

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming & Creation Justice Church of the United Church of Christ



November 1st, 2026

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“Do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium! Be contemplative, love prayer; be coherent with your faith and generous in the service of your brothers and sisters.

-St Pope John Paul II

PRELUDE

For All the Saints

R. Vaughan Williams arr. L. Smith

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Eternal God, you have knit your people of all times and places into one communion in the mystical body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many: Grant us your Spirit of encouragement and strength, so we may persevere in our leg of the relay race. Surround us with a great cloud of witnesses who cheer us on the way.

One: Keep us one with all who proclaim your gospel until such time as we finish our race, finding rest in your arms. Give us a peace that passes all understanding and a hope that all things will be made new.

Many: Give us grace to know our place, a now and not-yet, held in balance with generations before and after; made one through Christ, we come celebrating our unity.

*HYMN

For All the Saints (Pilgrim 306)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up faithful followers. You bind us together in the costs and joys of discipleship. We yearn to give you our best, but all too often, we fall short of our own expectations, much less fulfill the challenges you set before us.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the peace Christ promised.

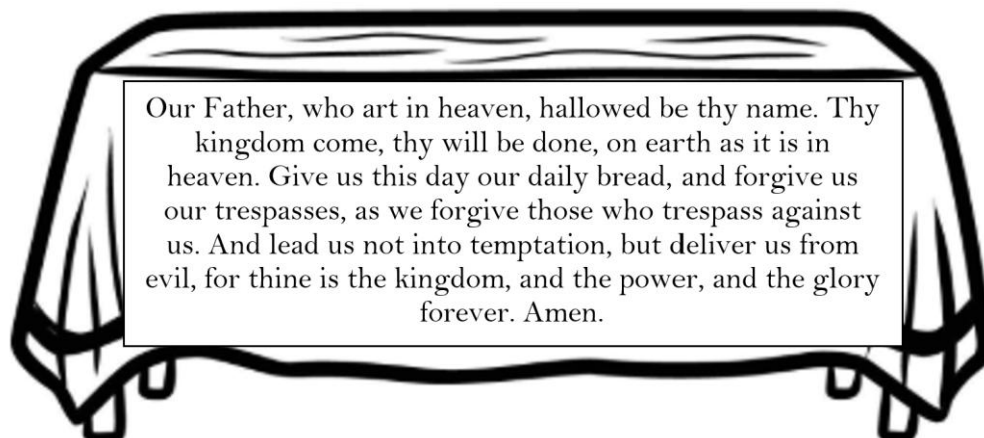
WORDS OF ASSURANCE

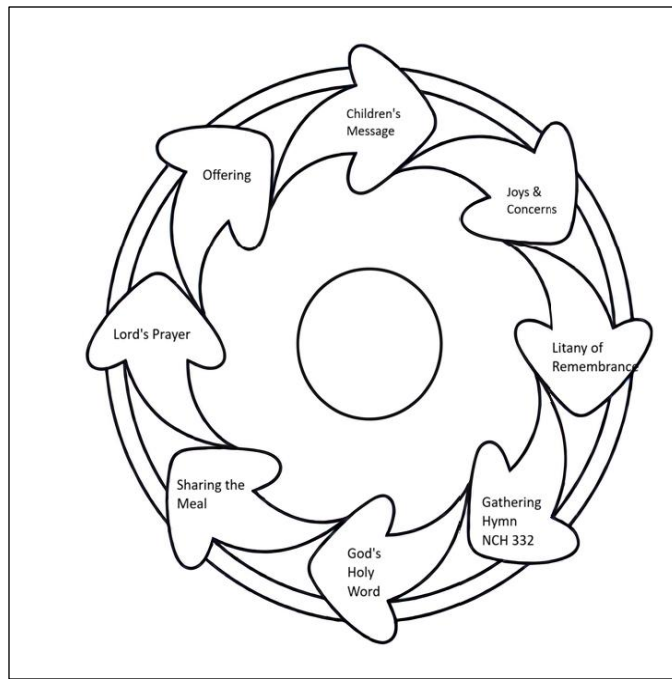
Hear the good news: We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. Friends, this is the Good News!

ANTHEM

I'm Hungry Lord

C. Taylor





OFFERTORY

The Heavenly Table

J. Southbridge

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Indigenous People's Month

Learn about the Indigenous people who lived on your land first. What is the name of that nation? How does the nation relate to the land and ecosystems? Learn, pray, acknowledge, and stand in solidarity.

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Old 100th

**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

O God you are Lord of the eternal living. We praise your holy name for all your servants who have finished their part of the race. We pray that, encouraged by their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may inspire future generations; bless our offering to honor those who have gone before us and to set a place for those who will follow. Amen.

*HYMN

Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs (NCH 617)

The tune for this hymn is most closely associated with John Newton's Amazing Grace. While not an African American Spiritual, John Newton's story of slave-trader turned abolitionist/preacher, inspires us to consider social-justice initiatives in our own time. The African American Spirituals project at FCC donates a portion of the music operations budget to the Black Excellence Academy in Worcester. It is our unofficial way of paying royalties on the African American Spirituals that we sing together.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious

W. Owen arr. J. Mansfield

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

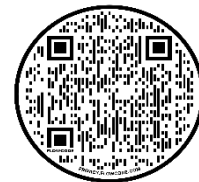
The Deacon is Beth Hansen

The Reader is Jennifer Shaw

Greeters are Corinna MillerShank and JJ Shepard

Altar flowers are provided by the Ambra family in celebration of National Adoption month.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for the Peck family on the passing of Ian's father, Ralph; Norma Garcia; the family & friends of Ellen Kelly Smith (Fairbanks); the Erban and Phillips families; Sean Allen; Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest; Bretton; Dan; Cindy and Sarah; Bob Podolski; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; James Kelly; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Stanley; Sharon; Tracey Carner, 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 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, all military serving in the Middle East and around the world, and all who protect and care for us.



THIS WEEK AT FCC

Every day, 7am: AA, Cushing Hall

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

Every Monday, 7pm: AA,

Rm 213 (week 3) & Youth Room (weeks 1, 2, 4)

Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Youth Room & Rm 214

Every Thursday, 7PM OA (Overeaters Anonymous), Rm 214

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 11/1: (Daylight Savings Time Ends)

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: Confirmation Info Session, Parlor

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing

Monday, 11/2:

10:00am: Hands for Hope Planning Meeting, Gifford

Tuesday, 11/3:

ELECTION DAY

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: CLT, Adkins

Wednesday, 11/4:

12:00pm: Mustard Seed, Kitchen

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

7:15pm: Bible Study, Chapel

Thursday, 11/5:

10:00am: SNEUCC, Adkins

10:00am: Staff Meeting, CE Library

7:00pm: CE Ministry, Youth Room

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 11/6:

11am: Fair Set-up, Gifford

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Saturday, 11/7:

9am: Church Fair/Flea Market, Gifford & Cushing

Sunday, 11/8:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

10:30am: Meeting w/ UCC Endorsement Office (Zoom), Adkins

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

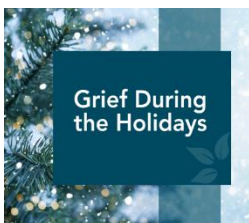
Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



We offer to God the names of family and friends of First Congregational Church who have passed from this world into the next during the last twelve months:

Adriana Falcon Trafford	Dale Detrick	Michael Earielo
Alexander Macdonald	David McDonald	Missy Carner
Andrew Pereira	Deb Walsh	Patricia Robinson
Anne Catherine Wentzell	Duncan O'Leary	Ross Binder
Anne Thompson	Elizabeth Van Ness	Sally Hanes
Arlene C. De Paco	Ellen Fairbanks Smith	Sandra Hallock
Austin Doig	George J. Horesta	Scott Adams
Barbara Hogg	Harry Dunlop	Stanley Holden
Bernice Forrister	Hella Goethert Lacy	Steve Colella
Brian Scott	Jeff Lawrence	Terri Trippi
Bruce Webber	John Burnham	Timothy Pedjoe
Carole Fontaine	Karen Slack	Tom Stone
Carl R. Dahl	Kenneth Florence	Wayne Parrish
Catherine Ann Phillips	Lois Janet Norris	Wendy Driscoll
Chester Jakubiak	Marjorie Freker	William Marston

*May the light of Christ's love console
those who mourn, may God's promise
of everlasting life bring peace on earth
& forevermore.*



Mondays:
November 9-
December 14
11am-12:30pm
in the Chapel

Use QR code to sign up



Limited to 15 participants

A Blue Christmas Service will be held in Gifford Hall on Sunday, December 20, 2026 @ 1:00pm

All are welcome to this service of hope and consolation.