

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

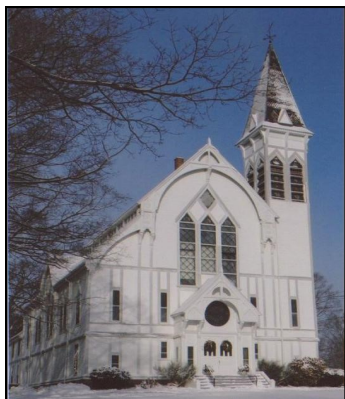
**7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200
Georgetown, MA 01833**

Telephone: 978-352-8443

Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

Website: www.georgetowncongregational.org

February 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Warm greetings to you during this very cold season. During what is typically a quiet time of the year, the church building has been anything but quiet! Early Intervention (EI) recently began its occupancy of our lower-level classrooms, and mornings have been filled with the joyful sounds of children's voices! It's been a pleasure to interact with the EI leaders and teachers as they settle into their new space. I look forward to seeing how God might use us to minister to them and with them as they serve families in our community.

The cold weather months are a favorite time for many of us to hunker down with a good book or a new project. For me this often means beginning a new Bible study! This past Sunday, we began a new preaching series on the book of Ruth. This gem from the Old Testament reads in some ways like today's headlines, with issues around poverty, racism, sexism, and immigration.

There are only four chapters in Ruth, and I'll cover one chapter each week for four weeks. Immediately following worship each Sunday, I'll be set up in the Guild Room to do a deeper dive into the story by way of group discussion. I invite you to join me after you

grab some coffee and goodies in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider reading through Ruth before we gather on Sunday; I think you'll find it well worth your time!

The season of Lent begins at the end of this month. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 25, for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner followed by an Ash Wednesday reflection. We'll begin at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Dallas



Stewardship

The Congregational Church of Georgetown is thankful for your support of our church, and we hope you will continue to contribute to our mission in the coming year. The results are amazing when we share the gifts of our time, talent and treasure for a cause greater than oneself. What we are able to accomplish in 2020 depends on the generosity of the entire church family. Your gift is very important as we plan and budget for the coming year. Every gift makes a difference, and we thank you for your continued support!

With gratitude,

The Stewardship Team

Toni Cassidy George Comiskey Sylvia Johnston



You will notice that our "Sharing Tree" has now appeared in the Narthex. There are envelopes with various 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!

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 me or any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared with me as well, at any time.

- Ruth Soper

Outreach

TO OUR CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN ...

THANK YOU ..

*for your thoughtful idea of setting up a **HAT & MITTENS/GLOVES TREE** and adorning the tree with warm hats, gloves and scarves for those less fortunate! Because of your wish to help others, there were 104 items of clothing that were collected in this drive! All of the adult hats, gloves and scarves were delivered to the **GRACE CENTER of LIFEBRIDGE**, a north shore mission that helps our homeless population. The children's hats and gloves/mittens were taken to the **COMMUNITY GIVING TREE** in Boxford, a ministry for needy children.*

Thinking about others and their needs is putting into action the teachings of Jesus, when He told us about the Golden Rule.

Thank you again,

From your adult Church Family Friends

FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

NEWS FROM H.O.M.E.

"Parents were beyond grateful for the Christmas gifts you provided." This note came from Julie Ream, our H.O.M.E. contact person. She continues ... "One lady, whose three children benefited from your gifts, was moved to tears for this generosity. Thirteen were shelter children, a few more were children of folks who regularly depend on H.O.M.E.'s soup kitchen. Many of the children, who received our gifts, have parents who work really hard at low-paying jobs and the struggle is constant. Please extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of your congregation for these gifts."

FEBRUARY INITIATIVES

A COLLECTION TO HELP TWO MINISTRIES

It was recently brought to our attention that our **COA FOOD PANTRY** (Georgetown Council on Aging, located in the Perley School) is **in need of paper products** because these items are not covered under food assistance programs. **Paper towels, toilet paper and facial tissues are all necessities that need to be carefully rationed by many in our communities, and food pantries become quickly depleted of these items.**

At a recent meeting of our committee, one of our members asked if our church had ever been involved in a prison ministry, and no one else in the group could remember any project connected with prisons. It was a thoughtful question! Shortly after, **we became aware of an initiative promoted by the Haverhill COA to collect bars of wrapped soap and toothpaste for inmates.** Their statement reads, *"Each of us are called to care for our brothers and sisters and to show mercy to one another. Our endeavor is to collect bars of soap and toothpaste for men who are part of the Massachusetts state prison system. Unless they have their own funds, they must depend on others to provide them with this most basic need!"*

WE ARE ASKING YOU TO HELP WITH THIS DUAL MISSIONS PROJECT on the following Sundays:

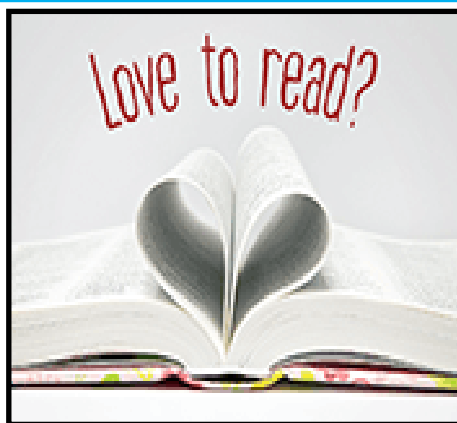
FEBRUARY 9th FEBRUARY 16th & FEBRUARY 23rd

THESE ITEMS ARE BEING COLLECTED all THREE SUNDAYS:

PAPER TOWELS TOILET PAPER FACIAL TISSUES WRAPPED BARS OF SOAP & TOOTHPASTE

With gratitude for your continuing support ...

Marion Harding, Martha Lucius, Mary Ann Nelson, Jean Perley, Carol Sheehan, & Joan Chatterton




Each month we have a group of people who meet to talk about books selected by members. Meetings are held in different houses or at the church. If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact the Church Office or any of the people listed below to get directions to that month's meeting.

All are welcome and you do not have to RSVP to attend. Below is a list of the books they will be discussing in the coming months in case you want to get the book ahead of time or you might just be looking for a good read.

2020			
January 29	<i>The Stars are Fire</i> ©2017	Anita Shreve	Sylvia Johnston & Ruth Soper Church Sylvia: 978-352-7597 Ruth: 978-352-2500
February 26	<i>Cooking for Picasso</i> ©2016	Camille Aubray	Alecia Balduf 3 Bayberry Lane Alecia: 978-835-9094
March 25	<i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> ©2018	Delia Owens	Joan Chatterton 9 Bartlett Drive, Georgetown Joan: 978-352-8033
April 29	<i>Ask Again, Yes</i> ©2019	Mary Beth Keane	Peggy Smith & Marie Birdsall Church Peggy: 978-352-8741 Marie:
May 27	<i>The Only Woman in the Room</i> ©2019	Marie Benedict	Dee Wyatt Camp Denison Lodge, 84 Nelson St Dee: 617-957-6090
June 24	<i>Summer of '69</i> ©2019	Elin Hilderbrand	Nancy Aberman 199 W. Main St Nancy: 978-352-2793



February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30am Worship 11:40am Discussion of Ruth Ch. 2 12:15pm Diaconate Meeting Super Sub Day	3	4	5 7pm Boy Scouts	6	7 7pm AA	8
9 10:30am Worship 11:40am Discussion of Ruth Ch. 3	10 	11 6pm Finance	12 7pm Boy Scouts	13	14 Girl Scouts 4-5:30pm 7pm AA <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 10:30am Worship 11:40am Discussion of Ruth Ch. 4	17 President's Day Office Closed	18	19 7pm Boy Scouts	20 6:30pm Council	21 7pm AA	22
23 10:30am Worship	24	25 6:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Worship	26 Ash Wednesday Book Group 7pm Boy Scouts	27 5:30pm CD Meeting	28 7pm AA	29

Greetings From The Diaconate

Greetings from your Diaconate!

"Guide me in your truth and teach me for you are God my Savior and my hope is in you all day long."
Psalm 25:5

It was wonderful to begin 2020 with our annual New Year's potluck. It was a time of great fellowship as we enjoyed the delicious dishes that were shared. This month we are looking forward to hearing more about the Book of Ruth as Dallas takes a deeper look into the wisdom within it. The pastoral search committee is continuing the search and call for a settled pastor and we pray for guidance in their work.

As we turn toward the Lenten season, we will again enjoy a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on February 25th immediately followed by an Ash Wednesday service. This was a beautiful transition into Lent that was well attended last year and we look forward to seeing everyone again.

Blessings,
Marie, Pam, Emily and Rachel



March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am Worship 11:45am Diaconate Meeting	2	3	4 7pm Boy Scouts	5	6 7pm AA	7
8 Daylight Savings 10:30am Worship	9	10 6pm Finance	11 7pm Boy Scouts	12	13 7pm AA	14
15 10:30am Worship	16 NewsLetter DEADLINE	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 7pm Boy Scouts	19 6:30pm Council	20 Girl Scouts 4-5:30pm 7pm AA	21
22 10:30am Worship	23	24	25 Book Group 7pm Boy Scouts	26 5:30pm CD Meeting	27 7pm AA	28
29 10:30am Worship	30	31				

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Tim Angerhofer
Brett Davis
Teddy Edwards
Gayle Fehlmann
Julie Fehlmann

Hudson Murphy
Shirley Powell
Chris Southwick
George Tobin
Roberta Tobin

Carol Kalfin



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 JoEllen Fielding at 978-352-6904.

*Our steeple will be lit this month in loving memory of Earl Johnston
from Sylvia Johnston.*



Save the Date

February 25 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Ash Wednesday worship.
All are welcome!



Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm or blizzard, you can check Channel 7 for storm closings. We will also send a church-wide email and update our church Facebook page.

First Congregational Church of Georgetown
PO Box 200
7 Andover Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
www.georgetowncongregational.org
(978) 352-8443



Inside This Issue

Book Club	4
Calendars	5,6
Diaconate News	6
February Birthdays	7
Stewardship	2
Shrove Tuesday	7
Storm Cancellations	7
Outreach News.....	3
Pastors Message.....	1

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.