

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



Image Credit: iStock.com/Svetlana Vorotniak

PENTECOST

May 24th, 2026

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“Unable are the loved to die. For love is immortality.”

— Emily Dickinson

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God, the light of your Spirit has fallen upon us, the seal of your ownership is on us, You have placed the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Many: Like tongues of fire it has renewed and restored.

One: In our rising and our sleeping, in our working and our playing, in our joys and in our sorrows,

Many: Your Spirit's brightness has dispelled the darkness,

One: In our loving and caring, in our touching and our listening, in our thoughts and in our actions,

Many: God's Spirit has brought life out of death.

***HYMN**

On Pentecost They Gathered (NCH 272)

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God, thank you for your spirit breaking down barriers within and without barriers that distort our ability to lead a life fully integrated with you and your ways. Forgive us for the times we have deliberately resisted the Spirit's work:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Library Side:

Forgive us God for the barriers we create within ourselves,

Barriers that resist your healing work and prevent us moving toward wholeness.

Forgive our self-centeredness, our anger, our fear of change, our lack of trust in your love.

Fire Station Side:

Forgive us God, for the barriers we create between us and you,

Barriers that separate us from your love and the assurance of your salvation.

Forgive our busyness, our independence, our desire to go our own way.

Library Side:

Forgive us God, for the barriers we create between us and each other,

Barriers that separate us from neighbors near and far and inhibit mutual love and care.

Forgive our resentment of others, our love of control, our indifference to the poor.

Fire Station Side

Forgive us God, for the barriers we create between us and your beautiful creation,

Barriers that abuse your world and deny our responsibility as stewards.

Forgive our greed, our misuse of resources, our pollution of the environment.

All: God, by the power of your spirit, free us and break down these barriers.

Turn us away from the bondage of a life lived for ourselves and our own desires,

May your spirit guide us into the freedom of life lived for you and your purposes.

Life giving spirit, God's advocate and guide, have mercy on us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God hears our prayers and answers them. God sends the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to bear witness to the truth. Through our faithfulness, dreams become reality. Let us rejoice! Amen.

ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord a New Song

F. J. Haydn arr. H. Hopson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-24

MESSAGE

O For A World

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

O Holy Dove of God Descending (NCH 285)

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

The Spirit's winds are always nudging us to new ways of giving. How is God's Spirit asking us to contribute to our community today? As we reflect on our offerings of time and talent, we come together to offer God our praise through the giving of our treasures.

OFFERTORY

Come, Spirit of God

J. Denton

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT *Pentecost*

As we celebrate and imagine the holy spirit in the image of the dove, consider these words from Thomas Merton: "The sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is all in all."

***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**

This is the time for us to dream together, Spirit of Visions. This is the time for our joy of giving and our imaginations to run wild with hope. With thanksgiving, we celebrate the gifts contributed today as we commit to dream with you, Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN**

Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us (NCH 267)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Glory of the Spirit

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.

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 Matthew Lallier

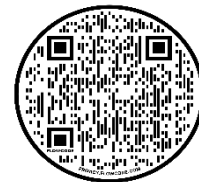
The Readers are Dave Russell and Rachel Smith

Greeters are Linda and Bruce Wagner

Altar flowers are provided by Christine Evasius and her children in loving memory of Christopher's birthday.

Liturgy adapted from Michelle Torigian and Christians for Social Action Pentecost services

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for Bretton; Dan Adam & Sarah Foley on the passing of their brother Scott; Fran Whitney; Cindy and Sarah; Jeanine; the Detrick family on the passing of Aaron's father; Michael; Bob Podolski; Wendy; Kierra; Chris Besaw & family; Jim; the Binder Family on their recent move; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Carole Fontaine; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Aaron; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; Joshua S.; 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, 5/24:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

Monday, 5/25:

OFFICE CLOSED: *Memorial Day*

Tuesday, 5/26:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

12:00pm Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Deacons, Adkins

Wednesday, 5/27:

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 5/28:

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 5/29:

4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Saturday, 5/30:

9:00am: Safety Training, Gifford Hall

Sunday, 5/31:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

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

11:00am: SYFS Presentation, Adkins

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Pastor Karen will be on vacation 5/25-6/1



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.

Five for Five

First Congregational Church is a "Five for Five" Congregation of the United Church of Christ. To receive this designation, a local church must participate in all five special offerings of the denomination.

OUR CHURCHES WIDER MISSION (OCWM)

OCWM is the basic unit of support for the wider church. At FCC this is the only one of the five offerings built into our annual operating budget. Annually we give \$31,000 to support the work of the Southern New England Conference and the National Setting of the UCC.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry of FCC organizes Special Mission Opportunities throughout the year for the four remaining UCC Special Offerings. These offerings are supported through individual contributions. Funds are received by writing the mission name on you check or indicating that mission while giving online.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. *We will be collecting for STC on Pentecost- May 24th 2026.*

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

NIN allows us to speak prophetically to those in power and to advocate for a society where all people have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. One-third of NIN supports the Council for American Indian Ministry.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Through these gifts the UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

Publication Date: May 2026

FCC's MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

In APRIL we had REVENUE of \$64,549.22* and EXPENSES of \$47,590.55 giving us a monthly net income (positive) of \$16,958.67

Year-to-date (January 1st thru APRIL 30th 2026) we had REVENUE of \$279,328.24** and EXPENSES of \$247,027.36 which gives us a YTD net income (positive) of \$32,300.88

** Revenue in April benefited from three additional building rentals and increased offerings collected at the Easter worship services.*

Give at
www.fccsm.org

Find out more about any of our denominational special offering please speak to Kathi Buzzell or Stephanie Ambra as members of our Mission and Outreach Ministry