

CHURCH STAFF

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OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this Church is to come together as Christians to serve God by studying and listening to the Word and living by Christ's teachings. We are committed to reaching out through prayer, caring, sharing and fellowship.

First Congregational Church

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Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FCCShrewsbury



Welcome

*Wherever you are on Life's journey, you are welcome here at
First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury, United Church of Christ!*

Name Tags - please greet new and old friends by wearing your name tag. Visitors are encouraged to write your own name tag, available in our **Book of Friendship**, a black folder in each pew. Inside the black folder, you may also sign up for our mailing list, and ask to have someone contact you.

For children during worship:

- Activity baskets are available in the far right corner of the Sanctuary.
- Children's bulletins are available from an usher.

Childcare is provided

For all children birth through three years old in our staffed Nursery. Ushers will show you the way.

Units for the hearing impaired

Available on the back table.

Large Print bulletins with hymns are available.

Blue Prayer Cards: Are available in each pew. Members pray during the week over your sorrows or joys. Please place the cards in the offering plate, or in the Prayer Request Box on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary.

A gentle reminder : Please silence your cell phone at the start of the service.

Please recycle your bulletin

There is a basket on the back table or in the basket by the name tag racks.

Please join us for **fellowship and refreshments** in Gifford Hall after the service.

- Deacon** Paul Dobner
- Lay Reader** Bill Whitehead
- Refreshments** Care Team B
- Flowers this Week** The flowers today are given by Given by Sonja Wise in memory of her parents Calvin and Inge Lindblad.



CALENDAR

A: Adkins Room~C: Chapel~CH: Cushing Hall~DR: Drama Room~GH: Gifford Hall~K: Kitchen~HMR: Halliday Music Room~O: Office~P: Parlor~S: Sanctuary~ST: Storytelling Room~SR: Sumner Room~Y: Youth Room

Sunday	01/12	9:30 am	Sunday Worship/CityReach Sunday
		11:00 am	Training Choir-MR
Monday	01/13	10:30 am	Parkinson's Group-GH
		7:00 pm	Communications & Marketing-A
		7:00 pm	Music Committee Mtg-P
Tuesday	01/14	7:00 pm	CE Meeting-A
Wednesday	01/15	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
		11:00 am	Martha Circle-A
		6:30 pm	Shrewsbury Ringers-S
		7:00 pm	CLT-A
		7:30 pm	Parish Pealers-S
Thursday	01/16	7:15 pm	Senior Choir-MR
Friday	01/17	3:45 am	Chimers-C
		4:00 pm	Youth Singers-MR
Sunday	01/19	9:30 am	Sunday Worship
		10:30 am	Prayer Group-P
		11:00 am	Training Choir-MR

COG Deadline for February is January 13

LOOKING AHEAD

January 26 Annual Meeting

Youth Group:

Today: City Reach Worship Service

January 19 - Martin Luther King Weekend; no YG

Today: This morning we welcome our youth group and their advisors fresh from their experience with CityReach. CityReach is a ministry in Boston that offers support and resources, clothing and food, to those who are unhoused or are living precariously on the edge. They worked side by side with groups from other churches and synagogues to make a difference in the lives of over a hundred needy people. We thank you for your support and donations that have made this possible. We are blessed by their willingness to share their stories. We invite you to continue to support their efforts as they prepare to do mission work in New York City in June.

Dine with Nine: Sharing a meal together is a great way to make new friends and enjoy old ones. We encourage you to sign up for *Dine with Nine*. You will be included in a group with 8 others to share a meal. Members of each group are responsible for planning a pot luck meal every 2 to 3 months. The meals can be held in your home, at a restaurant, as a picnic, at the church (no alcohol allowed in the church) – be creative! If your New Year's Resolutions include expanding your circle of friends and enjoying fellowship, sign up for **Dine with Nine** by visiting the table in Gifford Hall after church or contact Tom Porter at (774) 275-0319 or by email at tlporter@townisp.com.

The Mitten Tree: The Mitten Tree is up in Gifford Hall. As with the Giving Tree, your Mission and Outreach Ministry is once again supporting St. Anne's in their efforts to help those local families in need. Handmade or store-bought mittens, gloves, hats and scarves are much needed for adults and children. The Mitten tree will be up through the beginning of February. Please place your items on the tree. We will make deliveries to St. Anne's as needed. Mission and Outreach would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming response to the Giving Tree this year. St. Anne's was in awe of what our Church donated. Thank you again for your generosity. Your Mission and Outreach Ministry.

The First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury

United Church of Christ
Sunday, January 12, 2020
9:30 a.m.

**BAPTISM OF JESUS
CITYREACH SUNDAY**

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury. We are glad you are here!

Prelude "Are You Able?"

L. Pugh

Welcome & Announcements

Gather

Call to Worship

Leader: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

People: Jesus emerges from the water.

Leader: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

People: "This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."

Leader: Jesus is named. Claimed.

People: We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.

Leader: Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

People: Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

***Hymn #228, Pilgrim "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, we come to You knowing that we do not always believe we are created in Your image. We don't believe we are good enough. We don't believe we are worthy of Your love. At times, we deny the image in others. We don't believe they are good enough or worthy. We refuse to accept them. We abandon them, forgetting they are children of God. Forgive us for not believing in Your love, the love that is for all people. Call us back to Your ways of love, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves, for You have loved us. In the name of Christ, who is Love, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

You are God's beloved child. With you, God is well-pleased. You are forgiven. You are restored. You are given new life today and every day. Go and live with this news, and share God's love with others. Amen.

Anthem "Thou Art Worthy"

P. Mills arr. J. Schrader

