



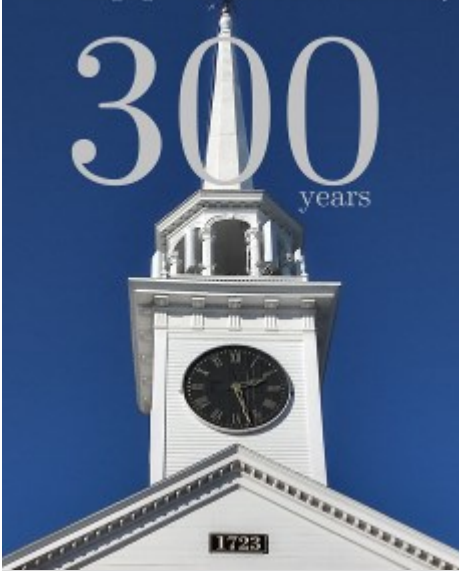
Church on the Green

A monthly newsletter from First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury

An Open and Affirming Congregation

First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury

300
years



JANUARY 2023

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*"Ring out the false,
ring in the true."
Alfred Lord Tennyson*

The Pastor's Corner

We were blessed with a beautiful Advent and Christmas season. First Congregational Church felt vibrant and alive throughout the month of December. As we move into January I am confident that the Spirit's work will continue to energize us as a community of faith. We have much to look forward to this month.

January 1st:
The Deacons will be leading New Year's Day Worship

January 8th:
We'll celebrate Epiphany with the gifts of bread and juice in communion

January 15th:
Rev. Cindy Maybeck will be bringing a sermon with reflection on Martin Luther King Jr Weekend.

January 22nd:
It's our annual meeting! An opportunity to give thanks for the dedication of the past year and plan for our future.

January 29th:

We'll have a hymn sing for worship, welcome Elliot Smith into Christ's church through the sacrament of baptism, and celebrate our 300th with opening our Time Capsule.

Please be aware of three important behind the scenes projects- The Technology Committee is working to address the sound-system in the sanctuary which will in turn improve the sound quality of our live-stream and cable broadcast services. Building and Grounds (specifically Chris Williams) and our IT Contractor Matt Cramer are working to improve access to our Network which will bring greater efficiencies throughout our building. And Sabina Terrades has been working diligently on a new website for First Congregational Church. None of these projects can be turned around overnight or single handedly but they are all essential in building our ministry capacity for the future. Please join with me in giving appreciation to those who are helping to make priorities a reality.

Pastor Holly
(pastor@fccsm.org)



Merry Christmas from the members and friends of FCC at Southgate!

EVENTS

SNEUCC Honors the legacy of
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 16 at 2:00 PM



Radical Inclusion
Worship and conversation on Zoom
Bishop Yvette Flunder, Preacher



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

As part of our church's Micah Project, we will be offering the following event in January. Feel free to join us in the Chapel or from the comfort of your own home (a Zoom link will be sent out via Constant Contact).

"Radical Inclusion: Extending the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

Join us for worship and conversation as we honor the work and legacy of Dr. King.
This will be a virtual program on Zoom.

SNEUCC Theologian in residence, Bishop Yvette Flunder will give a sermon entitled "Freedom Food." She will participate in an online discussion with attendees afterward.



**Be a part of Church
Street Coffeehouse in
2023!**

Our last Coffeehouse was in February 2020 and you know what happened next...

The Coffeehouse is coming back in 2023, on February 11!

I am looking for talent to perform.

It would be great to have acts from a wide range of church members and friends in our community. You could sing a song, perform a skit, read poetry or tell a short story.

If you are willing to lend your talents, please email me, Tom Porter
at tlporter@townisp.com.

Let's put on a Coffeehouse to remember!



300TH ANNIVERSARY



300th ANNIVERSARY JANUARY GIVING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH GROUP CITY REACH

Our youth group will once again be going to City Reach at Common Cathedral in Boston. They will be volunteering with the homeless, handing out clothing and interacting with some very amazing people. In honor of our youth and continuing our tradition of sharing God's love, we will be collecting all sizes of men's and women's underwear (no children's) starting on Sunday, December 18 through Tuesday, January 10. We have learned that underwear is one of the most needed items, so that will be our January Giving Opportunity. We will be collecting early

as the date of the mission trip will be Martin Luther King, Jr weekend, January, 14-15 which shortens our time frame of collection.

You may drop off your items in the red wagon on the stage in Gifford Hall or in containers that will be found at each entrance to the Church, clearly marked by a Giving Opportunity poster.

Please consider supporting our youth, their mission work, and the men and women who find themselves homeless in Boston. You will have the opportunity to hear from the youth after they have returned from this wonderful mission opportunity. Thank you.

JOIN US
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
FOR A

Hymn Sing!
and...

9:30
Hymn Sing
10:30
Souper Sunday
11:00
Time Capsule

...TIME
CAPSULE
OPENING!



First Congregational
Church
19 Church Road
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

www.fccsm.org 508-845-7286
Sharing God's Love for 300 Years!



1923

MUSIC MINISTRY

Last month, you found out a bit about Andrew Lefferts. Andrew will be subbing for me when I take parental leave from January 1 – March 24, 2023. So that you could get to know Andrew better, I asked him some questions. This is what he had to say:

What is your favorite line from any movie?

I tend to quote the priest's "mawwiage" from the Princess Bride fairly often. I'm starting to realize I have a pattern in my sense of humor, because I also like the line "This is stupid with two Os" from Knives Out. So now you know how to tailor a joke to make me laugh.

If you were a car, what car would you be?

A wheelbarrow... or a Mazda sedan with 5 speed manual transmission, nice comfy seat covers, and a broken clutch.

Ah yes, three pedals. Just like a piano. Why would you want a broken clutch?

You asked what car I would be, not what car I would want.

Touché

Who is your favorite actor?

Rowan Atkinson or Aubrey Plaza. But I've never seen any of their movies, except Love Actually.

If you could be any kind of animal, which animal would you be?

I would probably want to be a crow. I heard that if you wear a mask and bother crows, the younger generations of crows that you've never met will recognize you with the mask and divebomb you. I'm not trying to support the concept of a feud; I just want to know how crows talk. Also, I get to fly, without having to sacrifice too much of the fun of having human intelligence, like if I picked a Falcon or a Seagull.

Would you rather fight one horse-sized duck or 100 duck-sized horses?

I think the answer here is pretty clear. The pure accumulative muscle mass of 100 duck-sized horses is bigger but it just does not matter. Both horses and ducks are moderately self-serving. If you use one to score a field goal, the rest will fear you. Nobody wants to be next. It's not like they're ants and they'll happily die for the colony. Not to mention, horses are usually pretty

domesticated, whereas even just a normal-sized duck would confidently fight a rottweiler. Morale plays a bigger role here than muscle-mass.

Would you time travel to the past or the future?

It depends on how long I'd have to be there. I'm a big history nerd. I would love to go back to ancient Rome just to see. But if I was only visiting, I'd have a lot to gain by seeing the future. You can learn at least some of the past by reading what's already been written down. I would want to see something entirely new. Plus if the stock market's still around, I can literally cheat life when I come back. But if I have to live out the rest of my life in a different time, I would probably go back in time just ten years. I can't think of a better era in the past to live in than modernity, but if I go back in time just a little bit, once again, I get to invest in Amazon and Tesla. Plus I need to practice the piano more and if I'm careful, you won't notice an extra Andrew walking around from 2012 to 2022 between the grocery store and a piano.

What's a skill you wish you had but don't?

I can't seem to keep German vocabulary in my head. I learned the grammar just fine, but I can't get fluent because I just don't use the language often enough. So it would be nice to be fluent in another language. It would also be really cool to be a writer or a gymnast.

Would you rather be 12 inches tall or 12 feet tall?

This is the toughest question so far. I have no idea. There's so much danger in being a foot tall. Suddenly raccoons and spiders with a moderate amount of venom would become kind of deadly. Cars would never see you walking and I'd lose every drinking game. But at least accommodations are easier to manage. Can't reach the sink to brush your teeth? Just have a ladder built and now you get to work out all day just by doing regular tasks. Whereas if I were twelve feet tall, accommodations would make me such a burden on architects and contractors and there's no way they'd let me play in the NBA. But I would definitely take on that horse-sized duck for bragging rights.

**Thank you, Andrew, for answering my questions.
We'll see you in church!**

CHRISTIAN ED

Christmas Tableau 2022!



Advent Wreath Workshop Event



*Sunday School "Advent
Calendar" bulletin board*



Yuletide Music Program

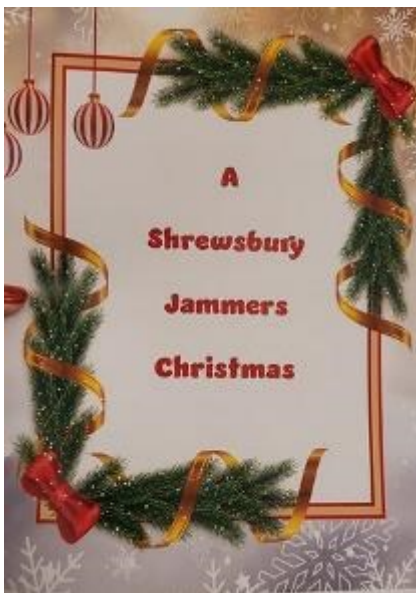
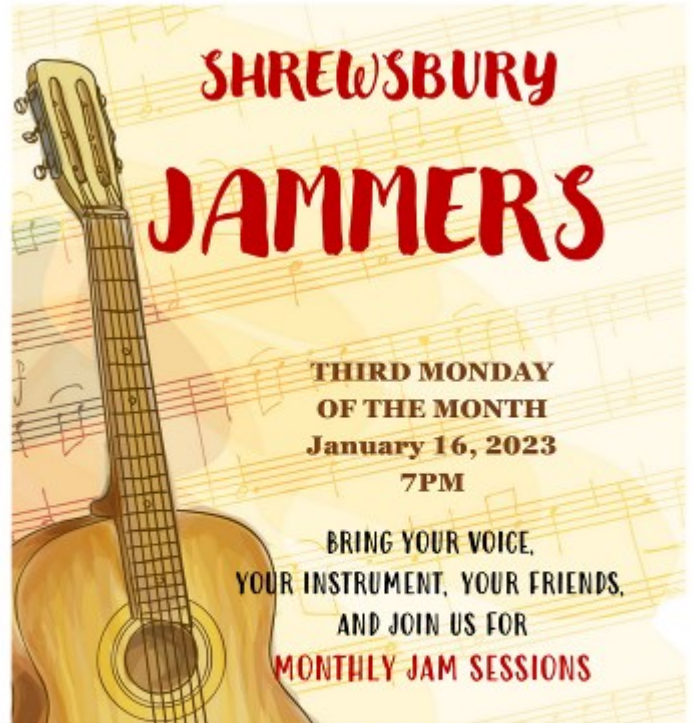
MINISTRIES



Matinee at One

Have you wanted to perform without performing on stage? Would you like to expand your exposure to classic and contemporary playwriting? Are you a frustrated thespian looking for an outlet to display your talents?

I invite anyone who is interested in forming a play reading group (tentatively titled "Matinee at One") to meet on Sunday, January 8 at 1:00pm in the Chapel. We will discuss plays of interest, when to meet and how to provide a winter activity that is fun and engag-



MINISTRIES



We meet in the Chapel
on the 4th Monday of
the month, from 10
until 11:30 a.m.
Please come join us!

Lord, Bless Our Work

They met on Mondays, every now and then
And showed up on time, beginning at Ten!
To knit, crochet, create and sew
For people they really didn't even know

The plan was to visit and work for awhile
To make a gift that would make someone smile
With hopes that it's something they really would need
That would maybe improve their lives, indeed.

To keep someone warm, they'd make a hat
Or a dress or a sweater, how about that?
And maybe a blanket in all different shapes
Some yarn or some fabric, that's all that it takes

Hands For Hope is the name of this team
And the creations they make would fill anyone's dream
Here's the point, for all that it's worth
They are doing God's work, right here on earth.

We all are His hands and the work we must do
To help those who have less than me and you
There is something that we all really know
What you give away, you'll receive 10-fold.

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings today
And for seeing us through along the way
Help us to learn when needs are great
And we will respond, we won't hesitate!

In Jesus name we offer this prayer
Help us help others, everywhere!
CAB - 2022



The United Church of Christ's National Office will be offering a series of 8 webinars throughout 2023 focused on financial well-being. The webinars are free and lead by practitioners in the

field of congregational giving. Pastor Holly will register us as a church, let her know if you are interested in watching together, alternatively you are welcome to watch from the comfort of your home computer.

The two upcoming offerings are:

Jan 25, 2023 07:30 PM

3 Best Practices: Set a New Year's Resolution for Increased Giving

Lee Gagen will discuss the three practices most likely to increase giving in a local congregation: teaching about generosity, pastoral leadership, and online giving options. The webinar will examine why these practices matter and discuss how to implement them in a congregation.

Mar 22, 2023 07:30 PM

Changing Landscape of Giving: What We Can Learn from Millennial and Gen Z Donors

Rev. Dr. Colie Bettivia of Grace UCC in Two Rivers, WI, will discuss insights and ideas the Church can learn from Millennial and Gen Z Donors.

Links will be shared via email and Constant Contact. Please contact the office for more information.

MINISTRIES



Our ministry tree, a work of art! All ornaments are handmade and are meaningful as they represent a ministry of the church. For example, the Hands for Hope ornaments are balls of yarn; Budget and Finance ornaments are currency trees; there are elves for the staff, bells for the Marketing Committee, hearts for the Keepers of the House, and much more! Come and check them out!!



At Mustard Seed evening meals are served on weekdays to anyone in a need of a meal. Our congregation provides evening meals to Mustard Seed on the first Wednesday of the following months: January, March, April, May, September, November, and December.

Through volunteering a few hours of your time you can help to feed nourishing food to the hungry. Volunteer Openings: January 4, 2023 (5) Cooks, (3) Bakers, (2) Driver

To volunteer sign-up online at <https://signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4faf2c7-mustard1> or you can contact Janet Pike at 774 -243-4395, mrsbear8@msn.com.

PAST EVENTS

Reflections On Our Past

Wednesday, December 14

It was a beautiful, well-attended launch of our 300th anniversary celebrations!! Thank you to all involved in the planning and execution of this amazing event!

Did you know you can watch it online if you missed it?! Here is the link:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=4TiOXKzFJvO&t=2105s>



PAST EVENTS



PAST EVENTS



Pictures courtesy of Jeanine Vitale

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FCCShrewsbury



Church on The Green Newsletter
January 2023 Issue



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

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