

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

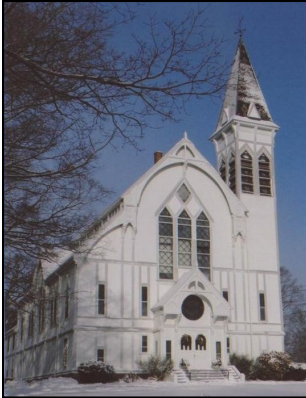
**7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200
Georgetown, MA 01833**

Telephone: 978-352-8443

Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

Website: www.georgetowncongregational.org

January 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Standing at the beginning of a new year is a time filled with anticipation and possibilities. It's also a time when we're conscious that the year ahead is filled with the unknown. So, I think it's important, after the celebrations of Christmas end, and the shepherds and Magi have departed, and the decorations have been returned to the attic, that we reaffirm the name of Jesus most celebrated at Christmas: *Emmanuel*, "God with us."

As we move into the unknowns of January and the year ahead, we never do so alone. God goes with us. I don't know what 2020 holds any more than you do, but I know the One who does. And I know that God is still speaking today as much as in the time when Caesar August ruled the Roman Empire. We can be certain that God will provide direction one step at a time if we are actively seeking God's direction and actively listening for God's response.

Sometimes we forget that, after the Magi's visit, God told Joseph to flee with Mary and Jesus into Egypt because Herod was determined to find and destroy the child. But even in the darkest of circumstances, even in the unexpected detour to Egypt, God leads Joseph step by step. When God tells Joseph to flee in the middle of the night, God doesn't tell Joseph at that point how long

he should plan to stay in Egypt. And when God finally tells Joseph that the coast is clear to return to Israel, God doesn't initially tell Joseph WHERE in Israel. It's only AFTER Joseph arrives back in his own country that God tells him about the danger of Herod's son and directs Joseph to go to Nazareth instead of Bethlehem. (See Matthew 2:13-23)

Do you see how God gives Joseph just enough light to take the next step? Why might that be? Well, it certainly keeps Joseph close to God, listening carefully for the next instruction. And we know from scripture that God longs to grow a closer, more intimate relationship with each of us. Remember, Jesus's coming at Christmas was all about restoring our broken relationship with God.

Again, a new year brings anticipation and possibilities. What a wonderful opportunity for us individually, and corporately as a congregation, to recommit ourselves to listening for God's voice, to deepening our relationship with the One who tenderly loves and holds us in every new circumstance. It can be something as simple as setting aside five minutes a day, without screens or other distractions, to read a Psalm and then ask God to speak through it because you are listening.

I look forward to sharing with you the adventure of a new year, and to seeing all that God will do in and through you in the coming months. Happy New Year!!

Blessings,
Dallas

Greetings From The Diaconate

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'...When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" **Matthew 2:1-2; 10-11**

Greetings from your Diaconate! Please join us on January 5, 2020 as we celebrate and welcome the New Year with a Pot-Luck brunch! As we remember precious memories from 2019, we anticipate much new exciting, and joy-filled happenings in 2020.

In driving down 128, I noticed a bumper sticker on the back of a car that read: "Not all who wander are lost!" it showed a star above the words, indicating the passage from Matthew. I think of times of uncertainty in life, times where we may feel like we are wandering. Our church may feel like we are wandering with a desire to have a settled pastor, but as God allows us to follow the star, we can cherish the journey. Within the journey, we say farewell to a beloved interim pastor, Julie, and her family; we reflect on the messages from visiting pastors; and we cherish the joy of Rev. Dallas answering the call to serve with us. Each person that walks in our church door is there for a purpose, and yes, that includes you our reader! I appreciate every one of you and your dedicated service and friendship. Although we anticipate change with uncertainty, together, we grow stronger in faith and fellowship within God's presence and love.

I am very thankful for all the people who are willing to help and are faithful in their services. Our church is very blessed with many willing hands from decorating the church with colorful Christmas festivities, providing beautiful Altar arrangements, warmly welcoming people to the service, creating beautiful music, delivering heartfelt messages, and creating delightful fellowship. May God bless you all, your friends, and your families in the New Year!

Love, Your Diaconate

Stewardship

2019 Pledge Payment Reminder – Just a gentle reminder to please bring your 2019 pledge payments up to date by December 31st. Your contribution to the ministries of this church are vital and much appreciated.

2020 Pledge Cards – We sincerely thank all those who have contributed to the 2020 pledge drive. If you have not already done so, please take a few moments to fill out your pledge card and place it in offering plate or mail it to the church. If you need a pledge card, please see a member of the Stewardship Team. Thank you for your generous spirit!

Toni Cassidy George Comiskey Sylvia Johnston



Super Sub Day!

Sunday, February 2nd 2020

First Congregational Church Of
Georgetown

Are you ready for some football?

The Youth Group will be taking orders for ham, turkey & Italian subs which can be picked up or delivered to your door in time for kickoff!!

Please use the form on the reverse side to place your order to-day.

The Subs are \$8.00 each and
the proceeds fund the
new website.

Super Bowl Checklist:

Awesome Television

☐

Great group of FANS!

☐

Plenty of Beverages!

☐

Subs ordered & delivered!

☐

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Sandwiches</u>	<u>Amount Due: (\$8.00/Sandwich)</u>	<u>Paid</u>
<u>Pickup / Delivery</u>	<u>Address & Phone</u>		

Circle or Check selections below for each sandwich (use multiple sheets as necessary)
 Return Sign-Up sheets to the Church Office by **January 26, 2020**
 Checks Payable to: **First Congregational Church**
 Subs will be available for Pickup/Delivery on February 2, 2020

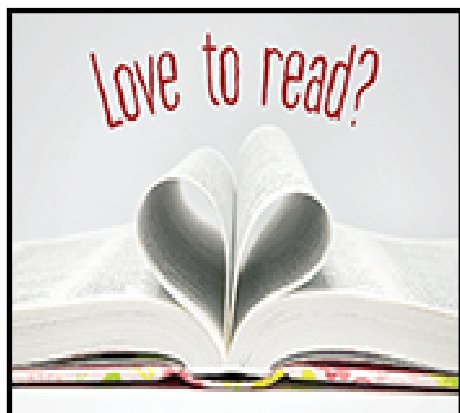
	Sandwich 1		Sandwich 2		Sandwich 3		Sandwich 4
	Italian		Italian		Italian		Italian
	Ham		Ham		Ham		Ham
	Turkey		Turkey		Turkey		Turkey
	American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese
	Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese
	Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce
	Tomato		Tomato		Tomato		Tomato
	Pickles		Pickles		Pickles		Pickles
	Onion		Onion		Onion		Onion
	Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing
	Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise
	Mustard		Mustard		Mustard		Mustard
	Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side

Special instructions: _____



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2	3 7pm AA Annual Report Deadline	4
5 10:30am Epiphany Service/ Breakfast 11:45am Diaconate Meeting	6 Epiphany 6pm Finance Meeting	7 Women's Guild Lunch	8 7pm Boy Scouts	9	10 7pm AA	11 Eagle Scout Court of Honor 10-1:30pm
12 10:30am Worship	13	14	15 7pm Boy Scouts Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30pm Council	17 7pm AA	18
19 10:30am Worship	20 Office Closed	21	22 7pm Boy Scouts	23 5:30pm CD Meeting	24 Girl Scouts 4-5:30pm 7pm AA	25
26 10:30am Worship	27	28	29 Book Group 7pm Boy Scouts	30	31 7pm AA	



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.

Date 2019	Title	Author	Hostess/Location/Phone No.
September 25	<i>The Beantown Girls</i> ©2019	Jane Healey Note: Author is speaking at the Reading Public Library on September 17, 1 p.m.	Pam and Carol Sheehan Church Sheehan: 978-352-6329
October 30	<i>We Are Market Basket: the story of the unlikely grassroots movement that saved a beloved business</i> ©2015	Daniel Korschun & Grant Welker NOTE: Many copies available through the library system	Joanne Kelly & Carol Lutes Church Carol: 978-352-7208
December 4 (combined Nov/Dec)	<i>Gift from the Sea</i> ©1955	Anne Morrow Lindbergh	Karen Young 11 Monroe Street Karen: 978-352-2697
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



Save The Date - January 5, 2020
Happy New Year!
New Year's Potluck Brunch

Your Diaconate is hosting a New Year's Worship and Potluck Brunch in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. on January 5, 2020. Sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hour.

All Welcome!



Annual Reports: Annual Meeting January 2020. It will be here before you know it! Please prepare you team's **Annual Report** and send it to churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org by Friday, January 3rd.



Nolan Andrus

Henry Edwards

Kevin Southwick

Gabe Angerhofer

Jordan Greenfield

Shirley Southwick

Benjamin Brock

Aiden Kelly

Travis Tobin

Tom Chaffee

Nicholas Lucido

Karen Young

Brendan Comiskey

Sadie Lucido

Laura Zalewski

Gingerbread Contest!!



*More Pictures
Page 9!*



Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm or blizzard, you can check Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings. If you want to know if church is cancelled tune to the TV listings on these channels.

There is also a mobile app that you can download for free by searching WHDH in the app store and view storm status anywhere, anytime. We will also update our church Facebook page.



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.



Awesome!!



Fun!!



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



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Deadline January 3, 2020

Inside This Issue

Book Club News	6
Calendar.....	5
Super Sub Day	3 & 4
Diaconate News.....	2
January Birthdays	7
Gingerbread Contest Pictures	8 & 9
Storm Cancellations	7
New Year's Brunch.....	8
Stewardship News	2
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.