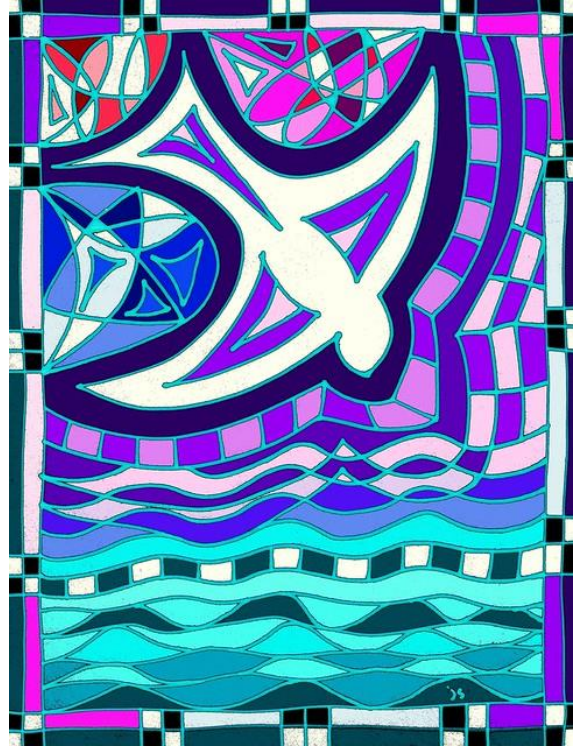


First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



September 29th, 2024

**Rev. Holly MillerShank
Senior Minister**

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.”

Stanley Horowitz

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

One: Happy are those who are steadfast in faith, who show forth the mercy and compassion of God.

Many: God can do all things; no purpose of God can be thwarted.

One: In faith, we have uttered what we do not understand, for the ways of God are too wonderful even for us.

Many: We proclaim and question and even boast in our attempts to see and hear God at work.

One: We believe we will see God's goodness and be led through pathways that bring life.

Many: We wait for God and the strength God offers, and our hearts take courage.

***HYMN**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (Pilgrim 20)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Before the awesome majesty of the Eternal One, our thoughts and deeds become millstones around our necks.

Eyes and hands and feet have led us away from the ways of God. Yet our hearts say, "We will seek God's face." Let us pour out our sin before the One who offers forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate and merciful God, in our worst moments we despise ourselves. We know what is right, but we fail to do it. We are easily deceived by voices other than yours. When we seek your face our vision is clouded by self-interest. When we intend to do your will, easier paths beckon, and we follow them. Forgive us, God as we repent.

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God does not cast us off or forsake us. Our Creator does not give us up to the will of our adversaries. Mercy and forgiveness are offered to us as gifts from God; let us receive them with joy and gratitude. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Phoebe Ann and Clara May children of Curtis and Kimberly Williams

Godparents: Melissa Horohoe & Corey Horohoe (Phoebe), Grace Drake & Jason Drake (Clara)

Invitation

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Questions of the Parents**Question of the Congregation**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Act of Praise *(introduction of the newly baptized)* Tune: BUNESSEN (*"Morning Has Broken"*)

Phoebe & Clara we greet you on this glad morning,
Your day of life we now recognize.
Here is the water, we are God's people.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

Phoebe & Clara we name you with thanksgiving
Offer our prayers and sing you this song.
We are the church, your spiritual family.
Sing we our praises to Christ the Lord.

ANTHEM

Home By Another Road

M. Miller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29

SERMON

Many Hands

Rev. Holly MillerShank

*HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations (NCH 576)

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

MISSION MOMENT: SAGE PLACE

Norma Garcia

CALL TO OFFERING

Once again the opportunity is ours to proclaim the goodness of God through offering ourselves and the first fruits of our labors. May all that we give be a testimony to God's purposes among us.

OFFERTORY

Canzona

W. A. Mozart

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: OLD HUNDRETH

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.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All that we give is first a gift from you, O God. It is a joy to invest in the mission of the church, both as a gathered community in this place and as a scattered people who long for connection. May our offerings reach where we ourselves cannot go and bring wholeness to the broken places of this world. Amen.

*HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing (NCH 593)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Saints Bound for Heaven

E. King & W. Walker arr. S. Scott

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 Beth Hansen

The Reader is Mary Innis

Greeters are Dave and Sue Russell

Altar Flowers are provided today by the Kings Daughters Fund.

Liturgy adapted from Led by Love Year B, Lavon Baylor

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

Todd & Diane Brown; Richard & Alison Ricker on the passing of his brother & Mary's husband, Robert; Thomas; Lt Ethan A. Connors & the DeDotto family due to his recent deployment to the Middle East on board the Abraham Lincoln; Connie Lawn; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Peter, friend of Pete & Marie Murphy; Paul German; Joseph Evasius & the 181st Infantry Regiment; Mary; Phil; LaShaun; Melissa; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Stan Holden; Christina Hsu; Peyton; John Heald; Bev Fletcher's niece; Marie Murphy's brother, John; Jean Folsom; Julie Ann; Roberta Jelinch's sister; Sandi; Jan Smith; Anne Thompson; Don Gray; Brenda; Rebecca and Jennifer MacKenzie; Barbara Harlow; Wendy and Tom; Lisa DiPilato; and Florence Stowe.

-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.

-For those grieving or suffering due to the 10,235 gun violence deaths (not including suicides) ...since the start of 2024

- For those who have lost loved ones to suicide (if you or someone you know is considering harming themselves call 988 for help)

- For those who are affected by natural disasters.

-The mission & works of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.

-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.

-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, 9/29:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

1:00pm: Spirit of Shrewsbury Parade

3:00pm: Central Association Annual Meeting, Sanctuary

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday, 9/30:

10:30am: Parkinson's Chorus, Chapel

Tuesday, 10/1:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room

Wednesday, 10/2:

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

7:00pm: CLT, Adkins

Thursday, 10/3:

10:00am: SNEUCC Monthly, Adkins

10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library

7:00pm: CE Meeting, Youth Room

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Halliday Music Room

Friday, 10/4:

4:15pm: Chimers, Chapel

Sunday, 10/6:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm