



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS  
spiritual discovery • inclusive community • compassionate service

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*



*Jesus Wept by Hannah Garrity*

**March 22nd, 2026**

**Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin  
Acting Associate Minister**

***Deacon's Quote of the Day***

*“Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.*

*In the shelter of each other, the people live.*

*~ an old Irish Proverb*

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Psalm 130*

One: Out of the depths we call to you, O Lord.

**Many: Let your ears hear our supplication.**

One: We wait for you, O God, in your word is our hope.

**Many: We wait for you, O Lord, for with you there is mercy and grace.**

**\*HYMN**

**This Is a Day of New Beginnings** (NCH 417, vs. 1-4)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The psalmist reminds us that our God is loving and merciful. Let us come before God now, together, and then privately in silence, to name and confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we are a busy people, who become pre-occupied with the demands of work, our relationships, and our communities. We tend to focus on our own needs and fail to see the needs of the world around us. We do that which we should not and fail to do that which we should. We ask for your forgiveness and for your guidance in following the path you set before us. Hear us now as privately and silently, we confess our sin.**

*Silence is held*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let our souls receive rest: on this road there will be comfort, in seasons of grief, there will be companions. On this road our thirst will be quenched with living water from the deep well of Christ's grace. On this road our eyes will be opened to signs of resurrection and new life.

**Many: Praise God, who weeps with us, and calls us by name back into life, and into the beloved community that unbinds us for new life.**

SUNG RESPONSE *Amazing Grace, Verse 5*

**When We've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

## ANTHEM

**Let Us Walk This Road Together**

M. Beall & J. Carter

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1-44

HYMN *(please remain seated)*

**Lord, If Only You Had Been Here** *(see insert)*

## SERMON

Who Took the Stone Away?

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

**\*HYMN**

**I Heard My Mother Say** (NCH 409, vs. 1 & 4)

## 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

As a well-known hymn says, "Jesus paid it to all, all to him I owe." Everything we have, we owe to the grace of God. In joyous response, we return a portion of those gifts to God, whether it be financial, our skills and talents, our relationships. Let us offer our gifts to God.

#### OFFERTORY

**I Need Thee Every Hour**

R. Lowry arr. R. Hughes

#### CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

##### *Easter Eggs*

This Easter, trade the plastic easter-eggs and chemical dyes for an eco-friendly Easter celebration. Try dyeing local/free range chicken eggs with dyes from beets, onions, and cabbages for a fun and natural holiday craft!

#### \*DOXOLOGY

**Tune: Old 100th**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ in whom God's grace we know.  
Praise Spirit, with us evermore. One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy One, we offer these gifts to you in grateful response for all you have given us. Bless these gifts and our lives to build bridges and community to bring healing and hope into a world aching for new life. Amen.**

#### \*HYMN

**Blest Be the Tie That Binds (Pilgrim 272)**

#### BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

**Epilogue**

L. Smith

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.

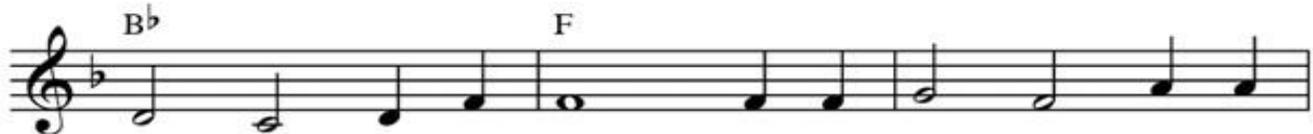
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

# “Lord, If Only You Had Been Here”

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D (“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”)



1. “Lord, if on - ly you had been here, one I  
 2. “Lord, if on - ly you had been here!” Je - sus  
 3. “Lord, if on - ly you had been here,” we cry  
 4. When we share your res - ur - rec - tion, when we



love would not have died.” Mar - tha shared her grief with  
 heard these words a - gain. Mar - y, sit - ting home and  
 out when all goes wrong— when our grief is ov - er -  
 know that you are life, we find cour - age for our



Je - sus in these words she sad - ly cried.  
 wait - ing, spoke to Je - sus of her pain.  
 whelm - ing, when life’s trou - bles seem so strong.  
 liv - ing in this world of pain and strife.



Je - sus said, “I’m res - ur - rec - tion. Mar - tha, do you  
 So our Lord was deep - ly trou - bled in this world of  
 Then, O Lord, we hear your an - swer: “I am res - ur -  
 We your church will work for jus - tice, wel - come strang - ers,



know it’s true? I’m the life for which you’re long - ing.”  
 death and sin. Some - times all we see is strug - gle;  
 rec - tion— See! Not just in some dis - tant fu - ture—  
 help the poor. Faced with death, we’ll be a wit - ness:



She said, “I - be - lieve in you!”  
 death and e - vil seem to win.  
 I am life! Now live in me!”  
 you are with us, Ris - en Lord.

Biblical Reference: John 11:1–45

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White.

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Email: [bcgillette@comcast.net](mailto:bcgillette@comcast.net) New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com)



*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: March 2026**

### **FCC Related Scholarships**

Over many generations members of First Congregational Church have set aside resources to help others. These scholarships have often been named in honor/memory of beloved FCC staff and lay members of the congregation. Currently the following scholarships are part of FCC's financial resources:

#### **Adkins/Job Cushing Scholarship**

Named for two former pastors of the congregation, funds from this scholarship are reserved for those pursuing theological education. Applicants can include both lay members exploring ordination and current clergy serving the church.

#### **Avis Kemp / Olson Scholarships**

Avis Kemp was a long-time member of FCC. Her family started this endowment fund with \$500 and it has provided multiple scholarships over the years. The first was given in 1988. This scholarship is open to anyone furthering their education, not just graduating seniors, but they must be members of FCC.

The Olson Scholarship was established in 1997 in memory of Blanche and Ted Olson, also long-time members of FCC. (Leah Circle still collects "Blanche's Pennies" to use as contributions to various outreach programs) It is semi-restricted as it is for a graduating senior, one boy, one girl, and they do not have to be members of FCC.

Over the years, the combined scholarships given total just over \$90,000.

#### **Florence Stowe Music Scholarship**

The newest FCC scholarship, Florence Stowe was a dedicated musician in the region and a faithful member of FCC. In her estate she gifted funds to FCC which lead to the establishment of this scholarship. Graduating Seniors who have participated at any point in the music program of FCC are qualified to apply.

### **FCC's MONTHLY SNAPSHOT**

In FEBRUARY we had REVENUE of \$61,810.42 and EXPENSES of \$68,628.99 giving us a monthly net loss (negative) of \$6,818.57

Year-to-date (January 1<sup>st</sup> thru February 28<sup>th</sup> 2026) we had REVENUE of \$164,969.32\* and EXPENSES of \$124,961.86\*\* which gives us a YTD net income (positive) of \$40,007.47

*\*Revenue includes 10 members who paid their 2026 stewardship pledge in full.*

*\*\*Expenses included significant snow removal costs.*

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Give at

[www.fccsm.org](http://www.fccsm.org)

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Questions about scholarships?  
Speak to Elaine Shaw  
(Avis/Kemp) Curtis Smith  
(Stowe) or Jay Salsgiver  
(Adkins/Cushing).



## **Holy Week**

*March 29, [2026](#)*

**Palm Sunday:**

7:00pm: FCCSM Sanctuary

*April 2, [2026](#)*

**Maundy Thursday:**

7:00pm: FCCSM Sanctuary

**Easter Vigil:**

Thursday (April 2) @ 9PM – Friday (April 3) 12PM, FCCSM Sanctuary

*April 3, [2026](#)*

**Good Friday:**

12:00pm: FCCSM Sanctuary

7:00pm: Ecumenical Service @ Greendale People's Church

(25 Francis Street, Worcester)

*April 5, 2026*

**Easter Sunday Services:**

6:00am: Mountain View Cemetery

9:00am: FCCSM Sanctuary

11:00am: FCCSM Sanctuary

# Easter Memorial Lilies and Funds Order and Donation Form

**Deadline: March 22, 2026**



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lilies** - Flowers are donated to the Care Team to be delivered to people on their care list.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Lilies.

Total Order: number of plants x \$14.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For Publication (please print, use second page if needed):

Name of Giver(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

## FUNDS

I would like to make a memorial donation.

Amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Select the Fund (please see the back of the page for fund description):

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

King's Daughters Memorial Flower Fund

For Publication (please print, use second page if needed):

Name of Giver(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT

TOTAL ORDER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed (enter "lilies" and/or the name of the appropriate fund on the check's memo line)

I will pay online ([www.fccsm.org](http://www.fccsm.org) click on the "Give" button and scroll to Other and indicate "lilies" or the name of the appropriate fund).

If paying by check during the Sunday collection, please give a second check (separate from your weekly offering) and write "lilies" or the name of the appropriate fund in the memo line.



*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 Erin Canzano  
The Readers are Mary Innis, Bill Garcia, Sally Martin, & Dave Russell  
Greeters are Corrina Millershank and JJ Shepard  
Altar flowers are provided by the Samant family in loving memory of Joanne's parents, Mary Elizabeth and Frank Brown.*

*Liturgy adapted from Presbyterian Outlook, Jane Holtzclaw and Worship Ways, United Church of Christ.  
The hymn "Lord, If You Only Had Been There" is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and is used with permission.  
The art image, Jesus Wept, Hannah Garrity, Sanctified Art, and is used with permission.*

**GIVE HERE:**



## PRAYER REQUESTS

— Prayers for Carole Fontaine; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Aaron; Lt Ethan Connors, deployed in the Middle East; Joshua S.; Bob Podolski; Stan Holden; Timmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Kevin; Ronniy Reis; Bob; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phylfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Stanley; Sharon; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi.

-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 dealing with violence & loss in cities in the United States as well as those recovering from natural disasters throughout our country and the 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), Youth Room & 214  
Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room  
Every Thursday, 7PM OA (Overeaters Anonymous), Rm 214

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### Sunday, 3/22:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary  
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room  
11:00am: Deacon's Retreat, Adkins  
7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

### Monday, 3/23:

10:00am: Hands for Hope, Parlor  
7:00pm: Men's Ministry, Adkins

### Tuesday, 3/24:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor  
12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins  
7:00pm: Deacons, Adkins

### Wednesday, 3/25:

6:00pm: Lenten Series, Chapel  
7:00pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

### Thursday, 3/26:

11:00am: Ministry Team Meeting, CE Library  
7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

### Friday, 3/27:

**NO** Chimers

### Saturday, 3/28:

11:30am: Martha Circle Bake Sale Prep, Adkins

### Sunday, 3/29:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary  
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room  
11:00am: Martha Circle Bake-Sale, Gifford Hall

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm