

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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February 2021



Dear Friends,

It is with heartfelt thanksgiving that I begin my ministry with you here at FCC G-town. I'm thankful for your gracious welcome even before you voted to call me as your new Settled Pastor. And then, in celebration, we signed on the line that made this all "official," and then you did a drive-by party, complete with COVID-19 safe gifts, cupcakes and flowers. I felt your warmth, lightness of heart and curiosity for "what's next?" from that first day leading worship and then greeting you all from a safe distance. So, thank you for this! I can't wait to see where God leads us together. How about you?

Together we have begun something new. And so it begins. I look forward to meeting each of you. Drop me a line, feel free to call me, send an email. Let's get in touch.

January was such a time of transition in so many ways, new year, new national government, new church leadership, and new pastor in the house! And as your new pastor, I will walk with you as we worship, pray, connect and discover God's unique call for our lives as one community, one congregation.

In my short time with you, I understand that this congregation loves to eat and bake. So, in preparation for Lent, the Diaconate is inviting to join a one-time only, baking show on the evening of February 16th, *Fat Tuesday* also called Mardi Gras, via Zoom. You will have the opportunity to bake along side our very own Pam Sheehan, baker extraordinaire. Or, just zoom in to watch. The recipe and ingredient list and zoom link is forth coming.

And then, Ash Wednesday, February 17th which begins our 40 days set aside for reflection, rejuvenation and renewal as children of God. Over 40 days, you are invited to join an informal weekly study with me. There will be a morning gathering, and one evening gathering each week, for your convenience. The exact time and details are still in formation, stay tuned.

I find it fitting that so early in this time together we enter Lent. This is such a perfect time for us to reflect together, learning together what we each bring with us into ministry. And we will be renewed and begin to find new ways of following God's call together.

And, before these Lenten season observations there will be celebration of my ordination. Join me on February 10th, via Zoom. I will be in at my "home" church, First Church in Swampscott, where I first received a "call" to ordained ministry, and that becomes the setting for one's ordination. I hope you can join in this special time in my life, as I begin my ministry with you. Please note that you need to register for this zoom service prior to getting the Zoom link. See below. So that we can stay in touch as we walk curiously together, I can be reached by email through the church office- pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org. My cell number is 781-632-8964. Or just call the church office and I'll get the message and respond. I can't wait to meet you all.

God's grace and peace to each of you,

Pastor Holly

Outreach

FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

NEWS FROM H.O.M.E.

"Parents were beyond grateful for the Christmas gifts you provided." This note came from Tracey Hair, 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. 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."

OUR NEIGHBORS TABLE - Thank you

Thank your parishioners for their generosity. Their donation will pay for over 600 meals for our neighbors.

With gratitude,

Lyndsey Haight and Lisa Flynn (Executive Director and Board Member)

With gratitude for your continuing support ...

Marion Harding, Martha Lucius, Mary Ann Nelson, Jean Perley, & 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 me or any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared with me as well, at any time.

Janice Murphy

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 2021 depends on the generosity of the entire church family. Your gift is very important as we plan and budget for this year. Every gift makes a difference, and we thank you for your continued support! Please contact the church if you need pledge materials.

With gratitude,

The Stewardship Team

Toni Cassidy George Comiskey Sylvia Johnston






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 2020	Title	Author	Location/Hostess/Phone Number
September 30	<i>The One-in-a-Million Boy</i> ©2017	Monica Wood	Zoom
October 28	<i>When Time Stopped: a memoir of my father's war and what remains</i> ©2020	Ariana Neumann	Zoom
December 1 (combined Nov/Dec)	<i>Redhead by the Side of the Road</i> ©2020	Anne Tyler	Zoom
2021			
January 27	<i>The Nickel Boys</i> ©2019	Colson Whitehead	Zoom
February 24	<i>Simon the Fiddler</i> ©2020	Paulette Jiles	Zoom
March 31	<i>In the Country of Women: a memoir</i> ©2019	Susan Straight	Zoom
April 28	<i>The Last Train to Key West</i> ©2020	Chanel Cleeton	TBA
May 26	<i>Coco Chanel: Pearls, Perfume and the Little Black Dress</i> ©2018	Susan Goldman Rubin	TBA
June 30 or June 23?	<i>The Cactus</i> ©2018	Sarah Haywood	TBA



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Annual Sock Drive Begins 	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Diaconate Meeting Super Sub Day	8	9 6:00 PM Finance	10 Holly Brauner's Ordination via Zoom	11	12	13
14 10:30 AM Worship Sock Drive Ends Happy Valentine's Day	15 President's Day Office Closed 	16	17	18 6:30 PM Council	19	20
21 10:30 AM Worship	22	23	24 Book Club	25 6:00 PM Christian Development	26	27
28 10:30 AM Worship						

Holly Brauner's Ordination

Please join us as we joyfully gather as a church with the Northeast Association of the Southern New England Conference, and with the wider UCC, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to ordain Holly Brauner. "By this rite, ordained ministerial standing is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ." - UCC Book of Worship. Thanks be to God!

If you have any questions - please reach out to Pastor Ian Holland - pastorian@thefirstchurch.org

When: Feb 10, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZltcOitqjgoEtMoZZUtHvLTIOeAp68shEpK>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Greetings From The Diaconate

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God." 1 John 3:1

It is with excitement and anticipation for our future here at our beautiful church...that we lovingly welcome Holly Sawyer Brauner. I am very confident, after my conversations with Holly, that you will all agree she is easy to talk with, genuinely caring and has a lot of enthusiasm for what lies ahead! WELCOME HOLLY!!

February 2021 finds us grateful for a mild January and preparing us for the New England winter season, perhaps with a snowy month. Winter's cold does beckon us indoors to find comfort and solace with our church family. Even though we have all been 'indoors' for what seems like ages, there is something special about a New England snow day!!! Heat up that hot chocolate (don't forget the yummy marshmallows), pull out a favorite book, a warm knitted throw, perhaps made with lots of love from special friends, or maybe just a soft cuddly one from Amazon that you treated yourself with and simply relax, recharge and feel comfort. *"Focus your attention on your inner silence, a place inside you that is the origin of everything that you are."* ~don Miguel Ruiz.

Often when we pull up our memories of February, many think of Valentine's Day. Thoughts of boxed chocolates trimmed with satiny red ribbons, bouquets of red roses, handmade heart cards, shared with those we love. Many wishes to each of you for a Happy Valentine's Day. This year our "red, pink, white lace" holiday has a bit of a different feel and look. We really need to reach out via snail mail, email, text, phone calls to share our loving thoughts. It is so very important this year to "BE MY VALENTINE" to all in our beloved church family.

The diaconate team, as per our church by-laws, changes yearly. It is with much respect and appreciation that we thank Marie Birdsall- Chaffee for her years of service here on the diaconate. She is a tireless worker and her kindness does not go unnoticed. She will be missed on this team.

We are so happy to welcome Antoinette Jones on board as our newest member. Although, she has been a very important 'cog in our wheel' this past year as our volunteer worker, we now can officially welcome her onto the board!! I know her gentle and caring ways will make her a wonderful addition to the Diaconate. Be sure and offer both these members of our church family (Marie and Antoinette) a congratulations and also a 'job well done.'

We, as a family, are also sending a huge thank you to Janice Murphy. Janice has been on the Hospitality Team for many years and her many talents have added to so many of our celebrations, as well as our Sunday coffee hours. "Thank you for making so many ordinary moments, extraordinary!"

Janice is 'passing the baton' to Ruth Soper. We are pleased Ruth is staying on Hospitality and we look forward to the opening of church to enjoy many of her delicious baked goods!

Slowing down a bit, even though our Christmas season was certainly not as hectic as our past celebrations, I find myself taking "three deep breaths" a prelude to beginning our prayers and thinking of our many blessings. Here at our church, plans are underway for lent and the Easter season with love and anticipation.

As always, we are here for you, to share a joy or a sorrow. Your 2021 diaconate members are: Antoinette Jones, Emily Knapp, Pam Sheehan, Rachel Angerhofer and Gladie Kneeland.

Remember God's love is so large it can cover the world, and so small it can curl up in the corner of your heart."

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Shirley Powell
Gayle Fehlmann
Julie Fehlmann

Chris Southwick
George Tobin
Roberta Tobin

Carol Kalfin



Don't forget to order a subs for Super Bowl Sunday! A limited number of delicious pies are available too!



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 978-352-7489.



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 website and Facebook page.

LOOKING BACK

10 years ago:

We moved back into the sanctuary after major repairs and renovations following damage from a March 2010 rain and wind storm.

The roof was re-shingled.

All of the walls and ceiling of both the sanctuary and narthex were resurfaced and painted.

Any damaged woodwork was restored and all woodwork was cleaned.

The large front stained glass window was removed, repaired and replaced.

Pew locations were slightly reorganized.

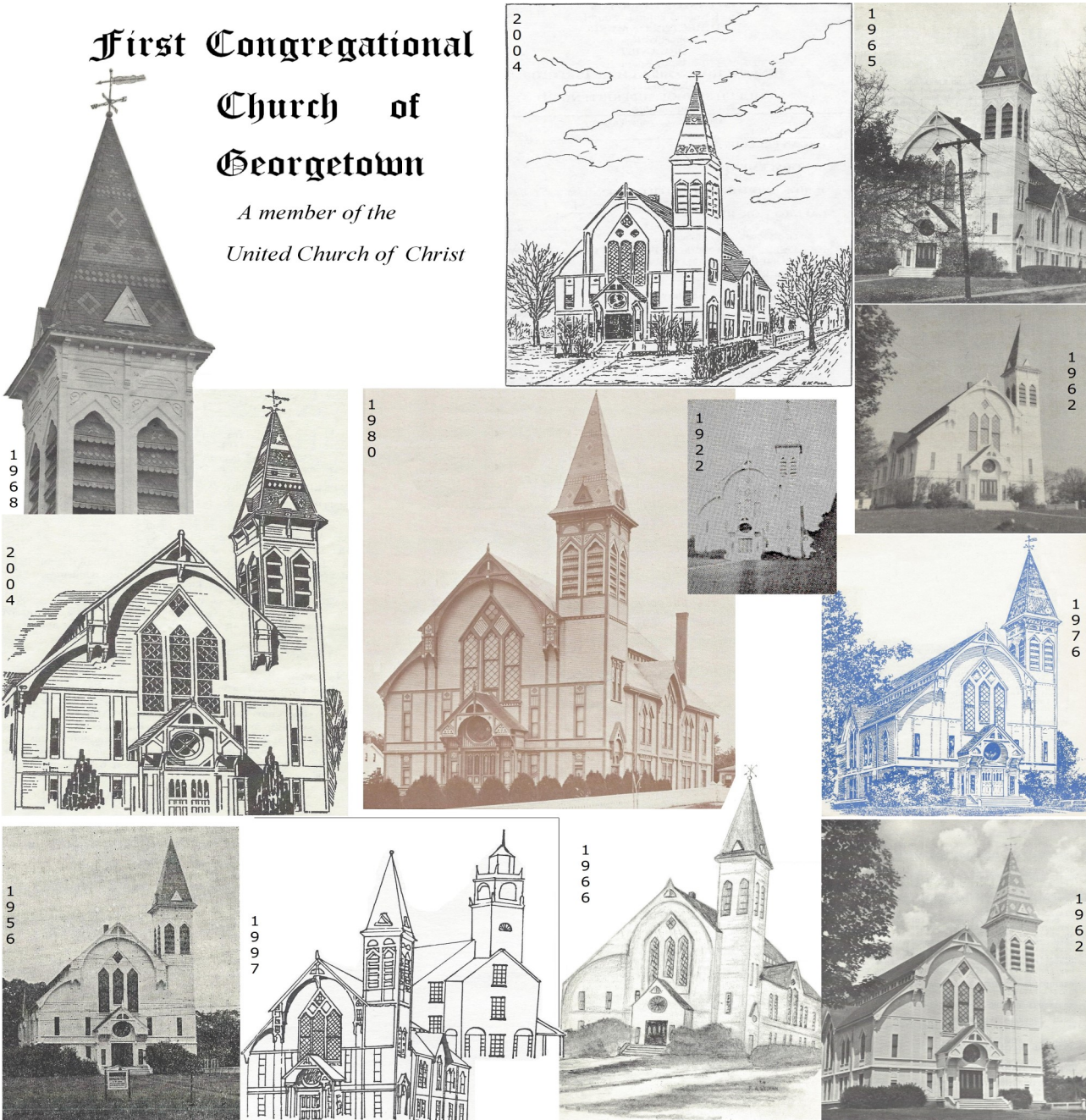
The sanctuary & narthex received new flooring and carpeting.

Lighting and electrical were modernized and improved.

Since nothing else interesting seems to have occurred in February in 51, 61, 71, 81, 91 or 01, here is a selection of pictures or drawings of the church that have graced our bulletins over the years. The year with each is when it was first used as a cover, not when the photo or drawing was created.

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*A member of the
United Church of Christ*



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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.