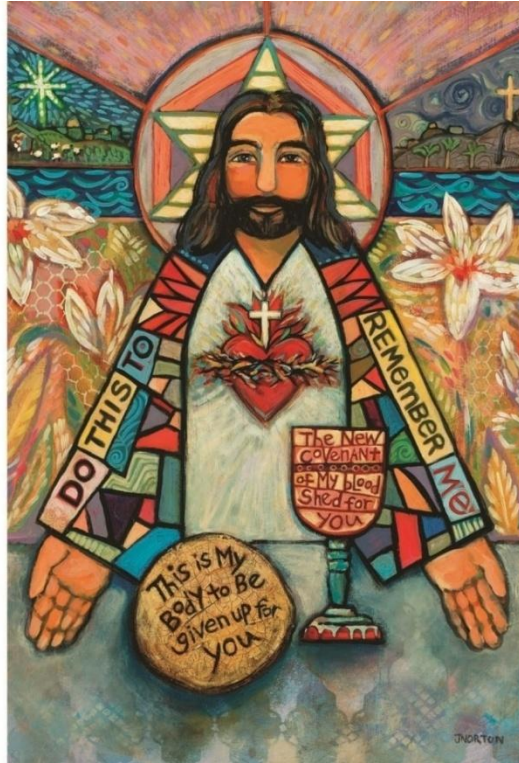


First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



September 6th, 2026

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

PRELUDE

Draw Near, All Ye People

F. Mendelssohn

Chuck Mayberry, baritone

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome to worship, come to celebrate God's presence.

Many: We greet one another with joy, together we seek to learn and live God's law.

One: We come, remembering Christ's teachings and his compassion.

Many: We long for the peace Christ promised to his disciples that is not of this world.

One: We come to experience the divine presence that breaks down barriers and promises new life.

Many: Let us come to worship and to grow in our faith!

*HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ever aware of the broken places of our world, let us confess our inadequacy in living up to our high calling as God's beloved children:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we know that we are a wayward people. Our footsteps falter as we seek to follow your way; our gaze is turned away from awareness of your glory to preoccupation with our own needs and concerns; and even our love for one another grows cold. We trust only in your grace to create new life within us and to bind us together in love and common commitment. Let your spirit be born in us anew.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again. Let us give thanks for second chances, and recommit ourselves to following in Christ's way.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 119:33-40 and Romans 13:8-10

MESSAGE

God's Law

Rev. Holly MillerShank

*HYMN

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space (see insert)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Liturgy of Covenant

One: Choose this day whom you will serve, and whom you will worship. Will you worship and serve the Lord, in sincerity and faithfulness or will you follow after worldly priorities?

**Many: Far be it from us that we should forsake our God and the God of our ancestors,
for the Living God has done great things for us and is worthy of our praise!**

One: Do you commit yourselves today to take up the cost and joy of discipleship to Jesus Christ?

Many: We do, relying on God's grace.

Blessing of the Meal

Sharing of Elements--- at FCCSM we practice an open table, all who wish to participate in communion are encouraged to do so. When we worship outside there are small, single-serve cups (gluten free version available). Please peel back the top to access the bread and then the juice.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, we are thankful that you have revealed to us the vision of life in covenant with you and with one another. We are thankful that you sent Jesus Christ to show us the ways of righteous living and that Christ is ever present to us through the bread and cup of communion. Through your spirit, strengthen us that we may live out the commitments of our faith. Amen.

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 *during outdoor services offering can be placed in the boxes located on the welcome table*

What is it that we are called to offer God? Only our best. God's law calls us to lead with love, to be generous with compassion and overflowing with grace. May our offerings today be an outpouring of thanks for all that God has done.

OFFERTORY

A Simple Song
Chuck Mayberry, baritone

S. Schwartz & L. Bernstein

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Season of Creation

September begins the "Season of Creation!" Celebrate in your church community. Find theological reflections and liturgical resources at creationjustice.org/blog.

*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

O God of love, we thank you for opportunities to grow in understanding and concern for one another. Use these resources so that our congregation may be an incarnation of your love within and beyond our walls; wherever there is loneliness, injustice or misunderstanding; spread seeds of hope and new possibilities. Amen.

*HYMN

Some Glad Morning (see insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Way's Cloudy
Chuck Mayberry, baritone

H. T. Burleigh

Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

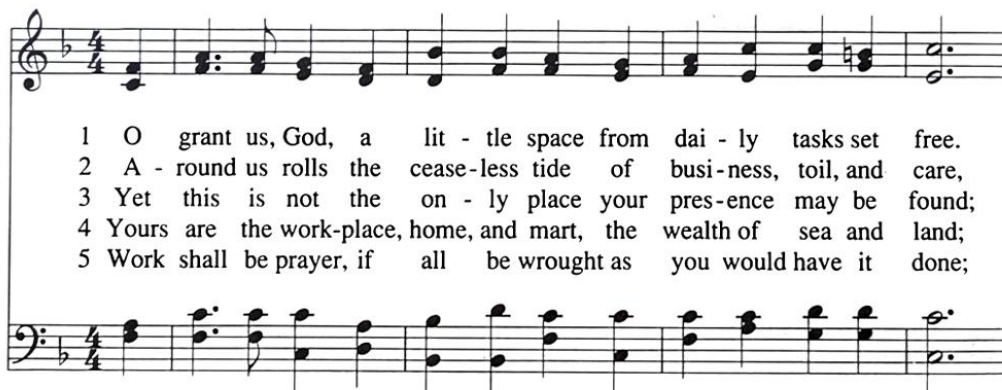
First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury (FCCS) is a vibrant, inclusive and
 compassionate community of worship and mission.

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.

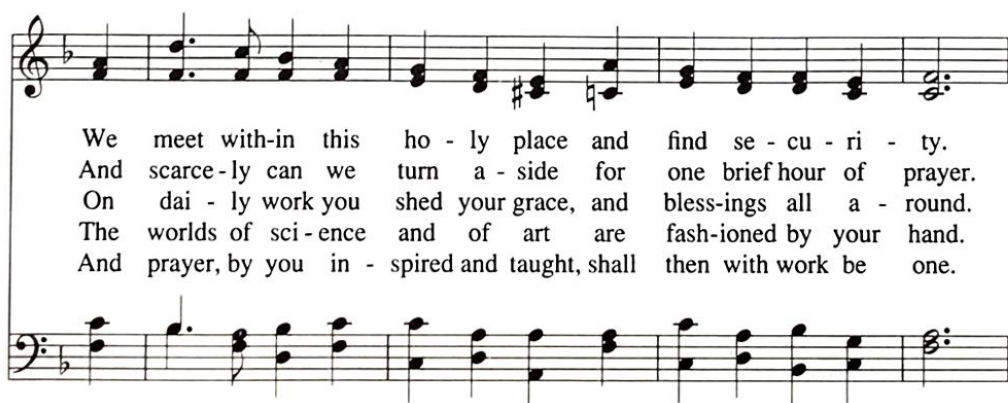
O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

516

John Ellerton, 1870; alt.



1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.
2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,
3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;
4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.

Some Glad Morning

(I'll Fly Away)

595

Albert E. Brumley, 1932

Ps. 55:6

G G7 C G

1 Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er, I'll fly a - way;
 2 When the shad-ows of this life have gone, fly a-way, fly a-way;
 3 Just a few more wea - ry days and then,

G D7 G C G

to a home on God's ce - les - tial shore, I'll fly a - way.
 Like a bird from pris - on bars has flown, fly a-way, fly a-way.
 To a land where joys shall nev - er end,

Refrain G G7 C G C G

I'll fly a - way, O glo - ry, I'll fly a - way;
 fly a-way, fly a-way, in the morn-ing;

D7 G C G

When I die, hal-le - lu - jah, by and by, I'll fly a - way.
 fly a-way, fly a-way.

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 Erik French

Greeters are Linda and Bruce Wagner

Altar flowers are provided by Holly and Jonathan MillerShank in celebration of their children Corinna and Conrad.

Liturgy is adapted from Ruth Duck, Bread for the Journey

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for the family & friends of Alexander Macdonald; family and friends of Bernice Forrister; Red Cross, first responders, and all communities impacted by the wildfires; the family & friends of Wendy Driscoll; Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest; Bretton; Dan; Cindy and Sarah; Michael; Bob Podolski; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; Jimmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phye; 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, 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, 9/6:

9:30am: Outdoor Worship on the Common

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

Monday, 9/7:

OFFICE CLOSED: *Labor Day*

Tuesday, 9/8:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Wednesday, 9/9:

11:30am: Can We Talk?, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 9/10:

8:00am: M&O kitchen Café, Kitchen

11:00am: Ministry Team Meeting, CE Library

3-6pm: CSA Pick-up, FCC parking lot

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Saturday, 9/12:

4:00pm: Family Zone "Parents Only" Event, Broken Creek Winery *(free childcare available at FCC)*

Sunday, 9/13:

9:15am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

10:00am: Outdoor Worship on the Common

Church Potluck Picnic to follow service

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



