

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

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



Image Credit: Asbury United Methodist Church

June 14th, 2026

Rev. Holly MillerShank

Senior Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars."

~ Walt Whitman

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is a time of God's appearing, let us worship our Creator!

Each of us are made in God's precious image, may we let the light of God's love shine from within!

**Many: We rejoice that God comes close to us, God listens to our hope and our fears,
God hear us when we call.**

One: We are here to offer our thanks to God, we rejoice in the abundant diversity of God's creation.

**Many: We are grateful for the manifold words of God, despite the hardships we face,
we turn to God with great joy and gladness.**

One: God bears us up on eagle's wings, as we soar through the rainbow of God's everlasting promises,
justice and mercy kiss on the horizon.

**Many: We will listen for God's voice, we will respond with faithfulness,
there is still much that God requires of us.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN**

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers (NCH 397)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Meeting God can be a very disturbing experience, for God may require of us changes that we fear. We may hear challenges that push us beyond our comfort zones. In our prayers of confession, we seek to overcome our resistance to God's direction and open ourselves to greater possibilities.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we often fail to recognize that you are always with us. We deny your love, we seek to withhold our love from those you cherish, we judge others for the people they choose to love. Save us from our puny understandings and open us to the vast possibilities of limitless compassion and grace.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's favor falls upon all of humankind, God rejoices in our repentance and our covenant to live as God's people. Christ demonstrated compassion, justice and mercy to the marginalized. We are to continue Jesus' ministry of empowerment, we have new opportunities each day to right past wrongs.

ANTHEM

All Things New

E. Hagenberg

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 19:2-8a

MESSAGE

New Hope

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

De colores (NCH 402, English vs. 1-2, then Spanish vs. 1)

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 lives overflow with the abundant blessings of a diverse community. May we return to God with thanksgiving just a small portion of the hope and possibilities that are brought before us each day.

OFFERTORY

Home by Another Road

M. Miller

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Beach/Watershed Clean-Up

Plan a beach clean-up, or trash pick-up by a nearby river or lake! Record the trash you collect in the app "Save Our Shores" to contribute to data that monitors what types of trash are the biggest issue in your area.

***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**

We repeat our vows of commitment to you, gracious God. We promise to live in covenant with all of your people; celebrating the gifts of your diversity. Help us through these offerings to be living-testimonies to your inclusive and compassionate love. Amen.

***HYMN**

Help Us Accept Each Other (NCH 388)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Time for Praise, A Time for Joy

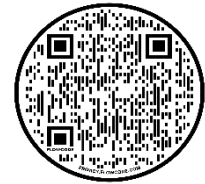
H. Sorenson

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 Erin Canzano
The Reader is Mary Innis
Greeters are Norma and Bill Garcia
Altar flowers are provided by Jenni and Stan Koch in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary
Liturgy adapted from Lavon Bayler Taught by Love.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for Rosemary on the passing of George Horesta; the Holden family on the passing of Linda’s husband, Stanley; Patrick Kenney; Bretton; Dan; the family of Fran Whitney; Cindy and Sarah; Michael; Bob Podolski; Wendy; Kierra; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Aaron; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; Jimmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; 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, 6/14: Pride Sunday

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
 11:00am: Appetizer Sunday, Gifford Hall
 11:00am: Theology on Tap Planning Session, Adkins

Monday, 6/15:

7:00pm: Shrewsbury Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 6/16:

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

Wednesday, 6/17:

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

Thursday, 6/18:

9:30am: CoAM, Adkins
 10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library
 3-6pm: CSA Pick-up, FCC parking lot
 7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Saturday, 6/20:

1:30pm: Climate Hope, Adkins

Sunday, 6/21:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
 11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

HS Youth Group Mission Trip: June 20 – June 28

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

