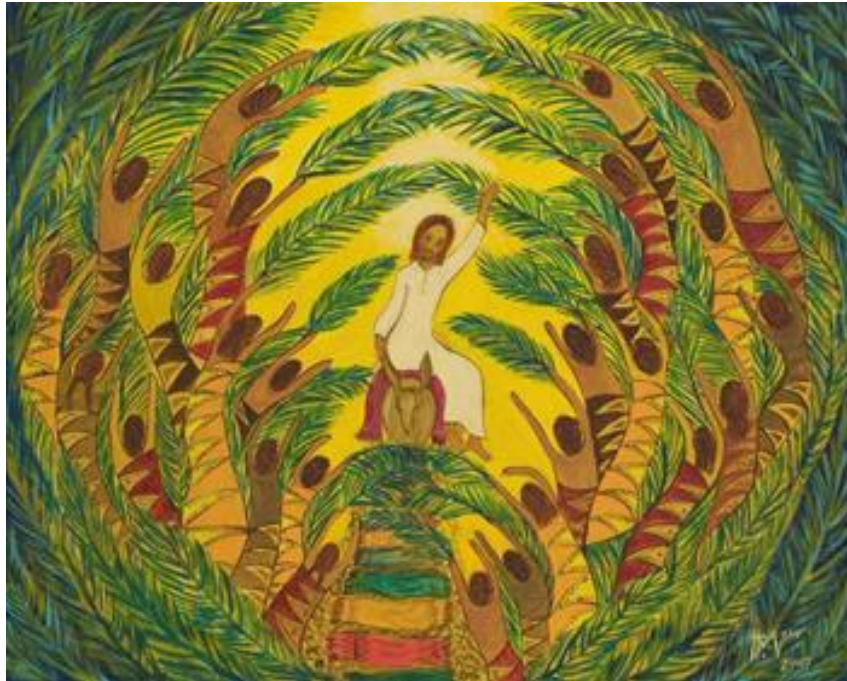


First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



April 13th, 2025

Palm/Passion Sunday

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Mark 11: 9

PRELUDE

All Glory Laud and Honor

M. Teschner arr. D. Paxton

THE TRIMPHAL ENTRANCE

Luke 19:28-40

***HYMN**

All Glory Laud and Honor (NCH 216)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blessed are those who delight in the Lord! Blessed are those who walk in God's name.

Many: Give thanks to God, who disturbs our bland routines, and calls us to awareness.

One: Let all who follow Christ; from the songbirds to the stones, shout their praise!

Many: Hosanna! Let every knee bend before Jesus! Let every tongue proclaim his reign! Hosanna!

One: Now is the time to present your offerings, now is a time to take account for your actions, urgency is upon us.

Many: May we bear witness to Christ's work in the world, may our commitment to God echo through the cosmos. We come to strengthen our commitments so that we might endure the Cross.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

YOUTH SINGERS

Let the Gates of the City Outward Swing

C. Buck/H. Hopson

CALL TO CONFESSION

Will we wave our leafy branches today and hide them tomorrow? Will our hosannas melt into a chorus of death? Will we, like the buildings of old, reject the stone that is meant to hold all things together? Will the rocks need to take our place, because silence overwhelms us?

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that we are as fickle as the crowds in Jerusalem. When everything seems to be going well, we join in the hosanna chorus, but in times of weariness or petty disagreements we choose insults over compassion. We long to blend into the crowd, not because we believe in their cries, but because we don't want to be singled out. It is easier to quarrel among ourselves than to admit our larger failings.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God answers us and offers compassion and guidance. In the great mystery of God; One came among us, fully human yet fully divine, to lead us to the throne of grace. Transcendent in his very nature, Jesus emptied himself, taking on the role of humble servant, facing death on the cross, for the sake of our salvation. This is a gift greater than all else.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Ride On, King Jesus

P. Kern

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 22:14-27

MESSAGE

Shouting Stones

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Ah Holy Jesus (Pilgrim 163)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

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

Gwen Molina

Scouts of America

CALL TO OFFERING

Our palms will turn to dust, we too shall turn to dust. What can we give that is worthy of Christ's sacrifice? Let us commit to good deeds and faithful service so that all may come to praise the Lord. We give what we can, not for our own sakes but for the sake of the Gospel.

OFFERTORY

Nocturne No. 4 in C

M. Helman

Shrewsbury Ringers

Comissioned by the Westwood Ringers in honor of their director Marilyn Downes in appreciation for her fifty years of music ministry at First Baptist Church, Westwood, Massachusetts. This music was donated to FCC in honor of Marilyn Downes by her sister Linda Holden.

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN

When My Love (Pilgrim 162)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

T. Williams arr. J. Raney

Shrewsbury Ringers

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 Linda Phillips
The Reader is Bill Garcia
Greeters are Norma and Bill Garcia and Erik French
Altar flowers are provided by The Kings Daughters Fund.

Liturgy adapted from Led by Love, Lavon Bayler Year B.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

For Gabriel and his fellow soldiers, deployed to Syria; Tom Stone; Susan, Beth Cullen's sister; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Kathy Holton and family; Christina Hsu and her family; Diane Smith's mother, Anne Thompson, and the Smith family; Jackie P., her daughter Denise, and family; Kim, Sue Phyfe's daughter-in-law; Stanley; Sharon; Gloria Symonds; Leon Bowman; Frank Trippi; Jean Stuart; Wendy Driscoll; Jennifer and Rebecca MacKenzie; Cathy; Eileen F.; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Marcia Smith; 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, 4/13:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Martha Circle Bake Sale
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday, 4/14:

7:00pm: Music Committee, Adkins

Tuesday, 4/15:

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

Wednesday, 4/16:

11:30am: Martha Circle, Adkins
6:00pm: Lenten Series, Chapel
6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers

Thursday, 4/17:

9:30am: CoAM, Adkins
10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library
7:00pm: Maundy Thursday service, Sanctuary

Friday, 4/18:

12:00pm: Good Friday service, Sanctuary
4:15pm: Chimers

Sunday, 4/20:

6:00am: Easter Sunrise Service
9:00am: Easter Service
11:00am: Easter Service

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



Dollars & Sense is a monthly feature, generally the 3rd week of the month, where we share information about different aspects of our financial health as a congregation.

Publication Date: April 2025

As part of the Financial Sustainability work that took place in 2023, we, as a congregation, committed to sponsoring 3 new fundraisers. The goal was to create opportunities to engage the wider community in support of our shared ministry and to develop a new revenue stream alongside our pledges, endowment income, and building rentals. Our 2025 budget estimates \$10,000 in revenue from these 3 fundraisers.

The 3 fundraisers include: a booth at Yuletide Market, an annual Pride 5k and a Church Gala.

The Shrewsbury Pride 5k is in full swing! We are partnering with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services for the event. It will be on June 7th 2025 at 9am at Oak Middle School.

Currently we are soliciting sponsorships from area businesses at the \$500 or \$250 level. We are grateful to Hannah Kane for being the event's signature sponsor! A full list of sponsorship benefits and how to sign up can be found at ShrewsburyPride5k.org. We are also seeking individual or family sponsorships at \$100.

You can play a part by signing up to run, jog or walk on June 7th and by encouraging others to do so as well. Advanced registrations are \$30 (register before May 7th to get a t-shirt!). Day of registrations will be \$35. All of the info is at ShrewsburyPride5k.org

This signature event both widens our visibility to the community and connects us with new and important partners- it is the best of what fundraising can be; joy-filled, purposeful and revenue producing!

Additionally, don't forget to save the date for the upcoming Church Gala on Sunday October 26th. Please watch Looking Ahead for information about the silent auction and other event details.



ShrewsburyPride5K.org

FCC's MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

In March we had REVENUE of \$62,439.68 and EXPENSES of \$49,318.11 giving us a monthly net income (positive) of \$13,121.57.

Year-to-date (January 1st thru March 31st 2025) we have REVENUE of \$195,676.41 and EXPENSES of \$168,781.90 which gives us a YTD net income (positive) of \$26,894.51.

*Given the recent stock market fluctuations, please know that Budget and Finance Committee has been in regular communication with our investment managers.

Give at www.fccsm.org