

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



World Communion Sunday

October 5th, 2025

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make."

~Paul McCartney

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Delayna Griffith

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today we stand on the ramparts and take in the view.

Many: **We seek to see the big picture, the total expanse of God's creation.**

One: We see injustice, poverty and hatred and at the same time we see hope, possibilities, and peace.

Many: **We seek a vision of God's shalom,
for the coming of the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

One: We commit to doing our part in the shared ministry of Jesus Christ throughout the Earth.

Many: **Together we seek unity across our divisions and will strive to expand the table so that
all God's people will be fed.**

*HYMN

I Come With Joy (NCH 349)

CALL TO CONFESSION

All too often we let our differences define us. It is easier to live in a world of "us" verses "them" than to find common ground. We see hatred and injustice and blame it on others instead of recognizing our own contributions to division. Let us be honest about our proclivities before God and one another.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we do not like to wait. We demand signs of your actions and when they do not come we get bored or impatient. We create the world in our own image instead of yours. We seek after power, possessions and privilege without regard to our sisters and brothers in other nations. Remind us this day of our interdependence with one another and our complete dependence on you.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God so loved the world that he gave his only son. God's gift of Jesus Christ is remembered across the globe today through the sacrament of Communion. Reminding us of the everlasting gift of Christ's grace and forgiveness, poured out for all.

ANTHEM

As the Deer

M. Nystrom arr. D. Wagner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

MESSAGE

Write the Vision

Rev. Holly MillerShank

*HYMN

One Bread, One Body

J. Foley

Chorus: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 1: Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. (Chorus)

Verse 2: Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord, of all. (Chorus)

Verse 3: Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. (Chorus)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SEE INSERT

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

God's vision is written plain for all to see; "Love One Another". It is out of love for one another that we give generously of our time, talent and treasure. May our gifts today alleviate suffering in the world and draw us closer to God's promise of peace.

OFFERTORY

A Quiet Heart
Shrewsbury Ringers

K. Buckwalter

*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 (In Unison)

Gracious God, you have already given us the greatest gift in Jesus Christ. We humbly ask that you bless these our gifts into service for your vision throughout the world. Multiply them and the good works they inspire so that we may be brought closer to you and to one another. Amen.

*HYMN

When Minds and Bodies Meet as One (NCH 399, vs. 1, 3 & 5)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise God, Ye Christians

D. Buxtehude



Inspired by God's Generosity

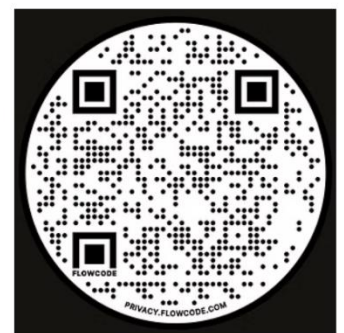
Stewardship Update

As of 10/2/25

39 Pledges = \$113,827.40

Goal \$350k

Use QR code or physical pledge card to make your 2026 pledge now



Our Mission:

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 Dennis Pike

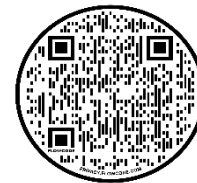
The Reader is Sue Phyfe

Greeters are JJ and Chuck Shepard and Beth Hansen

Altar flowers are provided by Elaine Sharw---Happy Birthday to Auntie Jen from Sylvie and Gavin!

Liturgy written by Pastor Holly, Communion liturgy adapted from The Presbyterian Outlook

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

-Prayers for Doug and Cathy Buell on the passing of Cathy's sister, Susan; Brian Scott; Jay Scott; James Kelly; the Canzano family; Bernice Forrister; Kevin; Ronniy Reis; a friend undergoing brain cancer treatment; Kathy; Bob; Debra Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Christina Hsu and her family; Diane Smith's mother, Anne Thompson; Stanley; Sharon; Leon Bowman; Kathy Wentzell; 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 recovering from natural disasters happening throughout our 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.

-Prayers for the Doherty family of Shrewsbury & all those throughout our country & world dealing w/violence & loss



THIS WEEK AT FCC

Every day, 7am: AA, Cushing Hall

Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Chapel

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 10/5:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

Monday, 10/6:

7:00pm: YMC, Youth Room

Tuesday, 10/7:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

9:30am: Grief Group, Chapel

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

Wednesday, 10/8:

11:30am: Can We Talk?, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 10/9:

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 10/10:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 10/12:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Invitation

Litany of Loaves

Matzah is unleavened bread, it reminds us of all who eat their bread in haste. It symbolizes for us all the refugees who, like the ancient Israelites, leave their homes and flee from danger. May it remind us, too, of the homeless in our own communities and country.

We pray, O God, for your church among those with no place to call home. May we learn from their searching faith, and may we be a place of welcome for all who seek safety.

Pita reminds us of Africa, the birthplace of humankind where Christianity continues to flourish. It also reminds us of a legacy of slavery, and of a people who endured.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where it flourishes, and we confess the times and places when we have enslaved our brothers and sisters. May we learn from the vibrant faith of our African brothers and sisters, and may we build a more just and peaceable world.

Steam Buns remind us of Asia, where Christians are a minority among Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and others. It represents for us the ways our faith calls us beyond our culture and reminds us of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their beliefs.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where Christianity is dangerous, politically or socially. May we learn from the steadfast faith of our Asian brothers and sisters and walk with Jesus through every trial.

Tortillas remind us of Central and South America, where faith and culture have colored one another beautifully; but also a place where Christians live with violence, drugs, and conflict as a daily reality.

We pray, O God, for your church in places beset by violence and still colored by hope. May we learn from the persistent faith of our Latino brothers and Latina sisters, and may we look upon them with compassion as our neighbors.


The baguette reminds us of Europe, with its vast cathedrals that are often empty. It represents those who keep the faith alive in lean times and reminds us that the church is not a building, but a community of people.

We pray, O God, for your church in places where its power is diminished and its followers are few. May we learn from the age-old faith of our European brothers and sisters, and may we live our faith so that our faith might live.

Swirled Rye bread reminds us of the United States, Canada and other nations that are a gathering place for many different cultures and beliefs. Remaining distinct but united in one loaf, we celebrate the gifts of diversity and the oneness of community.

We pray, O God, for your multi-cultural and multi-ethnic churches in our country and across the world, which bring us a vision for equality and inclusion. May our faith grow as we seek to expand the table.

Cornbread reminds us of Native Americans who first recognized God in the rhythms of nature. It reminds us that the land we call home once belonged to others.



We pray, O God, for your church as it exists in every land. May we learn from the earthy faith of our Native American brothers and sisters, and may we care for the land and all those who call it home.

Come, Holy Spirit, dwell in these breads and in this cup that they might be for us the body and blood of Christ. Come, dwell in your people of every land and language that we might be united with one another to be the body of Christ in every corner of the world today. Amen.

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Meal

Sharing of the Meal

At First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury, we practice an open table, all who wish are invited to share in this sacred meal. Please take a piece of bread as it is passed (gluten free options available) and hold it until all are served. We will eat together as a sign of our unity in Christ. Likewise, take a cup of juice and hold it until we share together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus, to unite us with you and with sisters and brothers around the world. Go with us now into that world, that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees, of freedom among the oppressed, of hope amid persecution, of peace amid violence, of living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and of loving kindness towards the earth and all who dwell there. Amen.

