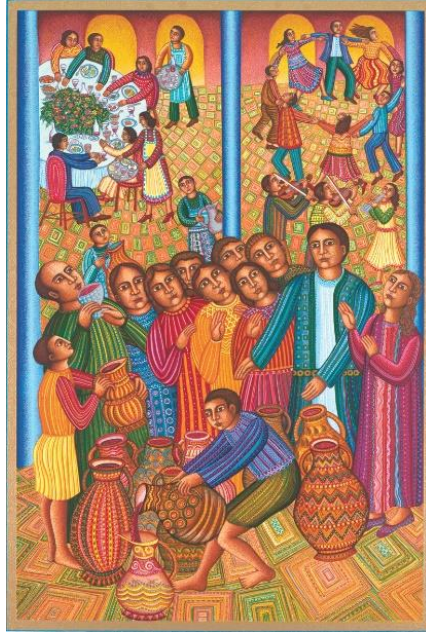


First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



January 19th, 2025

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

Acting Associate Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

***"True faith means holding nothing back,
It means putting every hope in God's
fidelity to his promises."***

~Francis Chan

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING***PASSING OF THE PEACE****PASTORAL GREETING****CALL TO WORSHIP** *Inspired by Psalm 36:7-9*

One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! May all people take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Many: **We feast on the abundance of your house, and you give us drink from the river of your delights.**

One: For with you is the fountain of life;

Many: **in your light we see light.**

***HYMN**

Lift Every Voice and Sing (NCH 593)

CALL TO CONFESSION

With humility and trust in God's grace may we confess of our sins.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have blessed us with a variety of gifts, Holy God, but we are reluctant to share. We hoard what is most valuable and make excuses for ourselves when called to share. The Spirit has blessed each of us uniquely, and yet we hide our light under a bushel and fail to rise to our potential. God, forgive us and embolden us. Help us to claim our gifts and put them to good use. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Beloved, our God is a loving God, full of mercy. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Believe in this forgiveness, be at peace, and respond in grateful service.

CHOIR ANTHEM

I Dream A World

André J. Thomas

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 2:1-11

MESSAGE

"An Extravagant Feast"

***HYMN**

Lord I Want to Be a Christian (Pilgrim 353)

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:

Central Mass Housing Alliance

Jean Feldkamp

CALL TO OFFERING

Our God blesses us with extravagance and abundance. Grateful for all we have been given, we present our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY

Offertory on “Danby”

Lani Smith

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Just as Jesus turned gallons of water into wine, we too know God’s extravagant blessings. Take these gifts we give today and bless them, Holy God, that others may know your abundance and overflowing love. Amen.

***HYMN**

O Be Joyful in the Lord! (Pilgrim 27)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Harp Etude Op. 25 No. 1

Frederic Chopin

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 Visiting Director of Music is Andrew Lefferts
The Deacon is Dennis Pike
The Reader is Sally Martin
Greeters are Elise Missall and Jean Feldkamp
Altar flowers are provided by Sandi and Marty LeRoux and Janet and Tony Trippi in loving memory of Sandi and Tony's parents, Mary and Frank Trippi.
Liturgy is written by Teri McDowell Ott and adapted, Presbyterian Outlook, 2025*

GIVE HERE:



**The art on the bulletin cover is The Wedding Feast by John August Swanson and is used by gracious permission. Vanderbilt University, Art in the Christian tradition.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Leon Bowman; Frank Trippi; Patrick Sullivan and family; for the victims and those hospitalized & affected by the recent tragedy in New Orleans; Jean Stuart; Sherri Robertson; family & friends of Linda Rosendahl, Erna Lallier's sister; family & friends of Tom Driscoll, Wendy's husband; family & friends of Nancy MacKenzie; Joann Armstrong; Cathy; Ben Hancox, son of Rena & Chuck Mayberry; Eileen F.; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Phil; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Christina Hsu; Peyton; John Heald; Jean Folsom; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi; Jan Smith; Anne Thompson; Brenda; Barbara Harlow; Wendy; Lisa DiPilato; and Florence Stowe.

-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 recovering from natural disasters happening throughout our 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

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 1/19:

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

Monday, 1/20:

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

Tuesday, 1/21:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room
7:00pm: Council Meeting, Adkins

Wednesday, 1/22:

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers

Thursday, 1/23:

7:15pm: Senior Choir

Friday, 1/24:

4:15pm: **NO** Chimers

Sunday, 1/26:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room
11:00am: Annual Meeting, Gifford Hall
Time TBD: HS Youth Group

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



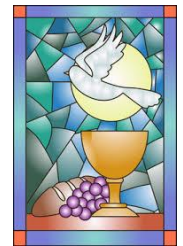
Dollars & Sense is a monthly feature, generally the 3rd week of the month, where we will share information about different aspects of our financial health as a congregation.

The single greatest expense in FCC's Annual Operating Budget is Personnel, comprising approximately 62% of our expenses (the church property is approximately 24% of the budget and missions/outreach 10%). All staffing positions are 100% funded through the congregation, meaning no staff salaries or benefits are paid through a larger denominational source.

Meet your staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Holly MillerShank

Call to serve FCC in 2022, Pastor Holly is the only full-time staff member at the church. In her role Pastor Holly is responsible for the overall spiritual and worship life of the congregation. She works diligently to offer pastoral care, administrative oversight and empowerment of the church's ministries to fulfill God's call to our congregation.



Acting Associate Minister: Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplain

Rev. Karen serves in a part-time contracted position for FCC. Her primary responsibilities include pastoral visitation and adult faith formation as well as sharing in worship leadership. Pastor Karen comes to FCC after a long career in hospital and hospice

chaplaincy.

Director of Music: Curtis Smith

Curtis Smith began at FCC in 2018. In his capacity as our part-time Director of Music Curtis conducts the Senior Choir and our Bell Choirs, he coordinates music for our worship services and is the liaison to our children's choirs and chimers. In addition to his steadfast leadership on Sunday mornings Curtis also organizes Arts on the Green concerts for the wider community.



Director of Christian Education: April Mullins



April Mullins is a long-time member of FCC. She serves at the Director of Christian Education which includes all of the programming for KidZone during the school year and children's activities during summer worship. April is also responsible for the Youth Ministry program including leading the Senior High Youth Group & their annual mission trips and liaising with the Middle School Youth group. April oversees the part-time contracted position of Nursery Attendant which is ably filled by **Katelyn Salsgiver**.



Financial Administrator: Lauren Morse

Our longest serving employee, Lauren Morse has been with FCC since July of 2016, she has seen a great deal of change in FCC's personnel over that time. Lauren consistently and skillfully manages all of FCC's finances including payroll, invoices, monthly bank statements and financial record keeping. Lauren also tracks pledges and annual contributions for members. Lauren's attention to detail and longevity are a blessing to our congregation.

Office Administrator: Christine Evasius

Christine Evasius was hired as our part-time Office Administrator in 2024. Christine coordinates the printing of the weekly bulletin, distribution of the Looking Ahead and Church on the Green as well as the Annual Report. Christine responds to all phone, email, and in-person inquiries received through the church office. Additionally she coordinates the church calendar and keeps the official administrative records for the congregation.



Building Superintendent: Dan McCarthy

FCC has a 300 year old building to maintain which requires the coordination of multiple committees and contractors. Overseeing all of this work is Dan McCarthy. Dan came to FCC after retiring as the facilities manager of UMass Amherst. Working part-time, Dan uses his talents for project management to ensure we have a safe and functional building.



Sextons: Ben Weiss & Seth Mullins

Ben Weiss and Seth Mullins currently share the responsibilities for keeping the church property cleaned and set up appropriately for the wide variety of events that take place during the week. Ben focuses on early morning preparations for the day and is on-site each Sunday. Seth is primarily responsible for cleaning and set up during the week. Together they have enabled us to eliminate our reliance on outside cleaning contractors and keep track of routine maintenance.



Building Use Coordinator

New to FCC this year, a part-time (5-8 hour/week) position was created to manage the high volume of building use. This position is filled by April Mullins. As Building Use Coordinator April oversees inquiries for rentals and ensure proper documentation, including insurance and contracts for all outside building users.



First Congregational Church is blessed with talented and dedicated staff members. Staff work in collaboration with church members to support FCC's call to be a vibrant, inclusive and compassionate community of worship and mission.

FCC's MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

In DECEMBER we had REVENUE of \$53,598 and EXPENSES of \$69,653 giving us a monthly net income (negative) of \$16,055.

Year-to-date (January 1st thru December 31st 2024) we have REVENUE of \$644,894 and EXPENSES of \$652,362 which gives us a YTD net income (negative) of \$7,468.