

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



"Come and See" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, *Sanctified Art*

January 18th, 2026

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin
Acting Associate Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

“Dance with the Rainbow Warriors with their hearts in the clouds and their feet on the ground, the Believers, the Dreamers, the Healers, the Cheerful, and the Earth Carers. Let their spirit ignite a fire within you to make this world better than the way you find it.”

Author unknown

PRELUDE

My Lord, What a Morning!

R. Thygerson

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We meet to worship God and to remember, tell, and show God's love.

Many: Like a bright star in the night sky, the life of Christ lights up the whole world.

One: The star of hope shines on, and no darkness will overcome it.

Many: The light of Christ shows us who we are and what we can be, where we have been and where we should go.

One: Let us walk in the light and give thanks to God.

***HYMN**

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (NCH 526)

CALL TO CONFESION

Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to redeem and reconcile, to take away the sins of the world. We are invited to tell the truth about the places in need of healing and wholeness as we confess our sin as a people of faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESION (based on Psalm 40)

Saving God, we confess that often we have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions, and individual strength rather than trusting in you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in words and deeds. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, rejoice and be glad! Sing a new song of praise and thanksgiving for God has poured out grace upon us.

ANTHEM

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Johnson arr. R. Dilworth

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42

SERMON

Called to Bear Witness to the Light

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

***HYMN**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (NCH 282)

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

Breakfast Bag Initiative, Lyn Wasilewski

CALL TO OFFERING

God calls us to be partners in the redeeming and reconciling work of God on earth and to care for the creation. We have been given all that we need to fulfill that call, and so we are invited to bring our gifts in response to God's call to service.

OFFERTORY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

C. Converse arr. R. Koury

*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

Holy God, receive our gifts as a joyful response to your steadfast love. Use what you have given us to your glory in every place. Transform our gifts to become a beacon of hope, a word of life, and a balm of healing for all creation. Amen.

*HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West (Pilgrim 415)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fantasy Postlude

T. Dubois

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 Sue Russell
The Reader is Sally Martin*

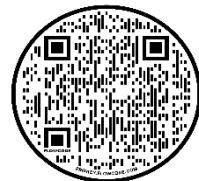
Greeters are Corrina MillerShank and JJ Shepard

Altar flowers are provided by Janet and Tony Trippi and Sandi and Marty Leroux in loving memory of Sandi and Tony's parents, Mary and Frank Trippi

The call to worship is from Brian Wren, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from Stephanie Sorge, Presbyterian Outlook.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

--Prayers for the family & friends of Officer Stephen LaPorta of Uxbridge; the family of Tom Stone, husband of Sue Stone; Bob Podolski; the Pereira/Dobner family on the passing of Andrea's Dad; Karen Freker and family; the family of Diane & Dave Smith; Stan Holden; Mei Hsu; Sue Russell's brother, Ronnie and his wife, Kathy; Timmy; Brian Scott; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Kevin; Ronny Reis; Kathy; Bob; Debra Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Stanley; Sharon; Leon Bowman; 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 and 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), Chapel
Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room
Every Thursday, 7PM OA (Overeaters Anonymous), Rm 214

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 1/18:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

Monday, 1/19:

OFFICE CLOSED – MLK, JR. Day
7:00pm: Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 1/20:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor
9:30am: Grief Group, Chapel
12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins
7:00pm: Council, Adkins

Wednesday, 1/21:

11:30am: Martha Circle, Adkins
6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Thursday, 1/22:

8:30am: M&O Thursday Café, Kitchen
10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library
7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 1/23:

NO Chimers

Saturday, 1/24:

2:30-4:30pm: "Family Zone" Ice Skating, Navin Arena

Sunday, 1/25:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
11:00am: 302nd Annual Meeting, Gifford Hall

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm