

# First Congregational Church

*Gathered in 1723*

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An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



**April 27th, 2025**

**Rev. Robert Grabill**

**Guest Preacher**

## *Deacon's Quote of the Day*

*“The glory of the Lord is upon all God’s works; it is written plainly upon all the fields of every clime, and upon every sky.”*

*- John Muir*

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## PASTORAL GREETING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Whether we live near the mountains or in the prairies –

**Many: We are one in Christ.**

One: Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool –

**Many: We are one in Christ.**

One: Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Artic Ocean or somewhere in the middle –

**Many: We are one in Christ.**

One: Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape –

**Many: We are one in Christ.**

One: In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation –

**Many: We are one in Christ.**

**\*HYMN**

**“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”** (NCH 17, vv. 1-4)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

At times, we forget that this earth belongs completely to our Creator. Sometimes, we neglect to remember that these lands were made by God for all humans. Sometimes, we think we know better and believe we are entitled without remembering whose hands made this creation. We pray together with confidence in our Creator's love and mercy.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**For the times we neglected to remember you when rejoicing at creation – For the times we neglected to care for creation when given the opportunities – For the times we neglected to remember that you formed each human in your own image – Forgive us God. Help us to remember whose hands made the soil, the foliage, the creatures of the sea, the birds, and each and every person on this planet. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The cascades of God's grace falls upon us always. We stand in the flow of God's mercy no matter where we abide. May we rejoice that this grace pours out on us.

## CHOIR ANTHEM

**Heavenly Sunlight**

H. Zelle & G. Cook arr. M. Hayes

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

## MESSAGE

**Climate Hope from the Ashes of Despair**

Rev. Robert Grabill

**\*HYMN**

**“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”** (NCH 433)

## **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**

We are always connected to all of creation. Through the call of God's Spirit, we are asked to care for the work of God's hands and to care for our neighbors. We care for this work through our time, talent, and treasures. Let us offer our gifts in this time and space.

#### **OFFERTORY**

**'Prayer' from Der Freishütz**

C. M. Weber

#### **\*DOXOLOGY**

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O God, through these gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, and to the ministry and mission of this beloved community, help us to bear witness to your light that brings healing and hope. May your wisdom guide us in the use of these gifts in caring for the needs of the world and your creation. May the winds of your Spirit be poured out upon these gifts and us that these gifts would bring wholeness to others. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

#### **\*HYMN**

**"In the Midst of New Dimensions" (NCH 391)**

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **POSTLUDE**

**'The Spacious firmament on High' from The Creation**

F. J. Haydn

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 Guest Minister is Rev. Robert Grabill  
The Deacon is Erik French  
The Reader is Linda Wagner  
Greeters are Ann Adams and Cara Molyneaux  
Altar flowers are provided by Lisa and Stephen Wark in loving memory of their mothers.*

**GIVE HERE:**



*Liturgy is adapted from the worship service Be the Church: Protect the Environment, written by Michelle L. Torigian.*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

For family and friends of Gloria Symonds; Mary; Gabriel and his fellow soldiers, deployed to Syria; Tom Stone; Susan, Beth Cullen's sister; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Kathy and all the friends and family of Dile Holton; Christina Hsu and her family; Diane Smith's mother, Anne Thompson, and the Smith family; Jackie P., her daughter Denise, and family; Kim, Sue Phyfe's daughter-in-law; Stanley; Sharon; Ethan; Leon Bowman; Frank Trippi; Jean Stuart; Sherry Robertson; Wendy Driscoll; Jennifer and Rebecca MacKenzie; Cathy; Eileen F.; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Marcia Smith; Natalie; Peyton; Jean Folsom; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi; Jan Smith; Brenda; Barbara Harlow.

-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.

The Rev. Rob Grabill is a member of the UCC Climate Justice Council, and the Chair of the UCC New Hampshire Conference Environmental Justice Mission Group. He retired last summer as the Associate Pastor at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, UCC, and is now able to devote even more time to the work of climate justice at all levels of the church. He spends one or two weeks every summer at the Horton summer camp in the White Mountains of NH, a camp and retreat center for all ages. This June he will be traveling to Michigan for the first year of a multi-generational Climate Justice Camp which he helped establish with the Illinois Conference of the UCC. A participant in the first Earth Day in 1970 as a college student, he is looking forward to his 60<sup>th</sup> one in a few years.

## 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, 4/27:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary  
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room  
1:00pm: Hands or Hope, Adkins  
7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

### Monday, 4/28:

10:00am: Hands for Hope, Parlor  
6:30pm: Mission & Outreach, Zoom

### Tuesday, 4/29:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Youth Room

### Wednesday, 4/30:

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers

### Thursday, 5/1:

10:00am: SNEUCC Monthly, Adkins  
10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library  
7:00pm: CE Ministry, Youth Room  
7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

### Friday, 5/2:

4:15pm: Chimers, Chapel

### Saturday, 5/3:

12:00pm: Florence Stowe Funeral Service, Sanctuary & Gifford

### Sunday, 5/4:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary  
11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room  
11:00am: New Member Brunch, Chapel  
7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm