

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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April 2017

FROM
THE
PASTOR



**“On Easter Day the veil
between time and eternity
thins to gossamer.”**

Douglas Horton

Jelly beans always have been a bit of a mystery to me. An Easter Bunny delivers eggs, and inside the eggs are beans. You have to laugh at the whole idea. However, it reminds us that not all mysteries are solemn or need a serious furrowed brow to ponder.

Some of the best mysteries are filled with unlimited and unbridled joy. And Easter is the premier mystery of Christianity. It seems only natural that we celebrate Easter with things filled with joy that stretch our usual ways of understanding.

When we think about God coming to us, and Jesus forging a path to eternity for us, it can be hard to understand, like an engineer wants to understand its mechanics. Yet,

accepting this proof of steadfast love from our Creator is a simple act of saying “yes” to this amazing act of divine love. We only need to welcome it in all its generosity.

“Easter is not a time for groping through dusty, musty tomes or tombs to disprove spontaneous generation or even to prove life eternal. It is a day to fan the ashes of dead hope, a day to banish doubts and seek the slopes where the sun is rising, to revel in the faith which transports us out of ourselves and the dead past into the vast and inviting unknown.”

-Author unknown

Happy, Happy Easter!



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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
for
Holy
WEEK



Palm Sunday—April 9

10:30 am Morning Service with Procession of the Palms



Maundy Thursday—April 11

7:00 pm Candlelight Service with Music

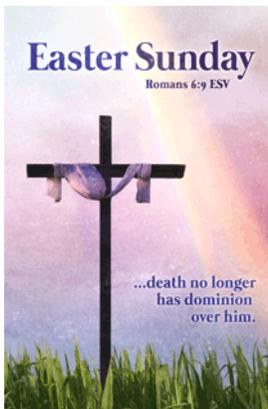
Volunteers needed for reading in service.

Please see Pastor Lorraine.



Good Friday—April 12

9:30 am—11:30am The Sanctuary will be open for meditation



Easter Sunday—April 16

6:30 am Sunrise Service @ Camp Leslie

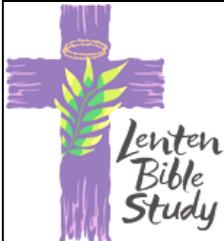
Volunteers needed to take part in service.

Please see Pastor Lorraine.

7:00 am Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Easter Service

11:30am Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn



Lenten Study Group

This Lent come together Sundays after church to share thoughts on the path to Easter. We will have a combination of reading, activities, and conversations on questions we have about the season. We will have classes through April 2.

Come to any or all of the meetings. For more information, contact Rev Lorraine Edwards at 978.352,8443 or rev@georgetowncongregational.org

WOMENS' RETREAT - God's Love for Us! Friday Night April 21- Sunday Morning April 23



Pack your camera, comfortable hiking shoes and your casual clothes and be ready for a weekend of amazing nature, easy hikes, camp fires, star-gazing, music, conversation, shared meals and fellowship. See the sights and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding Tamworth, NH area.

Enjoy a country home just past White Lake off Route 16, with all the comforts of home. All are welcome, even if it is only for just a part of Saturday. It will be a casual relaxing time to feed the soul and cheer the Spirit. Teams will be created for welcoming, meal prep and lead activities. This will be an enjoyable weekend rain or shine, looking forward to sharing with all of you!

Car-pooling will be offered and registration forms are available on the table in Fellowship Hall or by calling the office. Cost is just \$40., scholarships are available.

Clean Up Day is Coming—Saturday, April 8th



Join us at 8:30am for a time (whatever you can give) to help get the Sanctuary and church ready for Easter.

Would you like to become a Member of First Church? Class on Sunday, March 26th following Worship



You are invited to join our new members class, led by Rev Lorraine Edwards. In this hour we share our spiritual journeys, what life at First Church is like, and what it means to be part of the United Church of Christ. After the class you can decide whether or not to join the church.

New Members will be welcomed into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9th during the worship service. For more information, contact Rev Lorraine Edwards at 978.352.8443 or rev@georgetowncongregational.org

Greetings from Your Diaconate

The month of April is one of hope. Although we are still 'buried' in snow, we in New England are always aware that April brings longer days, warming days, and perhaps a glimpse of a tiny bit of purple, yellow, and green in the sheltered areas of our yards.

Your church is looking forward to all that spring has to offer. We have so many activities planned, and do hope that you can take some, or all, of them in!

Easter will be approaching and our glorious services are something to look forward to.

I am so happy to have been elected as Chair of the Diaconate again and will do my best. Our team consists of Kristen Arsenault, Alecia Balduf, Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy. This team has many responsibilities and talents. Please feel free to be in touch with any one of them if you have a concern, a joy, a sadness, or any new ideas. We are here for you!

Although this is sometimes considered "An Irish Blessing" and St. Patrick's Day has passed, I think it has such lovely sentiments:

"May you always have work for your hands to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or two.

May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow the rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you."

Gladie Kneeland, Chair



Thank you for the delicious donations to the Spring Bake Sale and to everyone who bought our wonderful treats.

Thank you!

Proceeds \$300.00



Emily Aberman

Bob Davidson

Elizabeth Kalfin

Lee Ames

JoEllen Fielding

Deb Lamoureaux

Michelle Brock

Isabel Gammon

Miles Lucido

Zachary Brock

Henry Gervais

Haley Parsons

Betty Davidson

Ella Greenfield

Nola Marie Quigley

Easter Egg Hunt **Come One, Come All!!**



Christian Education would like to invite any and all children in the Georgetown Community to join us Easter Sunday for an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of the church immediately following worship. Here is how it works! We ask any members/friends of the congregation to bring a dozen or so filled eggs to Easter Sunday

Worship. Drop them off in the Fellowship Hall prior to worship. All eggs are counted at that time and then "hidden" by our youth helpers.

At the end of worship all children who would like to find the eggs are asked to congregate in the Fellowship Hall. After a count of all the children participating has been completed. A total number of eggs the child can gather is given. Youngest children are allowed to gather eggs first. Happy Hunting!



As spring begins, we are entering our last four months of the church year. I wanted to share some of upcoming events so you can add them to your calendars. More information to follow, but here are some key dates.

April 9th	Heifer Candy Sale
April 16	Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast
May 6-7th	30 Hour Famine (more information to follow)
May 21st	Paint Ball (tentative)

Our Giving Tree is Blooming



Our Giving Tree will begin to bloom in April and will be found in the Narthex. The tree is adorned with envelopes which represent church expenses. This is an opportunity for church members and friends to give an additional one-time donation to help defray the operating costs of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown. Please consider taking an envelope if you are able to help. Simply enclose the designated dollar amount in the envelope and mail or drop it in the collection plate.

Thank you for your continued support!

Outreach News

Our Church's Youth Group and their leaders held another wonderful **SUPER SUB FUNDRAISER** for Super Bowl Sunday! We hope you didn't miss out on their delicious celebratory creations! The proceeds of \$570 is being split three-ways: grocery gift cards for discretionary Church Office decisions; helping a feline rescue shelter, and the general Youth Group account for their activities. Congratulations to everyone taking part in making this a fun and worthwhile event.

PENNY BOWL pennies, silver and dollar bills add up! Many thanks for emptying your pockets during our Coffee Social Hours. The Women's Guild recently purchased 1,160 diapers for the **COMMUNITY GIVING TREE** due to your generosity. Diapers are always in high demand at the Giving Tree where social workers, representing the needy families of the Merrimack Valley come for babies' and children's supplies.

We'll be reporting on the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING in next month's Newsletter. In the meantime, should you have missed out on this Special United Church of Christ Offering held on March 26th, it is not too late for you to send in a donation, marked "*One Great Hour of Sharing*". The focus of this offering, held in churches across our nation, is the plight of 65 million world-wide refugees.

The Church School children and the Christian Development Team will be sponsoring their **ANNUAL HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL CANDY & CRAFT SALE** on **SUNDAY, APRIL 9th**. Coming into the Sweet Season on Palm Sunday, is there a better way to celebrate than to make, or purchase, Easter sweets for your family or friends? Our congregation has been supporting Heifer Project for 46 years. Our efforts helped in the assistance of more than three and a half million families in 2016 alone! **Please see details below**

The Outreach Team, members of the Women's Guild

Heifer Project Candy Sale

Our Church School Children will be sponsoring the annual **HEIFER PROJECT CANDY & CRAFT SALE** on **Palm Sunday, April 9th**. If you like to bake or are a crafty person, please consider donating a baked good or craft item. All donations can be dropped off in the kitchen, prior to worship. If you would like to drop them off earlier, contact Michelle Brock, and she will arrange pickup/drop off of your item. However, if you are just good at eating baked goods, please bring your money and help the Church School Children purchase animals/items to benefit the Heifer Project.

We hope to see you there!

SUGGESTIONS FOR SWEETS: Fudge, peanut butter brittle, Rice Krispy squares, no-bake cookies, candied popcorn, maple cream & Butterscotch candies, cookies or cupcakes decorated for Easter, and of course, *Your Own Specialty!*



The Greatest Show on Earth is the Earth!



Join us on Sunday, April 23rd
as we celebrate & learn about our Earth!

George Comiskey will offer the worship message on his environmental work. Join in if you have an environment project you would like to share, we invite you to do so during Fellowship time. Please let the office know.

Star Island Scholarships Available

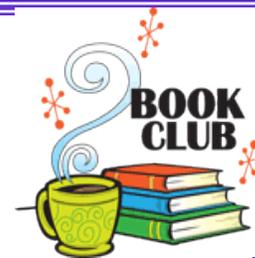


Since 1915, Star Island, off New Hampshire's coastline, has been known as a unique place to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence and gain knowledge about the world as it might be. Founded on the tradition and values of Unitarian Universalism and the United Church of Christ, Star Island strives to contribute to our world by providing a sacred and meaningful space for a vibrant intergenerational community.

A week on Star Island is like going to summer camp for all ages and faiths. No matter your spiritual persuasion, all are welcome on Star Island. Our cherished summer conferences have enriched the lives of generations and deepened the faith of many, and this year's offerings are no exception.

Christian Development encourages church members to consider attending a retreat this year as scholarships are available to children and adults. Please contact a CD board member or Rev. Lorraine for more information. You may consider going to Star Island or any other religious retreat center.

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.

A copy of the Book Club Newsletter can be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to receive Book Club News via email please just let us know.

Date	Title	Author	Hostess	Location
Apr 26, 2017	<i>A Fall of Marigolds</i>	Susan Meissner	Joan Chatterton Phone: 978- 352-8033	9 Bartlett Dr Georgetown
May 31, 2017	<i>Everybody's Fool</i>	Richard Russo	Dee Wyatt Phone: 617- 957-6090	Camp Denison (Lodge) 84 Nelson St Georgetown
June 28, 2017	<i>A Man Called Ove</i>	Fredrik Backman	Nancy Aberman Phone: 978- 352-2793	199 W. Main St. Georgetown

Sign Up for Greeters & Offering Collectors

We are looking for individuals, friends and families to serve as greeters on Sunday morning (you will never have to do it alone). Just follow the link below. **Sign Up Genius** will send you an email reminder of the date you selected. Follow this link and sign up for your preferred Sunday! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044faea92fa7fb6-greeters>

If you do not have email and would like to sign up in person during Coffee Fellowship please contact the church office at 978-352-8443.

We have PayPal!

Go to our website and you can donate to or pay for church fundraisers at First Church using your credit card; you can get the points and help our church out, too. Just remember that we get 93% of what you give. Please send an email message to the church office to let us know about the donation, and if it is going to a particular place.

Our Music Ministry



Ever want to be part of the music ministry but didn't think you had enough time to commit to rehearsals? Well here's your chance!

Come join the choir for Easter. You don't have to read music, though we will still allow you to sing if you can. Two rehearsals are April 4 and 12. You don't have to be at every rehearsal, just attend as many as you are able. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!! (Full money back guarantee!) Any questions speak to Bob or Emily Knapp.



We are also hoping to have some extra players (4 or 5) to play the hand chimes with the bells on Easter Sunday, (Especially some of our youth musicians!). For this part you don't have to read music, though it would be helpful. If you'd like to give it a try speak to Bob Knapp, our Music Director.

Handchimes

April Rehearsals

Tuesday, April 4	6:30pm Choir	7:00pm Bells
Wednesday, April 12	6:30pm Choir	7:00pm Bells
Thursday, April 13 - Maundy Thursday		6:00pm Choir
Tuesday, April 18	6:30pm Bells	7:30pm Band (no brass)
Tuesday, April 25	6:30pm Choir	7:00pm Bells

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 is lit in April in loving memory of Floyd Webster
by his wife Gloria Webster.*

-and-

*In loving memory of George L and George W. Kelly
by Sheila Kelly and family.*



I just wanted to thank you for the donations to the new food pantry program yesterday. We had two people who needed to pick up a few things today. In addition, our Brown Bag program was short three bags today. As a result of your donations, we had enough food for all of those needs today! Thank you so much! We will continue to keep in touch as

food supplies change!

Thank you!

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Director Georgetown Council on Aging

Some Historical Tidbits

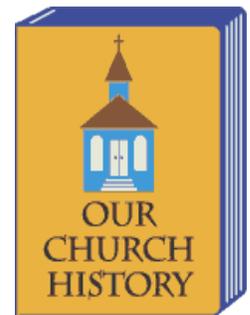
60 years ago (1957) The Gideons participate in worship service April 28th.

50 years ago (1967) Complete refurbishment of the organ begins April 24th.

Pulpit exchange Sunday (Our Pastor, Rev, Phil Southwick, preached at Rowley Congregational. Revs. Baldwin Callahan of First Church Newbury & H. Merrill Emery of First Congregational of Somerset preached here.)
Rainbow Girls Sunday.

40 years ago (1977) Baptism of Tom Perley (son of Jean, brother of Emily Knapp). Among those joining the church: Tom Perley, David Barlow (son of Allan & Pat) Jacqueline Amnott (Moore). Youth group paper drive. Family skit night.

30 years ago (1987): Among those joining the church: Jill Hamelin. Youth group paper drive. Family skit night. Palm Sunday night hymn sing.



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Easter Plants: In Memory Of or In Honor Of

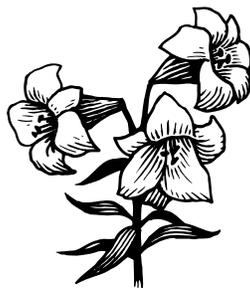
The front of our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers on Easter Sunday morning. The Diaconate welcomes your contributions in memory of or in honor of beloved friends and family members. Donations may be made payable to The First Congregational Church of Georgetown and may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church at PO Box 200, Georgetown, MA 01833.

The deadline for your contribution will be Sunday, April, 9, 2017. A listing of those who have contributed will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Flowers will be delivered to members who are homebound and to those who have recently lost a family member.

Yes, I would like to make a donation (in any amount) \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF (please print)

From: _____



4th Annual Woman's Day!

**The First Congregational Church
7 Andover Street Georgetown Ma.**

**Saturday, May 13th
10:00am -4:00pm**



**Come and
Shop with
over 20
vendors!**

**Come try the
home made
cupcakes at
the Cupcake
walk!**

RAFFLES!