



**2020 Annual Report**

**First Congregational Church  
of Georgetown, UCC**

**Sunday, January 31, 2021**

## **2020 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

In accordance with Our Congregation's Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Church edifice immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, January 26, 2020 to act on the following articles:

**Article I:** To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the "2019 Financial Report and Proposed 2020 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

**Article II:** To receive the 2019 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2019 budget, and to approve a budget for 2020 or take any other related action;

**Article III:** To receive and hear the "Nomination Report" and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

**Article IV:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

By direction of Our Congregation's Council

Toni Cassidy  
Clerk

## **2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES** **JANUARY 26, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 11:57 am, attendance sheet was passed to congregation and signatures of attendees were collected – 38 attendees and signatures in total. Welcome from Rich Broch, Moderator. Opening Prayer of guidance for the congregation by Reverend Dallas Bradel,

### **Clerk read:**

In accordance with Our Congregation's Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Church edifice immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, January 26, 2020 to act on the following articles:

**Article I:** To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council exception of the "2019 Financial Report and Proposed 2020 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

**Antoinette** - Mr. Moderator

**Moderator** – Antoinette

**Antoinette** – I move that the congregation receive the reports of the individual Council Members and their teams and any others requested by the Council except for the 2019 Financial Report, the Proposed 2020 Budget, and the Nomination Report.

**Motion seconded - JoEllen.**

**Moderator** – It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive the reports of the individual council members and their teams and any others requested by the Council except for the 2019 Financial Report, the Proposed 2020 Budget and the Nomination Report.

**Antoinette** – Mr. Moderator

**Moderator** – Antoinette

**Antoinette** – The submitted reports are captured within the 2019 Annual Report, dated Sunday, January 26, 2020, which reflect the activities of the various teams for the previous church year.

**Moderator** – Is there any other discussion. No Discussion.

**Moderator** – The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive the reports of the individual council members and their teams and any others requested by the Council except for the 2019 Financial Report, the Proposed 2020 Budget, and the Nomination report.

All in favor? Apposed?

**Motion Carried**

**Clerk read:**

**Article II:** To receive the 2019 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2019 budget, and to approve a budget for 2020 or take any other related action

Kristen - Mr. Moderator

Moderator – Kristen

Kristen – I move that the congregation receive the 2019 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2020 budget, and to approve a budget for 2020 or take any other related action;

**Motion seconded - JoEllen**

**Moderator** – It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive the 2019 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2020 budget, and to approve a budget for 2020 or take any other related action;

**Kristen** – Mr. Moderator

**Moderator** – Kristen

**Kristen** – The submitted 201 Financial report and the proposed 2020 budget are captured within the 2019 Annual Report, dated Sunday, January 26, 2020.

**Moderator** – Is there any other discussion

Bob Knapp, Finance Team – Good news! 401 K’s and investment up, Budgets are off, pledges have increased - \$42,000 deficit for the year part of that Verizon money not reflected, (Lease Advisor purchase of cell tower). Budget short fall Lease Advisor purchase to cover deficit.

**Moderator** – The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive the 2019 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2020 budget, and to approve a budget for 2020 or take any other related action;

All in favor? Apposed?

**Motion Carried**

**Clerk read:**

**Article III:** To receive and hear the “Nomination Report” and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

**Bob** – Mr. Moderator

**Moderator** – Bob>

**Bob** – I move that the congregation receive the and hear the Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

**Motion seconded - JoEllen**

**Moderator** – It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive and hear the Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

**Bob** – Mr. Moderator

**Moderator** – Bob

**Bob** – The submitted Nomination report is captured within the 2019 Annual Report, dated Sunday, January 26, 2020. Individuals that have 'Re-Nominated' referenced will serve an additional term. Individuals that have 'Nominated' referenced are new members on a team. Chairpersons are noted and will represent their team on the Church Council. The End Year that is referenced on the report indicates when an individual's term will expire. Lastly, as referenced on the report, we have one open Diaconate position and one open Property position. Chairpersons for Christian Development and Diaconate also need to be identified. Efforts to fill these positions are actively being pursued.

**Moderator** – Is there any other discussion

**Maryann**– Correct Spelling of Tom Chaffee

**Moderator** – Nomination Report is actively looking for a diaconate member

**Moderator** – The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive and hear the Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies. Seeking a chair for the Diaconate as Alecia is stepping down. Acknowledged Alecia's great leadership, she will be missed, truly appreciate her work on the diaconate. Property is also seeking a member, consists of maintaining building and property. Many accomplishments have been made.

All in favor? Opposed?

**Motion Carried**

**Clerk read:**

**Article IV:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property

No discussion.

**Moderator** – Thank you JoEllen as you move on to Texas.

Motion to adjourn – Motion carried - adjourned at 12:07

Respectfully submitted by,  
Toni Cassidy, Clerk

**2020 SPECIAL MEETING WARRANT**

In accordance with Our Congregation’s Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that a Special Meeting will be held in the Church edifice and/or virtually via an electronic streaming and/or phone device immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, November 22, 2020 to act on the following articles:

**Article I:** To hear the report of the Pastoral Search Committee, or to take any other related action;

**Article II:** To hear and act on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc., or to take any other related action;

**Article III:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

By direction of Our Congregation’s Council

Toni Cassidy  
Clerk

**Special Meeting, November 22, 2020  
Via Zoom and in person**

Meeting called to order by Moderator, Rich Brock at 11:38 am.

Opening pray – Tom Chaffee

Clerk read the Warrant aloud:

**2020 SPECIAL MEETING WARRANT**

In accordance with Our Congregation’s Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that a Special Meeting will be held in the Church edifice and/or virtually via an electronic streaming and/or phone device immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, November 22, 2020 to act on the following articles:

**Article I:** To hear the report of the Pastoral Search Committee, or to take any other related action;

**Article II:** To hear and act on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc., or to take any other related action;

**Article III:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

Clerk read:

**Article I:** To hear the report of the Pastoral Search Committee, or to take any other related action;

Janice Murphy: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Yes, Janice

Janice Murphy: I move that the congregation hear the report of the Pastoral Search Committee, or to take any other related action.

Congregant seconded the motion.

Moderator: It is moved and seconded that the congregation hear the report of the Pastoral Search Committee, or to take any other related action.

Michelle Brock read the Pastoral Search Committee Report to congregation.

Bob Knapp made a motion that the congregation accept the report of the Pastoral Search Committee

Motion was seconded

Moderator: It is moved and seconded that the congregation accept the report of the Pastoral Search Committee

Motion passed unanimously

Clerk read:

**Article II:** To hear and act on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc., or to take any other related action;

Kristen Arsenault: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Yes Kristen

Kristen Arsenault: I move that the congregation hear and act on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc., or to take any other related action;

Congregant seconded the motion

Moderator: It is moved and seconded that the congregation hear and take action on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc., or to take any other related action;

Rachael Angerhofer: Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Hi Rachael

Rachael Angerhofer: As co-chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, and on behalf of the other members of the Pastoral Search Committee, we are recommending that the members of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown Massachusetts call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown Massachusetts, with an effective start date of January 22, 2021.

Moderator: Is there any other discussion

Moderator: The question is on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc; or to take any other related action.

Private vote called.

Motion carries unanimously.

Clerk read:

**Article III:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

Motion to adjourn – motion seconded. Meeting ended 11:57 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

### **2021 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

In accordance with Our Congregation’s Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Church edifice and/or virtually via an electronic streaming and/or phone device immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, January 31, 2021 to act on the following articles:

**Article I:** To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the “2020 Financial Report and Proposed 2021 Budget”, and the “Nomination Report” or take any other related action;

**Article II:** To receive the 2020 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2020 budget, and to approve a budget for 2021 or take any other related action;

**Article III:** To receive and hear the “Nomination Report” and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

**Article IV:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

By direction of Our Congregation’s Council

Toni Cassidy  
Clerk

## Pastor's Report

### Annual Report 2020

The year 2020 began well for us as a congregation, arriving on the heels of a lovely Christmas Eve service and baptism. We shared a potluck fellowship breakfast that first Sunday morning. I was getting to know parishioners through worship services and home visits. We celebrated JoEllen Fielding with a Texas-themed party and line-dancing, which softened the blow of saying “goodbye” to her as she moved away to join Miss Harper and family.

But then we received the sad news that Carol Sheehan had passed away on February 28. She was celebrated in a memorial service with a full sanctuary and a rousing chorus of “Sweet Caroline!”

Not long after that, we began hearing more about a new virus called COVID-19 that had quickly become a global pandemic. Because it was known to be contagious, we modified the Passing of the Peace on Sunday, March 8, to include only waves and greetings across the pews. Little did we expect that the church building would be closed soon afterwards, in compliance with state public health measures to slow the spread of the virus and prevent overtaxing of hospitals.

When Betty Bruce passed away on March 13, only family members and a few close friends were permitted to gather for the service at the funeral home. On March 15, I preached to an empty sanctuary as the message was transmitted online via a then-little-known platform called Zoom. Shortly thereafter, I initiated a Daily Prayer service to be held each morning at 10:00 via Zoom, so that people could connect for prayer and an encouraging word from scripture; the service continued with a regular group of attenders each Monday to Saturday through the end of the year.

Along with the rest of the world, we adjusted to online meetings and worship services; Bob and Emily Knapp soon added organ and trumpet music from the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. We all learned new terms like “social distancing” and saw our grocery store shelves go bare; toilet paper and hand sanitizer became prized commodities! We were told to stay at home except for shopping and medical appointments. Wearing a face mask became standard practice in public.

Barry Games passed away unexpectedly on April 15, and was buried in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, with only family in attendance. One of the hardest things about the pandemic has been our inability to say proper goodbyes and grieve together. But we missed out on shared celebrations as well, including the summer wedding of Emily Aberman to Kevin DeCarvalho, celebrated in a socially-distanced fashion in the Aberman's backyard.

During the summer, we added to Sunday worship the traditional, and more informal, Wednesday evening service. Diaconate members outdid themselves by hand-delivering goody bags filled with treats to match the monthly themes. We laughed a lot as we shared games of Bible Jeopardy and Name-That-Tune. Summer music was provided by a series of volunteers,



including Allan Barlow, Alecia Balduf, Richard Aberman, Mary Ann Nelson, Antoinette Jones, and Rachel Angerhofer.

We ended the summer with some shared storytelling and visioning sessions as part of the Appreciative Inquiry process, toward the goal of re-visioning and building forward movement on the strengths and successes of the church's past. The Christian Development team selected a new online curriculum for Sunday school, but students were already feeling overloaded by Zoom as a result of public-school classes moving online; as a result, children's Sunday school was temporarily suspended. I taught an adult Sunday school class during the season of Advent, focusing on favorite Advent hymns.

The Council worked hard to draft a re-opening policy and to prepare the building for safe, socially-distanced, in-person worship when it became feasible. Several worship services were held on the church lawn during September and October. There were also a few worship services held in the sanctuary and simultaneously shared via Zoom. These included a candlelight (battery-operated!) Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve.

The annual Strawberry Social and Church Fair were both cancelled because of the pandemic. But a group of members picked summer blueberries and later baked pies to sell at Thanksgiving in an effort to retain some of the much-loved traditions around these important community events. I can testify that the pie lived up to its excellent reputation!!

At the end of October, the Search Committee announced the good news that they had a candidate for Settled Pastor: Holly Sawyer Brauner. Following opportunities to meet Holly via Zoom, the congregation had the chance to observe Holly leading worship on November 22; they unanimously voted to accept Holly as their new Settled Pastor at a congregational meeting immediately following worship. Holly was welcomed by a parade of drive-by greetings outside of the church! Her first day as pastor has been scheduled for late January, 2021, a week following my own scheduled departure for a new interim call in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

There's no question that the year 2020 will long be remembered for the chaos caused by the pandemic, for racial tensions and protests, and for a contentious presidential election. As a church family, we deeply missed spending time together in worship and fellowship. But 2020 was also marked by enormous learning and growth as we embraced new possibilities for being a community from a distance. The world witnessed acts of extraordinary kindness and caring, even as unemployment skyrocketed and frontline workers forged ahead in the midst of large-scale crisis.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside of you during this tumultuous season of transition. Thank you for welcoming me as a part of your community. I wish you God's very best as you embark on a new season of ministry in 2021! The Lord bless you and keep you.

In Christ's sure love,  
Dallas Bradel  
Interim Pastor

## **Moderator's Report**

Our Congregation, Leadership Team, various team member, and volunteers went above and beyond all expectations due to the pandemic that altered all that we've done in the past as a Church. While all of us encountered many challenges and heartbreak during the past year, we also experienced many new opportunities and relationships as the pandemic forced us to change many of routines. We adapted! We all became familiar with ZOOM, enabling each of us to connect with our church family across the USA. We worshipped outside during the Fall months and enjoyed God's blessings. And now, with a glimmer of hope due to the availability of a new vaccine, we are all anxious to return to a sense of normal.

While we may not know what the future will bestow upon us, we do know that the strengths we gained over the past twelve months will continue throughout the coming years as we continue to grow as Christians. I'm proud of all that we accomplished in 2020, the challenges that were overcome, and the spiritual growth we attained together. In 2021, we will welcome Rev Holly Sawyer Brauner as our settled pastor and I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

### **Church Website**

Based on multiple comments received from prospective pastors about the church website, the decision was made to launch a new website to tell a better story about who we are as a Church. In today's digital environment, a church's website is usually the first impression someone may have about our Church. A decision was made to build a new website utilizing templates offered by Ministry Designs. The new website is located at [www.fccgeorgetownma.org](http://www.fccgeorgetownma.org).

### **Food Pantry**

With the Council on Aging changing locations to the Perley School, the utilization of the Food Pantry dropped significantly. In February 2020, the decision was made to discontinue the Food Pantry, effective 4/1/2020. If the need arises, specific food drives will occur. Cash donations to purchase gift cards are always welcomed.

### **Pandemic Response**

In March 2020, Governor Baker mandated that group than 25 can no longer gather. President Trump suggested that groups more than 10 should no longer gather. As a result of these mandates, the decision was made on March 16, 2020 to close the church for a period of three weeks. As it became more apparent that the pandemic would alter all that we do, multiple decisions were made with the best interest and safety of the congregation in mind.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the decision was made to keep the Church closed until May 2020

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the decision was made to keep the Church closed until September 2020

During the last spring and summer months, the Council worked together to introduce a plan to safely open the Church in September 2020. This plan, which was distributed to the congregation in August 2020 and posted to the website, was put together based on the following guiding principle – ‘Worship together while protecting the health and safety of the congregation, staff, and people in the surrounding communities.’

Our goal was to gather either on the church grounds (weather permitting) or within the sanctuary, beginning on September 13, 2020. Worshiping together inside the sanctuary would only occur if it were safe to do so.

With the exception of Rally Day, all services during the fall were held outside on the front lawn until it became too cold to do so. As God blessed us with beautiful weather during the Fall season, we anticipate that this may become more of a tradition in the coming years where we worship outside.

Unfortunately, with the onset of colder weather brought higher exposure to the virus, resulting in ZOOM only worship services during the late Fall and early Winter months, with one exception.

The Christmas Eve service was a hybrid service. The decision was made to open the Sanctuary, as long in person attendance did not exceed approximately 40 individuals. To ensure capacity was not exceeded, sign ups were required to attend in person.

As we move into 2021, we may use sign-ups for future services that occur within the Sanctuary.

### **Church Fair**

In September 2020, the difficult decision to cancel the Church Fair was made. Although necessary to ensure the safety of our community, it was exceedingly difficult to make this decision as it is the highlight event of the year. For one glorious weekend in October, all eyes, hearts, and souls are focused on the First Congregational Church of Georgetown. From Granny’s Attic and the Women’s Boutique, the arts and crafts, vendors, and all the food that is served, it left an empty space in all of us. With God’s grace, our annual fair will resume in October 2021.

### **Settled Pastor**

On November 22, 2020, the members of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown voted unanimously to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as their settled pastor. This call brought the Search and Call process to end, which began in 2019. With the hard work and dedication of both the Transition Team and the Search Committee, our Church will begin a new chapter with Rev Holly. As 2021 is the start of new beginning, I am looking forward to working with Holly in the upcoming year.

## **Interim Pastor**

Although we are excited to end the Interim Pastor period, we are saddened by the departure of Rev. Dallas Bradel. Rev. Dallas has been the cornerstone to the congregation as we all tried to come to terms with the impacts of the pandemic and the challenges of worshiping when so much turmoil existed around the country and world. Her teachings, bible studies, daily prayers, and presence in our lives will be sorely missed. We have grown during the past year, learned a lot about each other, and took advantage of opportunities to try different things. While 2020 had many challenges due to the pandemic, it is with a grateful heart that we say goodbye to Rev Dallas and wish her well in her next call.

I'd like to thank the Church Council members for their efforts throughout the year. Without your efforts and those of your teams, our outreach efforts and our spiritual growth, along with everything else we do to spread God's blessings would not have been possible.

Jessica Ford, who is our office manager, continues to do an excellent job. I'd like to thank Jessica as she works tirelessly to pull together newsletters, bulletins, the annual reports, announcements, as well as maintaining minutes and other artifacts. Her subtle reminders keep us on track and organized.

I look forward to 2021 as there are many opportunities for us to continue to grow as a church. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your moderator.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Brock, Moderator

**2020 Clerk's Report**  
Membership Information

This year has been a challenging one, due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The council continued to meet monthly for meetings as we foraged our way through and Canoeed Up the Mountains. Council members also met unofficially during some Tuesday evenings during the summer to ready the sanctuary for indoor and outdoor services. Pastor Dallas Bradel continued with daily pray and Sunday Services and Visioning meetings via ZOOM as well. Council meetings and team meetings were all held virtually through ZOOM. Our Rally Sunday was held virtually and in person in the sanctuary following the safety protocol put in place. Sunday services were held on the front lawn during the Fall, weather permitted us with a few beautiful mornings, social distancing and protocol was followed.

JoEllen Fielding, book keeper, moved to Texas and relinquished her duties, Robert Knapp replaced her.

A new website was launched, a Boy Scout Project was completed, Food Pantry was closed

In Memoriam  
Betty Bruce  
Barry Games  
Carol Sheehan

Funerals: 2 - 1 in Sanctuary - 1 at funeral home

Wedding: 1 – Emily Aberman to Kevin DeCarValho

Member Report Beginning 1/1/2020:	Total: 184
Deaths:	- 3
New Member:	
Members transferred to Inactive:	(3)
Member removed:	-1
Total as of 12/31/2019	180

November 22, 2020, church held a Special Meeting (Hybrid) to call Holly Sawyer Brauner as the settled pastor for the First Congregational Church of Georgetown. Dallas Bradel, Interim Pastor leaves us January 2020.

Respectfully submitted by,

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

## **Diaconate Report 2020**

***“He will cover you with his wings; You will be safe in His care; His faithfulness will protect and defend you.” Psalm 91:4***

Hope, Heal and Rededication.... Three words that truly sum up the work of your Diaconate team this year. The responsibilities of this team are many and are done by these exceptional people: Antoinette, Emily, Marie, Pam and Rachel. You do so much, and do it quietly, tirelessly and without complaint. Thank you. The deacons did a tremendous job of preparing the way to make a smooth and happy transition from interim to settled pastor; pastoral coverage, pulpit supply ministers, lay services, all were beautifully covered by this board. It has been my joy to be your Chairperson this year and I can only say thank you, well done, good and faithful friends.

This year many goals were accomplished by the hands and love of our church members.

We were, as a family, blessed to have had Rev. Dallas Bradel navigating and leading us. Thank you for your wonderful spiritual leadership, enthusiasm, endless energy of sharing not only Sunday services but your daily prayer/bible studies. These daily encounters served such an important bridge to many who were home and unable to spend outside “normal” time and activities. A great connection.

A big thank you to all who have participated in our services...via in person before March 2020 or via zoom. Our scripture readers, Christian service helpers, and everyone who lent a hand or an ear helping to keep our Church Family feel connected and not alone. You all stepped up to help each other, a warm phone call, a little note “how are you doing” and simply keeping everyone tucked in your hearts. Our music program is superb. To our organist Emily Knapp, our choir, our bell choir and our band director, Bob Knapp, your God-given talents amaze us and fill our ears and hearts with love. Music is such an important and beautiful part of our services. This ‘covid’ year I think we felt the absolute need to hear you and ‘see’ you and the inside of our beautiful, historical church. It made not being there in person not hurt so much.

Thank you to Jamie Krenn, our very talented flower coordinator. Her tireless work adds so much to the beauty to our services. She also tends to our church garden, which provides nature’s beauty for the entire community to share. She and Steve Pinto helped with the wreaths and twinkling outside lights at Christmas to add to the magic our church represents to many citizens of our town.

Our Hospitality Team continues our Church tradition of delicious food, hot drinks, and our every popular coffee hour after church. They hosted coffee hours and special times until March 2020. Oh, how we do miss the sounds of laughter, good conversation and happiness echoing through the walls! Sincere thank you to Janice Murphy and Ruth Soper for their ever-present delicious goodies and warm smiles. Although our ‘coffee hours’ are virtual, the happy conversations and the faces on the ‘Brady Bunch’ screen help us share our week.

Kirsten Davis continues to provide Christian Service, thank you Kirsten for continuing with this important work.

To thank the Missions Team requires a large applause! Joan Chatterton, and the lovely Guild Ladies; your dedication and love for others is unsurpassed. These projects bring all of us, young and old alike, working together to help those less fortunate than ourselves. You provide so much to so many. You are our outstanding special ladies!

Our ushers: George Comiskey and Barry Games shared their welcoming smiles and gentle caring to each of us every Sunday. Barry, our beloved 48-year member, who passed this year will always be remembered fondly with his firm handshake and straight look you in the eye when asking how your week had been. George, our very dedicated member who is just always there with a warm and caring smile. In zoom services, it is always a delight to see Rio sharing the screen with George and Chris! Speaking of Chris, our church historian...what a job she did this year with her "No Place Like Home" fundraiser. If you haven't had your home done, believe me, she is the best!!

Our Pastor Parish Relations Team is made up of Susan Stead, George Comiskey. Thank you for the love you show for every member of our Church family.

Thank you to Peggy Smith for being our telephone communicator. Your job is so important to keep everyone 'in the loop.'

Our Stewardship Team: Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and Sylvia Johnston. Thank you for coordinating this important part of our church. As stewards you are called to care and preserve this Church in order to continue its missions and spiritual message. Thank you for all you do. Also, a big thanks to the speakers in church who shared their stories of blessings they have received as members of this church.

JANUARY: Our year began with our traditional New Year's Pot Luck Brunch, incorporating our worship service.

Our annual meeting was held in accordance with our congregation's constitution and bylaws.

FEBRUARY: A delicious Italian Valentine dinner hosted by the Pesce Family and Ruth Soper. Remember to "Keep your Fork!" Also, in February the diaconate and hospitality team hosted a "Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper". So yummy with lots of choices of toppings.

Thank you to all those who provided the delicious dishes. We nourished our bodies and souls together.

MARCH: Who can ever forget the fabulous 'going away' party held for Jo-Ellen Fielding. Texas style food, line dancing, cowgirl boots and hats.... oh no one puts on a celebration like we do!! Although it was bittersweet, goodness knows how special Jo-Ellen is to our church family and how much she and her talents will be missed. We laughed until our sides hurt and danced like no one was watching!

Also, in March the Golden Chain of our Church Family was broken with the passing of Carol Sheehan. Her love for this church was unsurpassed. We held a collation after the memorial service.

Covid 19 reared its ugly head. It changed lives, it disrupted economies, and our church family felt the anxiety, sadness and the incredible changes that began in March. We could no longer meet in our beautiful church and began this unfamiliar way of being together. This new word in our vocabulary was ZOOM. We did not embrace this but realized it was the 'new norm' and Moderator, Rich Brock, spent endless hours organizing this new way of worship and fellowship. We cannot speak of Covid without realizing how strong and creative we can be and reminds us of our deepest faith and gives us extraordinary hope we will all be together again.

APRIL: Palm Sunday: Jamie Krenn ordered our palms and had them all set for our members to pick them up at the rear door. We remained socially distanced at all times.

Easter Sunday, always is a glorious day filled with hope and joy.

JUNE: Our STRAWBERRY month. Our annual strawberry social was sadly unable to be held. Under the very capable leadership of Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy it was disappointing to hear the announcement that we could not join together. Let's hope next June we will be able to enjoy that delicious annual event.

JULY and AUGUST: Our Wednesday evening worship services had to be held by Zoom. Diaconate was responsible for two services in July and two services in August. The theme for our summer services "Beach Memories" was a lot of fun. The diaconate delivered bottles of bubbles, salt water taffy, squirt guns, recalling fun-filled summer days with giggles and laughter.

Our August theme was "Camp Care for Others". Again, deliveries were made with crafts, s'mores ornaments, Marie kindly put together a booklet with members remembrances of camp. All signifying bonding with others. Also, how fun it was to watch the seeds of marigolds that Marie so kindly prepared for many of us.

Again, we sure missed the very capable team of Janice Murphy and Ruth Soper who usually provided us with delish hot dogs, lemonade, and iced tea each week. We hope you all had fun and enjoyed sharing traditions and your memories with your Church family.

During our summer services, we were so blessed to have our musicians, who shared their God-given talent with all of us. Each one of our musicians spend so much time researching, preparing and performing for us. Thank you.

Joan Chatterton continued the school supplies drive. A big thank you to all who donated and participated.

Dallas held visionary meetings both in August and September. During these zoom meetings we shared our experiences at church, what we value about church, and three wishes for the future of our church.



SEPTEMBER: Our Sunday Services resumed by Zoom.

Rally Day with J.T. Turner. As tradition continues, J.T. never lets us down. A great speaker with great messages! J.T. (even through zoom) never ceases to amaze us with his enthusiasm and love for our church family.

OCTOBER: Our Church Fair.... we miss it, we missed it a lot. There is no getting around it, it is a huge part of our tradition. We can be disappointed and sad, but let's smile when we think of past fairs, and look forward to our next one!

NOVEMBER: Dallas took some well-deserved time off. The diaconate shared the worship services with you. The theme they chose was Blessings, Thankfulness and Gratitude. We were able to meet on the church lawn and view God's paintbrush as the trees changed colors practically in front of us! Several members spoke during these services and shared their thankfulness. All Saints Sunday was held during our zoom service and we all reflected on loved ones.

We listened on candidate Sunday as Holly Sawyer Brauner preached. We then voted her in as our new settled pastor. Our interim time with Rev. Dallas Bradel will come to a close in January. The search committee diligently worked on the quest for a settled pastor, no easy feat under normal circumstances, and with the restrictions of Covid19 more difficult than ever! A huge thank you for the tireless work of the Search Committee: Rachel Angerhofer, Michelle Brock, Tom Chafee, Rachel Edwards, Sylvia Johnston, Steve Pinto and Kirsten Orender.

DECEMBER: Advent Readers, the Christmas Pageant with our youth who have grown and matured before our eyes did a fabulous job! During the Christmas Eve magical candlelit service, we were able to be in the sanctuary where we embraced the journey of Mary and Joseph and the hope and joy, we feel when we visualize baby Jesus, warm and cozy in the manger, surrounded by sweet lambs. Many feel emotional when singing the carols, so lovingly played by Emily and Bob. Ending with the darkness of the sanctuary... then row by row we 'light' the candles until we are ablaze and filled with the amazement of this, the holiest of nights. Continuing our Gingerbread House contest was a huge success! Who would have imagined a pizza house would be so incredible!

H.O.M.E. for Christmas is our annual Christmas gift-giving, thank you for all who gave so freely to make Christmas special for these children. Your generosity reaches far and wide! The Diaconate delivered poinsettias and thank you to many of you who continued to donate in the memory of a loved one.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Alecia Balduf for her very competent leadership as Chair for the diaconate in 2019. Your deep faith and care and concern for everyone was evident during your tenure.

I do hesitate here because in 'naming names' I am always fearful of leaving someone out because each of you have made an impact on the life of our church.

Janice Murphy: Your many, many talents. Organizing, keeping our sign out in front the church up to date, and remembering the ‘little things’.

Kim Knapp, although we are ‘officially’ closed you keep our building shining bright!

Jessica Ford, our very competent church office manager. Your hard work, your kind way of keeping our many teams on the right path and your ability to be so organized, we thank you! Especially with the gentle nudge when ‘someone’ almost forgets to send you the monthly newsletter!!!

Lastly, the “heart” of our Church...the Volunteer. I have never asked for help without receiving it, and receiving it with a smile and “anything else I can do?” as well. You are all so loving and generous with your individual talents and endless hours of time. Thank you.

Our community of God is precious. We have a church family that boosts us up when the world is overwhelming, when we feel hurt or lost...and on the flip side a church family who shares your joys and happiness so much it swells your heart!

***“Nobody really knows how much anyone else is hurting. We could be standing next to someone who is completely broken and we’d never know. So, be kind always. With yourself and others.”*** Unknown

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys M. Kneeland, Chair

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

### **Christian Development**

Due to the pandemic, many Christian Development activities were canceled, including Sunday School. Below is a list of activities that did occur during the 2020 Church Year;

During the season of Lent – Rev Dallas Bradel led a four-week sermon series on the book of Ruth each Sunday during our morning service. For three of the weeks, she also held an after-church class where members of the congregation had a more in-depth conversation about the book of Ruth.

In June, we celebrated the many accomplishments of our students and young adults during our annual Children’s Sunday. Although held virtual, our younger students participated in the service as Emily Harris played the piano and Mason Pesce shared a reading. Congratulations to Emily, Mason, Lyla Schneider, and Mae Whitworth for participating in Sunday School during the year.

We also celebrated the graduation of many young members from High School and College. Their accomplishments and goals were shared during the morning worship. Our HS graduates include Jillian Bridges, Katie Bridges, Connor Durkey, Janelle Eaton, Hannah Lamereaux, Paige Litchy, Alexis Lee, Sam Orender. Our college graduate is Nick Moore.

On June 28, 2020, a blessing of the animals occurred virtually during the morning worship with many congregant companions attending worship. As these creatures lift us up and provide comfort to each of us in their own unique way, it is important to seek God's blessings on their behalf.

Rally Day was a huge success as JT Turner provide his unique, dramatic message during the morning worship. Rally Day also offered us an opportunity to worship in a hybrid environment with many congregates were in the Sanctuary for the first time since March 2020.

In September, we began the season by changing our Sunday School Curriculum to provide god's lessons in a more virtual space due to the ongoing pandemic. Rev. Dallas Bradel suggested that we begin using 'rotation.org', a non-profit organization with information on virtual lessons.

We also modified the start time for Sunday School. In prior years, classes began after the Children's message. With worship services being held both outside and virtually, changes were necessary for the teachers to be able to participate in both the service and the classroom. The decision was made to start Sunday School at 9:45 AM as all classes would be held virtually.

Our goal was to focus on Prayer for the first few months. The lessons from rotation.org provided several weeks of lessons around the Lord's Prayer to address fears about covid-19 and the idea of prayer comforting people. The curriculum offered many creative lessons and many ways to pray, encouraging a season to draw closer to God.

Unfortunately, participation in a virtual Sunday School was very low this year. Due to the lack of participation, Sunday School classes were suspended in October 2020, with a goal to restart once it is safe to gather in the Church Building on a consistent basis.

In early December, Christian Development hosted the annual Gingerbread House event. This was held virtually with a small group creating their own winter creations.

The annual Christmas pageant, titled 'A Christmas to Remember' was held virtually on December 20, 2020. Four stories were told from key witnesses that were there the day Jesus was born. We heard memories and a perspective from an Angel (Haleigh Harris), Mary (Hannah Lamereaux), Joseph (Sam Orender), and a lowly Shephard (Rich Brock). Many thanks to Haleigh, Hanna, and Sam for their participation.

I want to thank Mary Ann Nelson, Tom Chaffee, and Rev. Dallas Bradel for their support and assistance during the many challenges we faced due to the pandemic. All that we accomplished this year would not have been possible without each of you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Brock – Christian Development

## **Report of the Property Team**

Well like for so many other things 2020 was an unusual year for the church.

We initiated an agreement with Early Childhood Education to use three rooms on the first floor for classes and a parent room. Painted and prepped the area and helped them move in. This was about the end of 2019 or so. Needless to say, March roared in like a lion, and boom We and they were and still are closed down. Unfortunately, there is no start date to resume so we will wait and see.

The soil and seeding along the new walkways was completed this spring so the front yard looks finished.

The needs of the building continue and the associated expenses therewith. We have had a few costly inspections (Fire Alarm, Sprinkler system, boiler, and so on). These have resulted in some costly repairs (New boiler tank and pump, some work on the sprinkler system, heat sensors not working, emergency lights repaired, etc.). Donations happily accepted!!

Please NOTE:

We have asked our snow plowing contractor to reduce the number of times the area is plowed and sanded this winter, so please be vigilant about checking for ice and snow when parking and walking in the parking lot.

Many thanks to Kim for keeping the church clean and in good shape for when we can all return to a more normal use of the church.

The first Eagle Scout project to organize and rebuild the outside shed was completed! COVID made conducting an Eagle Scout project difficult this year but we changed the project and the shed was emptied out and organized before cold weather hit. We now have a place for the FAIR white elephant stuff to be stored. The next project will fix up the outside of the shed.

Generally, otherwise as might be expected, not too much going on.

The Property Team

## **Annual Report of Member-at-Large**

It was my pleasure to serve as Member At Large for 2020. I attended monthly Council meetings and brought any joys or concerns from our church family to the Council.

I also helped in getting the Sanctuary ready for potential in person worship during the summer. Many discussions were held regarding worship services and all decisions were made with keeping our congregants safe. Each time we worshiped either on the church lawn or in the Sanctuary check-in sheets were used and safety protocols were in place.

At this time, I would like to thank the Council for going above and beyond in 2020. This was not an easy year, but the Council was amazing with the challenges we faced.

Hopefully in 2021 we can all worship together and enjoy the friendship and hospitality of our church in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Murphy

## **Report of the Women's Guild**

As with many organizations this past year, we were not able to hold even one meeting due to the pandemic. It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two faithful women of our group. Carol Sheehan long-time-member, and our Guild Treasurer, died just before the church lockdown in March. Following her death, we lost Betty Bruce, a member of many years. Joyce Greene and Lee Ames were moved to nursing home care this year, joining our longest-term member, Sheila Kelly. These women will be sorely missed when we finally meet again under more positive circumstances.

The Guild's Steering Committee also serves as the Church's Outreach Team. Their activities are recorded in a separate report. This committee also reached out to our nursing home members, during the Christmas season, with a beautiful basket for each, filled with little gifts to brighten their days.

Our Guild welcomes newcomers, always! We know that daytime meetings are not convenient for the women in our Church Family who are still in the work force. However, if you are newly retired, or if you have a friend or neighbor who might enjoy our meetings, please put them in touch with us. We meet in the spring and fall months, and our regular meetings include a *Bring-Your-Own-Lunch* with dessert provided by a small committee. This fellowship is followed by an interesting, informative, and often a *just-for-fun* program. Usually, once a year, we host a Guest Social to which the community is invited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Chatterton, Secretary

## Report of the Outreach Team

We begin this report by remembering a beloved member of our team who passed from our sight, but not our hearts, this past spring. Carol Sheehan, a sixty-plus year member of the Women's Guild, worked with our team for many years. We miss her wisdom, wit, and cheery optimism, and honor her memory.

At the beginning of 2020, our Team Members had high hopes of completing many worthwhile endeavors with the help of our generous congregation. The pandemic thwarted some of those earnest intentions. However, the year started out with a hugely successful drive for paper products that were urgently needed by our town's **Council on Aging** for their **Marketplace**. From this drive they received many boxes and bags of paper products for their on-going assistance to the elderly, disabled, and folks who need assistance due to unforeseen circumstances. In conjunction with this collection, we also helped in an outreach program to the inmates of our state with a collection of soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

Just as we were planning a Palm Sunday Candy Sale to benefit **Heifer Project International**, specifically two farm projects (one in Arkansas, another in Haiti), COVID took over our world and the church was closed. Thinking about Easter, and the candy treats that our congregation could purchase in preparation for this Holy Holiday, we had planned to purchase flocks of chicks for the projects mentioned above. Sadly, this mission project had to be shelved. Hopefully, in 2021, we will be able to bring this sale to fruition.

As the pandemic progressed to a serious stage with families losing jobs, and the illness spreading, we encouraged our congregation through emails and Newsletters to support the following organizations by sending donations directly to: **Our Neighbors' Table** in Amesbury, the **Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund** that assisted first responders and essential workers, and our own **Council on Aging**. By the time summer came, **Our Neighbors' Table had experienced a 500% increase in requests for food**. The needs of food insecure families were unprecedented! We know that our Church Family stepped up to the plate, even though we do not have facts and figures to report.

Each year we have Lenten and Advent Offerings that benefit the needs of our church, and a portion is allocated to mission projects. The **2020 Lenten Offering** (\$388) benefited the **One Great Hour of Sharing**, that is a shared initiative with churches across our nation, to assist seventy million worldwide refugees. The **2020 Advent Offering** (\$602) mission portion was donated to **Our Neighbor's Table**.

During mid-summer, our Team developed a plan to collect school supplies for needy families. Normally these collections take place when summer worshippers bring the supplies to a Wednesday evening service. Since the church was closed to services, we provided pick-up for

the supplies, and many of our church members dropped off their goods to our homes. Also collected, were items of baby and children's clothing in good condition. Many bags of donations were divided between **Ruth's House** in Haverhill and the **Community Giving Tree** in West Boxford. Two creative Guild women also provided twenty baby quilts for the Community Giving Tree's annual Christmas Baby Bundles distribution.

With the assistance of Rich Brock who provided his technical expertise, our Team navigated the internet and provided an on-line Wish List from the **children of H.O.M.E.**, our annual Christmas mission to provide gifts for children (of the greater Orland, Maine region) where there is a high rate of poverty. Again, our congregation responded enthusiastically, and in a short period of time, gifts were collected for twenty children that included clothing items and a toy/game/or sports item for each child. Members good naturedly drove to the side-door of the church on two consecutive Sundays to bring us their colorfully wrapped gifts. In addition, \$300 in donations were added to the gifts, bringing much cheer to this isolated community.

From church pledges and regular collect, our Church Finance Team contributed \$5,671.35 to the **Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ**. These funds, based on a percentage of our income, support the work of the Conference and their missions. The **UCC Scholarship Fund** for divinity students received \$450, and \$350 was given to **Local Aid** that included the distribution of grocery gift cards.

While the year 2020 seems like a "lost year", our Church Family most certainly made a difference many times over. Our Team thanks all of you who helped in whatever way you could during this extraordinary and difficult time. We look ahead to what will be accomplished in the future with our settled Pastor, and to an era of renewed commitments to our Outreach Programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Chatterton for the Outreach Team

**Members: Marion Harding, Martha Lucius, Jean Perley, Mary Ann Nelson & Joan Chatterton**

**In Memoriam: Carol Sheehan**

## **Search Committee Annual Report 2020**

*A lot has happened since our last settled pastor. We have walked a long way. From the hiring of two interim pastors, creating and replacing our aging website, infrastructure improvements to our church and additions, to all the interruptions COVID has meant to our church life.*

*Our committee has had a very different journey than search committees of the past but we are proud of the work we did, one that is important to our tradition as a congregational church where we have input into who we want to lead our historic church. Many people helped make this possible.*

*We'd like to thank our Moderator for putting together the Transition team and the Search Committee, to the Finance Committee for supporting us with all our financial questions, and all committees for their patience and their confidence in us. We appreciate all the extra work behind the scenes on any given week while they waited for God to send us our Candidate. We are so thankful our prayers were answered when Holly agreed to walk this journey with us.*

Our journey began over 15 months ago but it feels so much longer than that because time seems to work differently since the COVID virus first impacted our daily lives. When the Transition Team of Marie Birdsall, Michelle Brock, Antoinette Jones, Bob Knapp, and Susan Stead was put together last summer, we knew that we were putting together a snapshot of our church to present to potential pastoral candidates. A snapshot that would show exactly what a fun loving, caring community we are. We had worked with our church community to discover what was important to us and to dream what our future could be. And we did it well! It was said more than once during our search by our potential candidates that our profile was well written and really reflected a community that was very enticing to potential pastors. One pastor even asked if the church he was leaving could use it as a model!

Then our Search Committee was put together. This team consisted of Rachel Angerhofer, Michelle Brock, Tom Chafee, Rachel Edwards, Sylvia Johnston, Paul Nelson and Kirsten Orender. Later, Steve Pinto stepped in for Paul Nelson. Thank you, Rich Brock, for being thoughtful when putting together this team. The goal is to find people who represent different perspectives of who our church is and we think you did it. We met together in September to begin the process. We first met in person and shared stories and ideas, cookies and conversations, laughter and fellowship. While we knew the gravity of selecting our new pastor, I think some of us might have said to ourselves, "oh this is going to be easy to find our new pastor. We can do this quickly. We know who we want. It will only take a couple months." Boy, were we wrong! God had other ideas.

Once we were ready, we sent our profile to the Conference and we waited for the pastoral profiles to start arriving in our inboxes. And they did! We enjoyed getting together to talk about the profiles we were getting, talking with candidates by phone, getting excited about the possibilities until..... Quarantine started! While it wasn't as easy, we continued to meet by using



Zoom. We helped each other get used to this new form of being. The candidates did too. Their profiles continued to come in.

We had 46 individuals apply; followed by multiple telephone interviews, Zoom interviews and/or in-person interviews with 27 candidates! They all had so many qualities that were appealing that it was hard to choose. We had a couple candidates whom we thought fit our prayers, but then God called them to a different place, literally to a different part of the country! Then, when our team was really feeling down, Holly's profile appeared! It was like she had read our profile when she was completing hers. This is what she said:

"I believe that I am being called to accompany faith communities as they discern next steps in how they respond to God's call. Perhaps what is needed is that they go out into the neighborhood, visit and learn how best to be God's hands and feet. There are many people not reached by today's traditional church model, but they still hunger for the Holy Spirit. There are many more formulas that bring together the faithful who are seeking community. The message need not change, just the mode of extending Christ's message of love, acceptance and transformation. "

After talking with her by Zoom and meeting with her in person, we knew that Holly was an excellent fit for our congregation.

We then went on to check with her stellar references and put together her compensation package. The salary she accepted is within the guidelines set by our Finance Committee. At this time, she will not need health insurance through our church, however, we have acknowledged through her contract that this can be revisited if her personal circumstances change. The language of her contract is consistent with the guidelines set by the UCC.

Many of you had an opportunity to meet Holly while preparing for Candidate Sunday and others had the chance to meet her by Zoom prior to that. She is kind and thoughtful, witty and smart, devoted to walking faithfully every day using God's word as her compass. We feel she will be there to love us as we walk into this new world that we are living here at church and in our lives.

Thank you for believing in us, now we look forward to building our new future with Reverend Holly Sawyer Brauner, the next settled pastor for First Congregational Church of Georgetown.

The Search Team

## **Hospitality Team Report 2020**

The Hospitality Team hosted coffee hours and special events until March 8, 2020. Fellowship after worship is an important time to meet new people attending our church and to catch up with friends that we do not see during the week.

### **Special Events in 2020 included:**

January 5 - Diaconate hosted a New Year's Potluck Brunch.

Feb 9 – We enjoyed a delicious Valentine's Italian Dinner hosted by the Pesce family and Ruth Soper.

Feb 25 – Diaconate and Hospitality Team hosted a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper.

March 1 – A wonderful Georgetown send-off was held for Texas bound JoEllen Fielding complete with Texas food and line dancing.

March 7- A collation was held after the memorial service for Carol Sheehan.

Thank you to everyone for signing up to bring goodies for coffee hour and for helping to make food for special services.

Then the world changed. We stopped gathering for in-person worship and from March 15 till the end of the year Fellowship Time was held virtually on ZOOM after the morning worship. For a few Sundays in September and October we were able to have Fellowship Time in person on the church lawn when outdoor worship was held.

As we look towards 2021, I have made the decision to retire as a member of the Hospitality Team. I am not sure when I first started to serve on this team, but it has been for many years. Ruth Soper has been a wonderful Co-Chair and will continue to serve on this team, and we all know that she bakes wonderful goodies.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Co-Chairs Janice Murphy and Ruth Soper

## **Report of the Book Club**

While the year 2020 was challenging for all, Book Club decided to continue our monthly gatherings via Zoom. In the past our group had always taken a hiatus from meeting during July and August, but everyone felt that, this year, it was especially important to continue our get-togethers during the summer. A great bonus of meeting by Zoom is the participation of our far-flung members: Kirsten, Tracy and JoEllen. It's wonderful to have a chance to catch up once a month!

During 2020, Book Club read eight novels (including one historical fiction title and one fictionalized biography) and one memoir. During our summer Zoom gatherings, we shared titles of books that we read and enjoyed individually. It was great to share our love of reading in this way, especially since we all are doing so much more reading during this pandemic. We all look forward to the day we can meet in person, but we all agree that we want to add Zoom to our in-person gatherings to continue seeing our friends who are far away.

Submitted by,

Nancy Aberman

## **Stewardship Report**

The Stewardship Team would like to thank all who continue to support the Church and its many missions. We are inspired by those who continue to give their time, talent and treasures despite the obstacles created by this deadly pandemic. One positive note, we were able to reconnect with many members from afar, who attended our virtual worship services and have committed to pledging again to our Church.

Our stewardship speakers this year delivered wonderful messages about the importance of the First Congregational Church in their lives. Blessings and appreciation to Chris Comiskey, Antoinette Jones and Toni Cassidy!

Sadly, we will miss the departure of our interim minister, Dallas Bradel. Her weekly sermons and bible study time inspired us during this trying endeavor. And we welcome our new minister, Holly Brauner, who we look forward to working with this upcoming stewardship year.

Blessings from the Stewardship Team,

Toni Cassidy, Sylvia Johnston & George Comiskey

## **2021 Nominating Report**

\*Council Member

### **Moderator**

Rich Brock\*

### **Clerk**

Toni Cassidy\*

### **Treasury Team**

Bob Knapp\*

Kristin Arsenault

George Comisky

### **Diaconate**

Antoinette Jones

Rachel Angerhofer

Pam Sheehan

Emily Knapp

Gladys Kneeland\*

### **Property Team**

Joanne Kelly

Chuck Davis\*

Michelle Brock

### **Christian Development**

Nancy Aberman

Tom Chaffee\*

Rich Brock

### **Member-at-Large**

Susan Stead\*