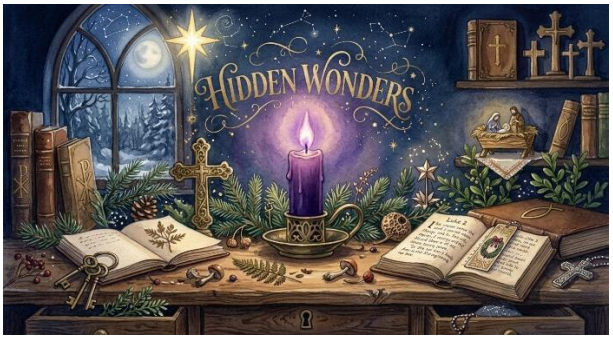
First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



November 29th, 2026

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

Acting Associate Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid.
Do not be afraid for your Lord God
will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8-9

19 Church Road, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 - 508-845-7286 - fccsm.org - office@fccsm.org
www.facebook.com/FCCShrewsbury @fcc_shrewsbury

PRELUDE **What Child is This?** W. Dix
Shrewsbury Jammers

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

ENTERING WORSHIP
One: Restore us, God of host, and come to save your people for the better life we crave. We long to be as clay in your hand; O Potter, fashion us as you have planned.
Many: Restore, restore your people, God of hosts, that we may serve with deeds, not idle boasts.
One: The mountains quake and nations shudder now before your anger which we disavow. We tremble, quite aware of our sin, denying in ourselves its origin.
Many: Restore, restore your people, God of hosts, that we may serve with deeds, not idle boasts.
One: Give ear, O Shepherd, to your hurting flock. Receive our earnest prayers and hear us knock on heaven's door when we have transgressed. Forgive and help us learn to do our best.
Many: Restore, restore your people, God of hosts, that we may serve with deeds, not idle boasts.
One: O Hidden One, reveal yourself once more; surprise us with your presence, we implore, that we may gladly do what is right, and call upon your name both day and night.
Many: Restore, restore your people, God of hosts, that we may serve with deeds, not idle boasts.
One: Forgiven and renewed let us worship God!

***HYMN** **With Joy Draw Water** (NCH 109)

ADVENT WREATH: Hope *The Graham Family*
Voice: Hidden deep in the quiet part of our hearts, we wonder whether God sees our suffering
Many: We long to know God's presence; to see the Holy One's signs and wonders
Voice: We light the candle of Hope, which beckons us forward even in our darkest hour. Hope, drives away our despair and leads us to offer God our praise
Many: May the light of Hope shine in the darkness, revealing the hidden wonders of God's promises.

Sing Verse 1: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (New Century Hymnal #107)

ANTHEM **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** E. Sears & R. Willis
Shrewsbury Jammers

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READINGS 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

MESSAGE Learning to Walk in the Dark Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

***HYMN** **Creator of the Stars of Night** (Pilgrim 113)

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
Our hope is built on nothing less that the everlasting promises of God. May we give with abundance so that the hidden wonders of God's hope are revealed to all the world.

OFFERTORY **Do You Hear What I Hear?** N. Regney & G. Shayne
Shrewsbury Jammers

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT *Rest and Reflect*
Randy Woodley writes, "A society concerned with shalom will care for the most marginalized among them." How can you and your church community practice shalom?

***DOXOLOGY** **Tune: Veni Emmanuel**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We dedicate these gifts and ourselves to sharing your message of hope through our church and in our lives.

***HYMN** **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen** (Pilgrim 122)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **The First Noel** trad. English
Shrewsbury Jammers

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.

ABOUT THE BANNERS

Embracing Wonder is the theme for Advent this season so I "searched" images of wonder. Beautiful sunsets, magnificent mountain vistas and glorious seascapes were found. Artist John August Swanson's, Elijah, inspired my choice of the Angels delivering the word of Jesus' birth to the Shepherds while they were watching over their flocks of sheep. Pulling in the colors of glorious skies and embracing the childlike joy of the season, I hope the banners illustrate the true wonder of the Advent Season.

Ann Cairns

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 Kevin Gabbett
The Reader is Donna Kafel
Greeters are Linda and Bruce Wagner
Altar flowers are provided by Diane and Dave Smith in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary celebrated today.

GIVE HERE:

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for Larry Iannetti; Benjamin Tipple; Sarah and her mother, Cindy; the family & friends of Jean Folsom; Randy; Pastor Karen's brother, Ken; Henry; Ralph; Sean Allen; Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest; Bretton; Dan; Bob Podolski; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; 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, 11/29:
9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

Tuesday, 12/1:
NO Guided Meditation
12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

Wednesday, 12/2:
12:00pm: Mustard Seed, Kitchen
6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary
7:00pm: CLT, Adkins
7:15pm: Bible Study, Chapel

Thursday, 12/3:
10:00am: SNEUCC, Adkins
10:00am: Staff Meeting, CE Library
6:00pm: Pride 5K Planning Mtg, Youth Room
7:00pm: CE Ministry, MS Lounge
7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 12/4:
4:00pm: Chimers, Chapel

Saturday, 12/5:
3-7pm: Shrewsbury Winter Festival, Shrewsbury Town Center

Sunday, 12/6:
9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel
5:30PM: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm