

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



May 18th, 2025

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

***“Caring for others is the highest expression of humanity.”
– Harriet Beecher Stowe***

PRELUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

E. Broughton

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CHIMERS

Harmonious Choirchimes

P. Rosene

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to praise God, all you faithful people! Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.

Many: Praise to God, who rules over all the earth. Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.

One: Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God. God created them and established for each a place.

Many: God has a place for us in this world; we have come that God may instruct and equip us.

One: Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God. Let all the rulers of the earth do so as well.

Many: God wipes away our tears and brings joyous melodies to our hearts. Let us unite in praise!

***HYMN**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified (NCH 561)

TRAINING CHOIR/YOUTH SINGERS

¡Cantar!

J. Althouse

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God revealed to us in the pages of Scripture is a welcoming and inclusive God who directs us to love one another. So we gather to seek removal of all barriers to that love. Come to confess all that separates you from others and from your own best:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We admit, holy God, that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to sing new tunes and to learn new dances, to hear new accents and to see not with our eyes but with your expansive vision. Forgive us when we hesitate to embrace the new life you offer.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God's promises to dwell with us, to ease our pain and wipe tears from our eyes. Dare to trust, for God accepts us as we are, that we might become all we are meant to be. It is the gift that leads to new life, accept it and be transformed.

CHOIR ANTHEM

How Can I Keep from Singing?

G. Walker

MUSIC SUNDAY PRESENTATION & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Introduction of New Members: *Rev. Karyl Leslie, Mary Maloney, Sonya Rastad, Linda Rudman, Sam Stewart*

Questions for New Members

Moderator: As a sign of our unity in Christ may we join together as current and new members in our First Congregational Church Mission Statement:

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 Right Hand of Fellowship: Welcome & Gifts for New Members (presented by the welcoming committee)
Deacon of the Week: May we join in the welcome of the newest members of First Congregational Church:

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 21:1-6

MESSAGE

Same Notes, New Song

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers (NCH 397)

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 has called us to a ministry of service; water for the thirst, comfort to those who grieve, healing for the ones in pain, acceptance for persons who have not accepted themselves. This is the time to offer our time and strength as well as money, that God's will may be realized among us.

OFFERTORY

The Rejoicing

G. F. Handel arr. M. Thompson

Shrewsbury Ringers

***DOXOLOGY**

Tune: Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thank you, gracious God, for making your home with us and claiming us as your own. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts toward the new world you are creating among us- a world where peace emerges from mutual respect and honest encounters. Bless these gifts, and us, in the furtherance of your mission. Amen.

***HYMN**

When the Morning Stars Together (NCH 453)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

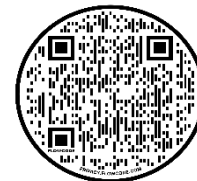
A New Gloria

C. Moglebust

Shrewsbury Ringers

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 Deb DelDotto
The Reader is Amanda Durkin
Greeters are Robin and Steve Donigian
Altar flowers are provided by Karis and Kevin Ray in loving memory of Tomas Domanski and Mary Helen Ray.
Liturgy is adapted from Gathered by Love, Lavon Bayler

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

For Kathy & Tom; Bob; Debra Wallace; Anne Hanieski; Kim, James and Anne Phyfe; Elizabeth Hein; the family and friends of Gloria Symonds; Mary; Gabriel and his fellow soldiers, deployed to Syria; Tom Stone; Susan, Beth Cullen's sister; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Kathy and all the friends and family of Dile Holton; Christina Hsu and her family; Diane Smith's mother, Anne Thompson, and the Smith family; Jackie P., her daughter Denise, and family; Stanley; Sharon; Ethan; Leon Bowman; Frank Trippi; Jean Stuart; Wendy Driscoll; Jennifer and Rebecca MacKenzie; Cathy Wentzell; Eileen F.; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Peyton; Jean Folsom; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi; Jan Smith; Brenda; Barbara Harlow.

-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.

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, 5/18:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
 11:00am: New Member Reception, Gifford
 11:00am: "15 Minutes of Fun", Gifford
 11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
 4:00pm: Malcom Halliday Organ Concert, Sanctuary & Gifford
 7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday, 5/19:

10:00am: Hands for Hope, Parlor
 7:00pm: Leah Circle, Youth Room
 7:00pm: Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 5/20:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room
 7:00pm: Council, Adkins

Wednesday, 5/21:

11:30am: Martha Circle, Adkins
 6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers

Thursday, 5/22:

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 5/23:

4:15pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 5/25:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

*Pastor Holly will be away Tuesday-Thursday this week

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Our Mission:

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Senior Choir

Cathy Albanese-Gabbett
Doug Buell
Ann Cairns
Linda Divris
Caroline Espe
Mary Innis
Sally Martin
Chuck Mayberry
Sandra McManus
Dennis Pike
Jennifer Shaw
Rachel Smith
Bernard Trafford
Bill Whitehead
Chris Williams
Doris Woodfin

Youth Singers

Penelope Detrick
Madeleine Lallier

Training Choir

Eleanor Chen
Dylan DelDotto Bordage
Lincoln Detrick
Charlotte Goodwin
Emma Lallier
Lizzie Lallier
Corrina MillerShank
J. J. Shepard
Sylvie Summers

Children's Choir Director

Jennifer Shaw

Handbells

Susan Amos
Cathy Albanese-Gabbett
Ashton Brennecke
Kathi Buzzell
Linn Clark
Karen Daukas
Caroline Espe
Lauren Espe
Beth Hansen
Matt Lallier
Jacqueline Koo
Shana Mitchell-Hopkins
Sue Moore
Craig Phyfe
Sue Phyfe
Tom Porter
David Rocheleau
Sue Russell
Linda Ryan
Jennifer Shaw
Jeanine Vitale
Amelia Wiggins
Wendy Ziesemann

Chimers

Eleanor Chen
Jacob Chen
Dylan DelDotto Bordage
Corrina MillerShank

Chimers Director

Elaine Shaw

Piano Intern

Clara Froes

Music Ministry Team

Cathy Albanese-Gabbett
Doug Buell
Kathi Buzzell
Linda Divris
Sally Martin
Doris Woodfin

Guest Instrumentalists

Chelsea Cressman
Aaron Griffith
Zelda Huddock
Mark Muncey
Rachel Smith
Marty Tentor

Music Librarian

Linda Divris

Interim Music Director

Andrew Lefferts

MAY/JUNE EVENTS



ARTS ON THE GREEN PRESENTS



Malcolm Halliday
in Concert!
featuring the
Casavant
Opus 2446 Organ



Sunday
May 18th
4pm



Mass Cultural Council

A freewill offering will be gratefully received.


This program is supported in part by a grant from the Shrewsbury Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



CENTRAL MASS HOUSING ALLIANCE
WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

The 40th annual Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance 5K Walk for the Homeless will take place on Sunday May 18 at 2 pm at Elm Park in Worcester (registration begins at 12 noon).

<https://www.cmhaonline.org/walk-event-details-pre-walk>



It's Graduation Time!

Graduation Sunday will be on June 1st! If you have a youth graduating from high school or college, please let us know so we can honor them during worship. Contact the office by **May 27th** with the youth's name, parents'/guardians' name(s), name of school they are graduating from and the name of the school they will attend next (include the major if you wish) or what their plans are.

- May 18th: Music Appreciation Sunday
- June 1st: Children's Sunday
- June 8th: Kids Zone "Fun Day"
- July 6th: Outdoor Worship begins



RAINOUT

Due to the rainout on **April 26th**, which was the original date of the WooSox Game Fundraiser, we have been given a new date of **June 21st at 4:00pm** in Sections 1 and 2.



Thanks for the Memories...

Save the Date:
Sunday, June 8th, 2025 from 2-4 pm
First Unitarian Church--Unity Hall
90 Main St., Worcester



SHREWSBURY PRIDE
5K
June 7, 2025

SHREWSBURYPRIDE5K.OR

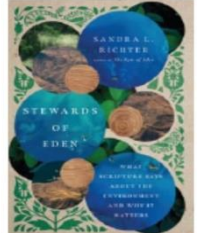
Summer Book Series
First Congregational Church
Shrewsbury, MA

Summer Reading Time Is Almost Here!

Join FCC in discovering new insights into faith and the environment from three distinct books. Borrow from the library, your e-reader, from your favorite local bookstore or online used book vendor—each of these authors will bring a unique perspective on God's relationship with creation and humanity's response.

Discussions held the last week of the month by Rev. Holly MillerShank.
We'll meet outside, weather permitting, bring a lawn chair.

All are welcome.



June Stewards of Eden
by Sandra Richter
Discussion Date
Wed. June 25th 7pm