

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



Art by Shamsi Jasmine

**Music Sunday
New Member Sunday**

May 17th, 2026

**Rev. Holly MillerShank
Senior Minister**

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“With all things and in all things, we are relatives.”

~Native American (Sioux) Proverb

PRELUDE

St. Anthony's Chorale

F. J. Haydn

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us from isolation into community.

Many: God invites us to join in the choir of all creation, singing praises without ceasing.

One: Christ inspires artistic endeavors that speak to hope, justice, peace and compassion.

Many: Through Christ we are able to create more than we thought possible.

One: The Holy Spirit beckons us beyond words, to feel and see, and experience new life.

Many: Come, Spirit, Come, open us to new experiences and soaring possibilities in our worship today.

CHIMERS

A Choirchime Mood – God Himself Is Present

W. Konir arr. P. Rosene

***HYMN**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified (NCH 561, vs. 1 & 4)

TRAINING CHOIR/YOUTH SINGERS

Shout with Joy

S. Wilkinson

CALL TO CONFESSION

All too often we get stuck in our own heads. We limit our time for creativity, viewing it as a frivolity rather than a font of life-giving possibilities. We overuse our words and fear silence. Let us confess the ways we neglect our creative impulses and minimize God's creative energy in our lives.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, forgive us when we get mired in the busyness of our lives and neglect the ways you bring light and meaning into the world. Have us hear again the faithful strains of your heavenly hosts, let us see the vivid colors of flora and fauna, allow us to see human hands at work in textiles and clay. Awaken us to the Spirit's presence and enliven our lives with the richness and diversity of the arts.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has begun a great work in us; we are symphonies not yet finished. God frets over our well being as an artist does their canvas. The Holy One forgives our short-sighted ways and invites us into the full spectrum of color and creativity.

ANTHEM

Music Lives in Every Thing

T. McKibben

MUSIC MOMENT

Curtis Smith, Director of Music

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introduction of New Members: **Melissa and Mike Butler, Isabel Casto (Ethan & Dylan), Kimberly Peck (Caden, Colton, & Cameron), Bernie Trafford**

Questions for New Members

Moderator: As a sign of our unity in Christ may we join together as current and new members in our First Congregational Church Mission Statement:

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 Right Hand of Fellowship: Welcome & Gifts for New Members

Deacon of the Week: May we join in the welcome of the newest members of First Congregational Church:

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 17:1-11

MESSAGE

Come, Join the Choir!

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space (NCH 516)

CALL TO OFFERING

An orchestra is made up of many parts, each contributing to the work of others. So too is the church made up of many parts, whose wholeness comes when we work in concert with one another. May we give our offerings for the well-being of the Church universal and all its individual parts.

OFFERTORY

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Shrewsbury Ringers

C. Dobrinski

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT *Compost*

Spring is a great time to start a compost pile. Set one up in your own backyard or find out if your county has a curbside composting program! Learn more about Jeff Chu's "theology of compost" on the Evolving Faith Podcast.

***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**

God bless our financial gifts and our gifts of music. Transform us to carry on the work of Christ in the world, so that our songs of generosity and hope may echo in the heavenly realm. Amen.

***HYMN**

Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise (NCH 260, vs. 1 & 4)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ride the Chariot in the Mornin'
Shrewsbury Ringers

H. Morris

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compassionate community of worship and mission.

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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 James Garvin

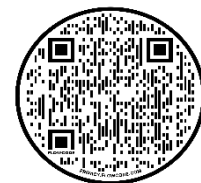
The Reader is Amanda Durkin

Greeters are Laura and James Kenney

Altar flowers are provided by Karis and Kevin Ray in loving memory of Tomas Domanski and Mary Helen Ray.

Liturgy for Music Sunday written by Pastor Holly.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for the Detrick family on the passing of Aaron's father; Michael; Bob Podolski; Wendy; Kierra; Chris Besaw on the passing of her sister Deb, Jim; Norma & Bill Garcia; the Binder Family on their upcoming move; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; 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; Ronniy Reis; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; 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, 5/10:

9:00 New Member Photos, Parlor

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

10:30 Member Spotlight Photos, Parlor

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

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

11:00am: "A Conversation on Screen Time" with Ash Brandin, Adkins (hosted by Family Zone)

12:00 Walk for the Homeless

Monday, 5/18:

10:00am: Hands for Hope, Parlor

1:30pm: 4th Monday Memory Café, Chapel

7:00pm: Leah Circle, Youth Room

7:00pm: Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 5/19:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

9:30am: Grief Group, Chapel

12:00pm Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Council, Adkins

Wednesday, 5/20:

11:30am: Martha Circle, Adkins

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 5/21:

9:30am: CoAM, Adkins

10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library

11:30am: Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Gifford Hall

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 5/22:

NO Chimers

7:00pm: AOTG presents organist Henry Danaher, Sanctuary

Sunday, 5/24:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



Senior Choir

Cathy Albanese-Gabbett
Doug Buell
Ann Cairns
Linda Divris
Deb Eaton
Robert Eaton
Mary Innis
Sally Martin
Chuck Mayberry
Sandra McManus
Cynthia Parker
Dennis Pike
Jennifer Shaw
Rachel Smith
Sam Stewart
Bernard Trafford
Jeanine Vitale
Bill Whitehead
Chris Williams
Doris Woodfin

Youth Singers

Dylan DelDotto Bordage
Penelope Detrick
Madeleine Lallier

Training Choir

Lincoln Detrick
Charlotte Goodwin
Emma Lallier
Lizzie Lallier
Charlotte Mason
Corrina MillerShank
J. J. Shepard
Sylvie Summers

Trainers in Training

Devin DelDotto Bordage
Beckett Goodwin
Maya Graham

Children's Choir Director

Jennifer Shaw

Handbells

Kathi Buzzell
Linn Clark
Caroline Espe
Lauren Espe
Beth Hansen
Matt Lallier
Jacqueline Koo
Shana Mitchell-Hopkins
Sue Moore
Craig Phyfe
Sue Phyfe
David Rocheleau
Sue Russell
Linda Ryan
Elaine Shaw
Jennifer Shaw
Jeanine Vitale
Amelia Wiggins
Wendy Ziesemann

Chimers

Dylan DelDotto Bordage
Corrina MillerShank

Chimers Director

Elaine Shaw

Music Ministry Team

Cathy Albanese-Gabbett
Doug Buell
Kathi Buzzell
Linda Divris
Sally Martin
Doris Woodfin

Guest Instrumentalists

Chelsea Cressman
Robert Eaton
Cathy Albanese-Gabbett
Mark Muncey
Marty Tentor

Music Librarian

Linda Divris