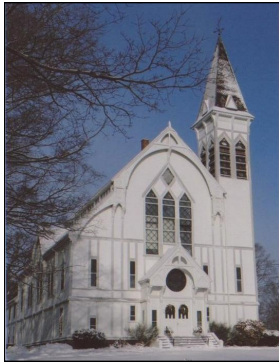


FROM the HILL



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

**7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200
Georgetown, MA 01833**

Telephone: 978-352-8443

Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

Website: www.georgetowncongregational.org

April 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the calendar of the church year, Palm Sunday stands out as one of my favorite celebrations. I love the special hymns and especially the traditional parade of children waving and distributing palms.

This is a year without parades. But there will still be hymns. And there will still be Palm Sunday.

Every year as we approach Palm Sunday and I revisit the gospel accounts, I'm reminded that Jesus' "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem was so much more than a parade. On that day, Jesus entered a battlefield. The invisible war between heaven and hell became visible in those moments and in the week that followed. During that week which we now call "holy," Jesus faced down suffering and death. For us.

The Pharisees made that triumphal entry about religion. The Romans made it about politics. The city made it about a parade. But for the God of the universe, it was and always has been about love and redemption.

When we worship God "in spirit and in truth," as Jesus described it to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4), something invisible yet profoundly powerful happens.

It happens even when we are not physically present in the same room with one another.

The Holy Spirit awakens in us understanding of God's truth and beauty and power. The Holy Spirit moves us to rejoice and give thanks and cherish all that God has done and continues to do for us in Jesus Christ.

Even as we long to be reunited in worship in the church sanctuary, we can open ourselves to worship in our individual homes when we invite the Holy Spirit to unite us in spirit and in truth. As you know, the church building will continue to be closed until May 4th. Until then, we will worship together online (see details below), knowing that God is glorified in the worship of his people, in all places and all times.

This is a year without parades. There will not be palm processions in our churches. But there will still be Palm Sunday. And there will still be Easter. And there will always be Easter. Because during that week which we now call "holy," Jesus faced down suffering and death. For us. To God be the honor and the glory, forever.

In Christ's sure love,

Dallas

**April 5, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday Worship Service via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting Online
<https://zoom.us/j/567987767>

Dial in to Zoom Meeting by Telephone
+1 929 205 6099

The Meeting ID number is: 567 987 767

**April 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Worship Service**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/911082091>

Dial in to Zoom Meeting by Telephone
+1 929 205 6099

The Meeting ID number is: 911 082 091

**April 12, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday Worship Service via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting Online
<https://zoom.us/j/567987767>

Dial in to Zoom Meeting by Telephone
+1 929 205 6099

The Meeting ID number is: 567 987 767



If you are ordering items online through Amazon, please remember that The First Congregational Church of Georgetown is set up to receive a percentage of your purchases when you shop AmazonSmile!

www.smile.amazon.com

- sign in or sign up
- find the dropdown for your account
- find Your AmazonSmile on the list & click on it
- change or select a charity—put in First Congregational Church of **Georgetown** (there will be 2 options, one is Boxford) "select" Georgetown to set your Smile account.

When you shop, be sure to go to www.smile.amazon.com for the church to receive credit - not the regular Amazon account (this won't give us credit).



We will keep you informed on any further updates from the Council.

Stay connected with First Church and your church family via email, Facebook, and our webpage www.georgetowncongregational.org.



Go to www.georgetowncongregational.org to donate to First Church. Remember, we get 93% of what you give. Please send an email message to the church office to let us know about your donation, and if it should go to a particular designation.

There's No Place Like Home

Dorothy's famous phrase certainly rings true in these trying times, when our lives have been turned upside-down and our homes have also become our schools and workplaces. But how much do you know about your home, church and community?

I would like to offer up a daily article about the history of our church and town for those who may be interested. I have written many articles over the years for the church and historical society newsletters, and would like to share them with you for the next few weeks. For those who live in a historic home in Georgetown (built pre-1900), I am also offering to do house histories. My hope is that you will so enjoy these little history lessons that you will donate to the **"There's No Place Like Home" fundraiser** for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown.

I understand that some of you may be facing financial hardships right now, so to be clear, donations are *requested*, not required, to join the mailing list.

If you would like to join my daily history article mailing list, or if you are interested in the history of your home, please contact me at comgeorge@aol.com. Articles will begin on Sunday.

Chris Comiskey

April Birthdays



Emily Aberman

Elizabeth (Kalfin)
Jones

Lee Ames

JoEllen Fielding

Deb Lamoureaux

Michelle Brock

Miles Lucido

Zachary Brock

Henry Gervais

Haley Parsons

Ella Greenfield

Nola Quigley

Looking back at March & April

10 years ago:

Spring Storm severely damages sanctuary. Insurance steps in and refurbishment begins!

20 years ago:

Among those joining the church on Palm Sunday were Rachel Edwards, Carol Kalfin & Barbara Morehouse.

30 years ago:

AA begins meeting at our facility.

Jr. Choir festival held in our sanctuary with many local churches participating.

Those who've been members for 40 years or more are recognized.

40 years ago:

Jan Flyzic retires as organist

Jon Barlow is one of the confirmands joining the church.

50 years ago:

Among those joining the church during the Maundy Thursday service is Margaret Wood (Peggy Smith)

Father & Son Banquet (Moms & Daughters get their chance in November).

60 years ago:

Pauline Freeman becomes Organist.

"Metcalf" house is purchased (Now owned by our Clarke street neighbors the Durkees).

Women's Guild

Our Guild Program, as with so many other programs this month, has been canceled. We hope to be able to meet in May to welcome our guest from the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, but it will remain questionable until further notice. To our members: if any need arises, please call me at (978) 352-8033, or call the Church Office (978) 352-8443. **It is important that we stay connected by telephone during this crisis.**

Joan Chatterton



From the Member-at-Large

The Church Council is very interested in your ideas as to how we can grow spiritually as a church. How can we expand what we do well so that it reaches beyond our own walls? Please share your thoughts with any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared as well at any time.

Your Member-at-Large is Janice Murphy.

Stewardship

You will notice our **"Sharing Basket"** has now blossomed for Spring and is located in the Narthex! There are envelopes with dollar amounts indicating on-going church expenses. You are encouraged to take an envelope and donate as you are able. Simply enclose the designated dollar amount and mail or drop it in the collection plate. Thank you very much for your generous spirit.

Blessings to all,
Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and Sylvia Johnston



Outreach News

IN MEMORIAM

We wish to honor Carol Sheehan, who served our Team faithfully and with enthusiasm. We miss her very much, but we know she will keep smiling on us as we continue with the mission projects of our church. Our thoughts are with her wonderful family, and the legacy of devotion she leaves us.

Love, Marion, Martha, Mary Ann, Jean & Joan

A letter of thanks ...

Dear Church School & Georgetown Congregational Church Members

Thank you, for your donations of warm hats, gloves, and scarves for the guests of the Grace Center for our homeless population.

You sure know how to share the love of Jesus!

With gratitude,

Alice Erickson, and the Grace Center Guests

OUR CHURCH PANTRY MISSION ENDED

As you probably already know, our Church Pantry has been closed for a few reasons, primarily the lack of traffic since the Senior Center left the church and moved to Perley School. Our Pastor and Office Manager will continue to give grocery gift cards, at their discretion, to families in need.

The Outreach Team wants to thank you for twenty years of support and to let you know that this mission has been fulfilled. Our Team carefully checked each item for expired dates, and made **donations to the following organizations: Emmaus House, Our Neighbors' Table, New Life Church Pantry, the Georgetown COA, and St. Mary's "People Helping People".**

MISSION INITIATIVES TEMPORARILY ON HOLD

Plans for "Hatching Hope", a Heifer Project International program, that we had planned for Palm Sunday, has sadly been canceled. It is the first year in more than forty that we will not be able to organize our sale of sweet treats and crafts to purchase animals for Heifer. However, in such an unsettled time, it is wise to put this type of fundraiser on hold. As Rev. Bradel has advised, do what you can to reach out to a neighbor, a friend, or someone needing a helping hand to get through the uncertainties facing each and everyone of us today.

**Peace be with you,
Team Members**

Thank you!
-JoEllen

Dear Church Family,

WOW, WOW, WOW that was an amazing farewell party you had for me; I was totally blown away. You made me feel so special and loved. I want to sincerely thank you for all the kind loving words spoken to me, the monetary gift, gift card, roses, cross stitch of the church, handmade pillow and pie plate with my favorite chicken pie recipe. I thoroughly enjoyed the dancers and appreciate all the hard work you put in with the many rehearsals; y'all did a fantastic job; I guess I'll need to learn the two-step. The Texas themed food was delicious as well as the wonderful cupcakes. Last but not least, the limousine ride taken with my besties. We had so much fun and I'll cherish those memories forever.

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown has been my church home my whole life and I will truly miss each and every one of you. My door is always open in Texas with a spare bedroom for anyone to come visit. My cell phone number is 978-314-6254. I am reminded of the words Jesus spoke to Joshua: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. God Bless each and every one of you, thank you, thank you, and I love y'all.

Blessings,
JoEllen



Light The Church Fund

Contributions for lighting the church can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to make a contribution or need more information, please contact Bob Knapp at 978-518-7859.

Diaconate News

To our Treasured Church Family from your Diaconate:

As this is being written, we are dealing with the growing concerns regarding COVID-19. Our church family is of the utmost importance to us. Your health and well-being are paramount during this time and your Diaconate and Church Council continue to be in consultation with each other with regard to any changes or cancellations. Our world is changing quickly and we know many of you are struggling to keep up with the changes. Your diaconate and church officers will always be available to each of you through email, phone or texts. We value and love you and want to ensure the safety of all.

Reflection and celebration...those two words symbolize Easter. This Easter season is unprecedented. As we reflect on our church family, we have shared so much happiness together. Of course we would not be a family if we didn't share the good and the not-so-good....laughing together until our sides hurt, the warmth of hugs (or right now the warmth of a smile), when we shed our tears and share our anxiety and fears. This reminds us, during these uneasy times, that here at the First Congregational Church there is always a friend who walks with you and beside you.

Please keep your Deacons and Church Council in your prayers, They work so hard to be there for each of you. Thank you to this incredible team...Antoinette, Emily, Marie, Pam, and Rachel. Their gentle and caring ways are evident to each of us in our church family. It is my honor to be back on the Diaconate.

Those who remember, I always close with this meaningful quote.

“God’s love is so large it covers the world, but so small it can curl up in the corner of your heart.”

Please remember to be gentle with each other. We are all in this together.

Love always,

Gladie Kneeland

LET THERE BE LIGHT

wednesday april 1

JOIN US 4/1 @ 7PM,
AND PLACE LUMINARIES OR A
SIMPLE CANDLE OUTSIDE YOUR
HOME AS WE UNITE WITH LIGHT

Let this offer support to the many
doctors, nurses & medical professionals
working to aid others through the
COVID-19 outbreak. Let this allow
our communities to shine bright
despite the circumstances.



@lettherebelight4.1

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Inside This Issue

Staying Connected	2
JoEllen’s Thank you	7
Diaconate News	8
Pastor’s Message & Let There Be Light.....	1, 9
Stewardship	5
Outreach News.....	6
A Look Back.....	4
Women’s Guild News.....	6
There’s No Place Like Home	3

Our Church Mission Statement:

*“To nurture those in our own faith community
and to act on our faith by reaching out to others.”*

We are an Open and Affirming church of the United Church of Christ.