

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



February 2nd, 2025

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“If God is with me, who can be against me.”

— Cam Newton

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING***PASSING OF THE PEACE****PASTORAL GREETING****CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Hope in God who has created you. Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

Many: God accepts us, even when people do not. God affirms us, even when we fail.

One: Our God gives us tasks to do and the strength to do them. God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

Many: We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith. We are here to worship the God who empowers us.

***HYMN**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? (NCH 539)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgement, cruelty, or indifference. Forgive us when we ignore the needs of our neighbors; resist your call to oppose injustice; give in to scarcity and fear; and assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God proclaims these words of assurance; "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In Christ, we are forgiven. In the Spirit, we are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, may we live anew as beloved children of God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Guide My Feet, Lord (Traditional Spiritual)

Setting by John Carter

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 4:21-30

MESSAGE

Every Day Heroes

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

(Pilgrim 397)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**Invitation**

The story of the table

The great prayer of thanksgiving

Pastor: God who makes us wonder... *We join our voices to praise you for all these amazing things and for the life you give us.*

**Holy, holy, holy are you, O God of gracious love.
All creation rejoices in you.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who is filled with your compassion
Hosanna in the highest!**

The prayer of blessing

Sharing the sacred meal

A prayer for God to go with us

Loving God, your love is as close to us as our own hands and feet. People who need your love are as close to us as the people beside us, behind us and in front of us. Send us now into the world to love each other, sure that you love us. Show us where we are needed and how we can make a difference so that the world will be a good place for all your people. We know this is what Jesus wanted. Help us to live for Jesus wherever we go. 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

God has called the church to be an agent of change and transformation in the world. With prophetic voice and courageous work, we are to influence the world. The resources we give here are a symbol of our whole life response to God's call.

OFFERTORY

Irish Tune from County Derry
Shrewsbury Ringers

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

***DOXOLOGY**

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**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity now and always. Amen.

***HYMN**

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

(NCH 537)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All Creatures of our God and King
Shrewsbury Ringers

arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon

The Senior Minister is Rev. Holly MillerShank

The Acting Associate Minister is Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

The Visiting Director of Music is Andrew Lefferts

The Deacon is Matt Lallier

The Reader is Craig Phyfe

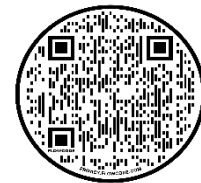
Greeters are Delayna and Chris Griffith

Altar flowers are provided by Clayton Hayden in loving memory of Lorraine Hayden.

Liturgy adapted from Gathered by Love, Lavon Bayler and Augsburg Fortress, liturgy license 3B173782.

Communion liturgy adapted from the Bread of Life, an-all age Communion for Lent, Nancy Cocks, Iona Community. Bulletin Art by Kelly Latimore

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

For the victims and their families of the plane/helicopter collision in DC; Gloria Symonds; Leon Bowman; Frank Trippi; Patrick Sullivan and family; Jean Stuart; Sherri Robertson; Erna Lallier and family; Wendy Driscoll; Jennifer and Rebecca MacKenzie; Cathy; Ben Hancox, son of Rena & Chuck Mayberry; Eileen F.; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Christina Hsu; Peyton; John Heald; Jean Folsom; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi; Jan Smith; Anne Thompson; Brenda; Barbara Harlow; Lisa DiPilato; and Florence Stowe.

-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, 2/2:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: "Soup"er Sunday, Gifford Hall

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

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

Monday, 2/3:

7:00pm: Youth Ministry, Youth Room

Tuesday, 2/4:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room

Wednesday, 2/5:

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers

Thursday, 2/6:

10:00am: SNEUCC Monthly, Adkins

10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library

7:00pm: CE Ministry, Youth Room

7:15pm: Senior Choir

Friday, 2/7:

4:15pm: Chimers

Sunday, 2/9:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser, Gifford Hall

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

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.