky Plains Story!* Learn more about them here!



Or here!

<https://tinyurl.com/fuehkfsz>

Sign up here!



Or here!

<http://tiny.cc/b325vz>



**Saturday
April 1
5-7 PM**



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

This event is open to the public. There will be a free-will opportunity to chip in for pizza. Beverages, sides & desserts will be provided!

EVENTS

A note from Sue Moore: News and Notes from the La Romana Medical Mission Trip

I would like to thank the Congregation for its generous Donations to the Medical and Construction Mission Trip to La Romana in the Dominican Republic. I appreciate the medical supplies, vitamins, toiletries, glasses, zip lock baggies, etc. that were donated.

The children loved receiving Sue R's Izzy dolls at the medical clinic.

Save the Date!



Saturday
June 3
12-3 pm

Blessing of the Animals

On the Town Common
Blessing ceremony • pony rides • ice cream • more!
First Congregational Church, 19 Church Rd., Shrewsbury
www.fccsm.org 508-845-7286

Sunday
April 2
11AM



Central MA
Medical
Mission to
LaRomana,
DR 

Refreshments will be served.

Presented by
Sue Moore &
Jess Degliaberti



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

And it was a successful week for Days for Girls, teaching and giving DfG kits to 200 girls and women. Thank you to Hands for Hope for making and donating many of those DfG kits, as well as making the beautiful summer dresses!

Come join my daughter, Jess, and me as we share some music and pictures of the medical mission trips in which we have participated, on Sunday, April 2, at 11:00 in the Chapel!

Youth are also invited to the program as 1/3 of the participants on the mission trip are youth (16+). The trips are ecumenical, so all can join!.

Questions?

Call me at 508-735-7820.



EVENTS

Prayer of the Month—An Easter Prayer

Good and gracious God,
 Our most glorious Creator,
 As we greet the signs in nature around us:
 Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,
 In the songs of returning birds and fields
 soon to be planted,
 We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life:
 the resurrection of your Son,
 Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate
 at this time.
 The sadness and despair of his death has given way
 to the bright promise of immortality.
 For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will
 triumph over treason, Light will overcome darkness,
 and love will conquer death.
 As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace

that we may live the promise given to us,
 By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor,
 the marginalized, the least among us,
 As we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet,
 We ask your special blessings each and every day
 on our President.

Working with him may we strive to make
 this great country of ours a beacon of hope and justice
 in a world hungry for peace and so in need of your love.
 We praise you in this Easter season.

Change our lives, change our hearts
 to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.
 We make our prayer through Jesus Christ,
 our risen Lord forever.
 Amen.

Fr. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, offered at the
 fourth annual White House Easter Prayer Breakfast on April 8, 2013

HOLY WEEK



**Palm
 Sunday**

**Service
 April 2, 2023
 9:30am**

**Maundy
 Thursday**

**Service
 April 6, 2023
 7pm
 Prayer Vigil from
 9pm to 12pm on
 4/7**

**Good
 Friday**

**Service
 April 7, 2023
 12pm**

**Holy
 Saturday**

**Easter
 Sunday**

**April 9, 2023
 6:30 Sunrise Service
 Mountain View
 Cemetery
 Services: 9am and
 11am**

CHRISTIAN ED

KidZone in April is All About Easter!



April 2nd, Palm Sunday

Come Join us in Kid's Zone as we have a Celebration of Holy Week. This will be an interactive workshop for children ages Preschool through 6th Grade. Experience the celebration of Palm Sunday. Explore the Last Supper. Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and find out how all things were made new through Jesus.

Easter Sunday

Nursery will be open and staffed for Both the 9am and 11am service
No Kids' Zone activities at either of the 9am and 11am services

Summer Camp Opportunities



Pilgrim Day Camp, Framingham, MA

A traditional summer day camp with over 50 years of experience in providing children safe, summer fun emphasizing a warm welcome for each child, care for the natural world, and respect for the differences among us.

Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Sharon, CT

With more than 60 acres of wooded land on lakeside shores, Silver Lake offers many opportunities for young people to take risks and try new things with the support of an intentional Christian community.



Horton Center Camp and Retreat Center, Gorham, NH

Horton Center camp and Retreat Center, a ministry of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ, is located in the heart of the White Mountains, where spectacular beauty abounds. Experience God's creation in this "thin" place between heaven and earth. make new friends, explore your faith, take risks, have the time of

Mother's Day Cake Pop Bouquet Fundraiser for Youth Group Mission Trip!



One great way of letting your mom know how much you appreciate her is through the gift of flowers. For Mother's Day on May 14, our high school youth group will be offering the congregation a chance to purchase a Mother's Day Cake Pop Bouquet after worship. All proceeds go directly toward the high school youth group's mission trip this June in New Rochelle, NY. Thank you for your support!

April Schedule

April 2 - Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm

April 9 – Easter Services; Cinnamon Buns Fundraiser 9am, 11am...No evening Youth Group meeting

April 16 – No Youth Group meeting, vacation week

April 25 – Youth Group Meeting at 7:00pm, Mission Trip payment #2 due

MUSIC MINISTRY



Curtis Smith is returning as the Music Director from his Winter parental leave on March 24th. We thought it would be fitting to welcome him back with another interview to follow-up the January newsletter. Here are a few questions I asked Curtis to give us all a chance to get to know him a little better:

What movie or show do you keep re-watching?

The Blues Brothers. It has two of my favorite things: music and cars. I especially have a soft spot for old American sleds like the ones featured in the film.

What's your favorite sport or game?

There's a board game called Amazing Labyrinth where you have to work your way through a maze. But the maze changes as you play, so you have to be ready for anything. It's a nice metaphor for life.

What do you do to de-stress?

I go sailing. There's something about the vastness of the ocean that makes the problems that I might be stressed about seem small and insignificant.

What's your favorite holiday?

Christmas is the best. We get to visit with family.

What's the luckiest thing that's ever happened to you?

Meeting my beautiful wife!

How did you two meet?

We met at church. I was the organist at the traditional services and she was the keyboard player for the contemporary services at a Methodist church in Tallahassee. But we didn't start dating until after she asked me for help changing the transaxle fluid in her car. I wasn't kidding when I said I was a car enthusiast.

What time period would you travel to if you were given a time machine?

We already know what happened in the past so I would want to go to the future, into the unknown.

How far would you be willing to go into the future?

100 years sounds good. Far enough to be surprised by the new culture and gadgets. Any further than that and I might be completely lost.

If you could meet anyone in the world today, who would you meet?

Richard Goode is a pianist with the most amazing sound. I want to find out how he makes it happen.

If you ever do meet him, please give me his number.

What instrument has the funniest sound?

The slide whistle. I had one as a kid. My parents probably didn't realize how annoying they could be when they bought it.

Would you ever consider incorporating them into any ensemble pieces with the choir or bell choir?

No, they might come take away my music degree.

What's the worst color?

Yellow. At least you can mix it with blue and get green. So it's not all bad.

Do you feel that you're young at heart, or an old soul?

Given my affinity for old American cars and even older classical music, I'm probably an old soul.

What's one of your favorite old cars and why?

In high school I was lucky to get to drive a 1971 Chevelle two door hardtop. The car was 26 years old at the time. It didn't have AC and I went to high school in Florida. It was miserably hot, but I didn't care because the car was so darn cool. Now that I've grown up, my tastes have changed toward the classier Cadillacs and Lincolns. The 1960 Cadillac Coupe DeVille was a beautiful car, but my favorite would be the 1963 Lincoln Continental.

The Lincoln had coach doors that hinge from the rear and it was more subtle than the Cadillac. The Cadillac fins are pretty, but I'll admit that they are a little over the top.

What's the most awe-inspiring place you've ever visited?

I remember standing on a sheer cliff in the Black Forest and seeing a train pass through the valley below. It was a similar train to the one that I had just ridden in to get to the trailhead before climbing the mountain. It looked like a model train and it changed my perspective ever since. It reminded me that we are just a little speck in the vast universe.

Thank you very much, Curtis, for taking the time for this little interview.

We'll be happy to have you back from your leave!

300TH ANNIVERSARY

300th ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA ITEMS FOR SALE

In celebration of our 300th anniversary, we have several items of memorabilia which we hope will add to the celebration and add to your memories of this historic time in the story of our church.

Please stop by the 300th anniversary table check out the items (on display until March 12) that will be offered for your purchase. All of the items that you will see were from suggestions that were offered at the 300th anniversary meetings that were held during the past year.



These items will be available anytime by contacting Sue and Dave Russel



at dasrusl@charter.net or 508-753-1660. We will display them again in May.



Anniversary Wall Mirror—\$250

Small Replica of the Front of Church with Clock—\$25

Meeting House Cross (Original Wood) - Donation

Metal Anniversary Ornament—\$20

Seasonal Note Cards of the Church

\$15/ box of 12

Anniversary Trivet/Coaster—\$7

300TH ANNIVERSARY

OUR CONTINUED SHARING

1723 - 2023
APRIL 2023

During the month of April, we are asking for **Children's Underwear, Toothbrushes, small tubes of Toothpaste or Children's Chewable Vitamins (exp day 05/2024 or beyond)**



For the Children of La Romana

Every spring, a group travels from central Massachusetts to La Romana, Dominican Republic, to serve the Haitian sugarcane workers and their families. There are over 160 remote villages in the sugarcane fields in this region. The workers and their families are cut off from the rest of the world, living in desperate and impoverished conditions. They lack basic amenities such as permanent housing, clean water, electricity, education, and access to medical care.

"Freely you have received; freely give."
Matthew 10:8

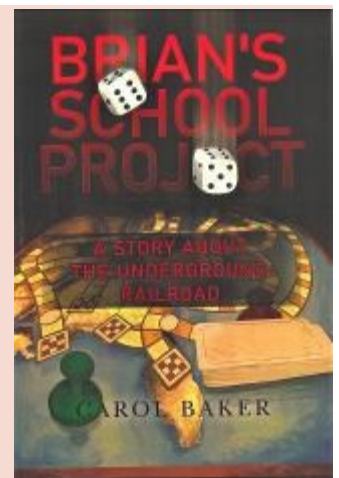
**Donations will be collected after each Sunday service in April.
Do not put monetary donations in collection bins.



February's peanut butter drive was a big success!! Our church family generously donated 148 jars!

We will be "spreading" the love when the collection is delivered to the Mustard Seed charity in Worcester this week. Thank you to all who contributed!

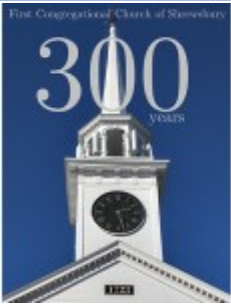
As part of *The Underground Railroad in Shrewsbury and the North Precinct, Examining the Evidence* presentation on Sunday, March 19, the recently released children's book, "*Brian's School Project*" by Carol Baker, was made available.



For anyone interested, a discounted price of \$20 has been extended, with \$4 from each purchase going to the 300th Committee.

Please contact the office to request a copy.

MINISTRIES



BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY

Capital Campaign News

To date, roughly half the money pledged toward the Capital Campaign has been received, which is amazing since we are about eight months into the three year payment period. We are grateful for all the pledges and all the payments made.

Because the pledges can be paid over three years but payments for the organ refurbishment will need to be paid during 2023, we always knew that we would

have to borrow some money to complete the organ payments. The time when we need to borrow money to make the organ payments is near. To minimize the borrowed amount, we are asking, if you can, to pay as much of your pledge as early as you can.

We know that many will not be able to make their payments sooner. However, for those who can, paying pledges earlier will reduce the amount we borrow. Reduced borrowing makes the cost of borrowing less, which puts more money toward the projects of the Capital Campaign.

If you have not yet made a pledge toward the Capital Campaign, it is not too late. Money pledged to the Capital Campaign can be pledged toward three purposes: organ refurbishment, building refurbishment and mission fund. Just email finance@fccsm.org with the amount you would like to pledge. To learn more about the Capital Campaign, please contact Jean Feldkamp at jeanfildkamp@hotmail.com.



Come Play with Us!

Has the stage been calling you? Come to the new play reading group as we meet for an informal series of in-person table readings of published plays. No experience is necessary and there will be no audience, no memorization – just smiles and occasional overacting.

We will read from a variety of short plays – some old, some new, some classics.

The first meeting is Monday, April 10, at 10am in



MINISTRIES



Mustard Seed Ministry

Volunteers needed for our March 1st Mustard Seed evening meal which provides a nourishing food to approximately 125 individuals of all ages in need of a meal.

Volunteer Openings:

April 5, 2023 (4) Cooks, (3) Bakers, (2) Driver
May 3, 2023 (4) Cooks, (3) Bakers, (2) Driver

* Be part of a team of Cooks who work in our church's kitchen from 1:15 pm to 3:45pm preparing the Meat Loaf ~ Mashed Potatoes ~ Green Beans Casserole ~ dinner. Have fun preparing this meal with others.

* Be one of the Bakers who make or buy 36 cookies and bring them to the church's kitchen by 3:15pm on the day of the scheduled meal. You can also bring your cookies the night before from 7:00pm – 8:00pm. Please label your cookies "For Mustard Seed".

* Be a driver to deliver the Mustard Seed meatloaf dinner to Mustard Seed located at 93 Piedmont Street, Worcester. The meatloaf dinner will be ready for pick up, from the church's kitchen, at 3:45pm. Mustard Seed will have people there to serve the meal but you are welcome to stay to help if you would like.

To volunteer sign-up online by clicking this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4fafaf2c7-mustard1#/> or you can contact Janet Pike at 774 -243-4395 or mrsbear8@msn.com. Thank you!



MISSION &
OUTREACH
MINISTRY

We need your gentle-used furniture! The Donations Clearinghouse has hit a slow period, and we have seen a decrease in items being donated since the start of the New Year. However, referrals for those in need of furniture are still high! They have seen firsthand the impact that homelessness has had on families, especially those with children, who have experienced multiple moves, are living in basements of family/friends or in overcrowded conditions. Once they find a home, it means so much to them to have furniture that they have chosen from our warehouse. Your donations will help them make a house a home.

The Donations Clearinghouse will pick up for free in the Worcester County area. Once they schedule a pickup time with you, they kindly ask that the items are on the first-floor level or placed outside in a driveway or garage for pickup. Your donation is tax deductible, and they will provide you with a receipt at pickup.

The Donations Clearinghouse is a referral-based program, and items are free of charge to program recipients. These families and individuals are transitioning back into stable and permanent housing. Items needed the most are: Sofas, Kitchen Table/ Dining Table Sets, Dressers/ Bureaus, Small tables, and housewares (pots & pans, dish sets, lamps, decorative items, etc.). Unfortunately, they cannot accept used mattresses, though they are accepting donations to purchase mattresses at a discounted price for families.

To learn more about the Donations Clearinghouse please go on our website at: www.cmhaonline.org/donating-dch. You can call the DCH Line at 774-243-3821 or email at dch@cmhaonline.org.

MINISTRIES

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Do you feel the pulse and the adrenalin on the Common in Shrewsbury!!

We hope you have been able to participate in some of the many activities that have been happening during the winter.



Welcoming Committee

Join us in welcoming both new and familiar faces on a Sunday morning or at any of our church functions.

You all can remember what made FCCS the "welcoming

home" it is. Please "pass it on" every Sunday & during the week when you are out in Shrewsbury!

We are excited to be hosting a **Newcomers Brunch** on Sunday, April 30th at 11 AM with several already signed up.

New Member Sunday will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th at 9:30 AM.

Contact: Suzanne Moriondo



Leah & Martha Circle Women's Groups

Both women's groups have had wonderful programming this winter. Some events have included a movie night, favorite books & au-

thors night, guest speaker, Rev. Holly MillerShank, and a Valentine craft made for our friends at home, to name a few.

Leah Circle meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at church at 7pm in the Youth Room, and Martha Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:30am for a bag lunch & programming.

Contacts:

Leah Circle: Sue Bourget

Martha Circle: Nancy Burnett or Janet Pike



Social Circles

We are blessed to have this wonderful group of women & men that keep us socializing throughout the winter and beyond! Soup Sunday, Appetizer Sunday, revival of the FCCS Coffeehouse Cafe, as well as, Suppers with Seven (some even eight, nine, or ten) are all off to an amazing start! Our coffee hour every Sunday is coordinated by SC's Dave McRae also.

Contact: Sandi Leroux and Kathleen Rocheleau



Our Story

The typewriters (computer sorry!) and research folks continue to be hard at work for all they have been doing the past 4 plus years, and continue to share with us all during the

300th Celebration Year. We cannot thank them enough for all of their dedication and commitment to this labor of love.

Contact: Carol Baker and Elaine Shaw



Golf League

This determined group continues to gather in the winter months for a Saturday AM breakfasts at local establishments!

They are anxiously awaiting the green grasses of Spring!

Contact: Don Alger

TID BITS



WORCESTER FELLOWSHIP WOO SOX FUNDRAISER

As you know, our congregation has been a proud supporter of Worcester Fellowship for many years. In addition to monetary donations, our Mission & Outreach team prepares hot meals for more than 60 guests every other month for Worcester Fellowship's Thursday Cafe program. Along with providing a hot meal, Thursday Cafe provides rest and spiritual companionship for the underserved.

On Saturday afternoon, May 6th you can join other supporters of Worcester Fellowship in a reserved section (under cover) to raise money for their ministries. The WooSox marketing manager has created the below link to click on for more information, game details, and an additional link to purchase tickets directly through them. For every ticket sold Worcester Fellowship will receive \$5.00.

It COULD NOT be easier to support them as you have a great day at the ballpark.

Click their link: <https://fevogn.com/event/Worcesterfellowship>



INTERESTING FACT ABOUT LILIES!!

Many lilies including Easter lilies are deadly to cats. They can cause kidney failure within 48 hours. Even exposure to the pollen can be very harmful!

Thank you note from Sherry Robertson

Thank you so very much for the flowers, cards and meals the congregation sent to me after my surgery. They carried me through a difficult time!



A Word of Thanks and Appreciation from SNEUCC Board President, Mr. Tracy Keene

THANK YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT IN 2022!!

Thank you for contributing over \$3.45 million to support the mission and ministry of the SNEUCC and the national setting...

Thank you for investing in this "new thing" that God is doing here in southern New England...

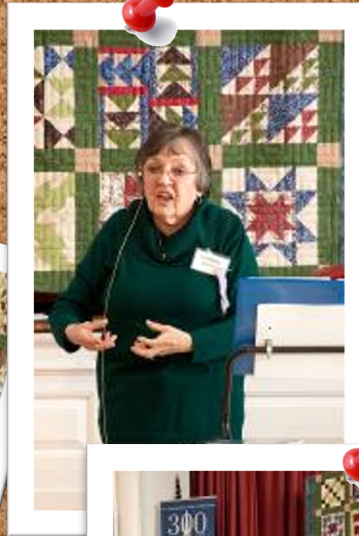
Thank you for empowering us to more fully "live the love and justice of Jesus"...

Thank you for enabling us to continue to live into our shared vision for the Southern New England Conference... to bring new life as agents of change, to be vehicles for God's love and compassion, and to be a beacon of hope to the hopeless, the marginalize, the excluded, and the powerless...

Because of your shared financial contributions, we have changed the lives of countless individuals in communities throughout our region, and we are fulfilling our Conference's calling to make a difference...

PAST EVENTS

Underground Railroad Presentation



PAST EVENTS

Underground Railroad Presentation



Youth Group Worcester Fellowship Sunday



Souper Sunday

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FCCShrewsbury



Church on The Green Newsletter
April 2023 Issue



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

Interim Christian Education Director: April Mullins
cedirector@fccsm.org

Church Administrator and Property Manager: Sabina Terrades
office@fccsm.org

Sexton: Benjamin Weiss
ben@fccsm.org

Please join us on Sunday
mornings at
9:30am

