

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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August–September 2017



Merry Christmas! That's right, we are revisiting Christmas and New Year's this summer beginning July 12th, at our Wednesday

evWatch, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19 ESV

There's nothing like the smell of a new baseball glove! The leather scent, before the conditioner and the folding of the glove, makes you think of all the games to be played, the catches to be made, the wins to be had.

The same with a pie fresh from the oven, it's scent offers the promise of the summer harvest. Before it is served, as it sits cooling on the stove, it promises sweet treats, gathering with family and friends, and the memories of days gone by.

New beginnings, that what Jesus spoke about through his ministry. Rebirth, revealing, reclamation are promised to us. Jesus understood that if we are to live boldly, we would need to step out with confidence that comes from counting on God's Grace.

This season we start with new beginnings, and we start with you. Your passion, promise, and purpose all are a part of this new beginning. And we want you here, because you count!

Jesus once said that we could count on God's Grace, with a fresh start. Let's get going!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; see, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

Opening dinner and worship. Why? Because Christmas is sometimes fleeting,

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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.

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even though we promise to remember and live in its Spirit all year long. Then winter drags on, spring rolls around, and next we are dressed in shorts and fleeing mosquitoes. But by Christmas magic, we can also return to Christmas Eve, its anticipation, its song, and its joy to spread some Christmas cheer.

When I worked on Star Island, we would celebrate Christmas in July, and enjoy the chance to hand make gifts for our secret Christmas pal. And we would let Christmas come again in all our hearts. And so we will embrace the season, and savor its Spirit with an innocence that usually is reserved for the young:

“For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Merry Christmas-see you at summer services!

Lorraine

Rally Day, September 10



At Worship on Rally Day. we again will have JT Turner return with his enthusiastic spirit!

We would like everyone to bring a dish to share and to host a pot-luck luncheon after worship as we kick off the new church year on Rally Day. Let's share the blessings of our church



We would like to challenge and invite each and every member of the congregation to invite a friend to join our worship service that day as we will host our ***“Invite a Friend”*** day. Let's share the blessings of our church.

Summer Worship

Remember during the summer months we hold our worship services on Wednesday evenings. Our Christmas in July series continues until August 9th.



Our New Year theme will begin on August 16th and will conclude on September 6th.

Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm for supper and 7:00pm for Worship.

Ready, Set, Go!



Christian Development is excited to begin our new church school year and invite you to be a part of the fun.

You can be a part of this program as a volunteer teacher or classroom assistant this fall. This can be a shared commitment with others so that our teachers are able to also participate in worship services while alternating with teaching. This works nicely when we have a few teachers per classroom. The curriculum we use is simple to use and easy to adapt to your liking. It's fun and most of the work is done and set forth by the curriculum we use.

Please consider sharing yourself and your talents with our church children and youth and kindly contact Michelle Brock by email at rmbjzbrock@gmail.com or 978-352-6853 for any questions you may have and/or to let us know you are willing and able.

On behalf of the Board of Christian Development, we thank you for your endless support and friendship and pray for your safe journeys and travels throughout the remainder of summer.

With love and blessings,

Michelle Brock



Please fill out the enclosed Sunday School Registration Form and bring it with you on Rally Day.





Pastor's Study Group for the Fall

Race and Us: Woodlawn by Todd Gerelds follows the true story of a football season in Birmingham 1974, where the coaches, players, and families fought for a greater cause- to heal a city. In reading this book, we will look to see how the mural "Gloried Be They Who Strive for the Equality of All Mankind" on the old Woodlawn schoolhouse became more than words. This book is also a movie, for those who would rather watch before our group.



Come and See the New Doors as they are put into place: We will let you know when different parts of the door project are happening so you can come to help out or bring friends to watch and take pictures. Stay tuned as this historical project unfolds.



Confirmation 2018

Come and Take the Next Challenge- Our ten week Confirmation Class 2018, led by Rev Lorraine Edwards and Mentors, will begin with an organizational meeting in January, 2018. All parents and Confirmands should start attending church this fall 2017 in preparation of the class. Invite a friend to join you, if you want.

Mentors from the congregation are also invited for our class. If you are interested, please contact Rev Lorraine Edwards.

If you or your youth will be 13 by May 20th 2018, you're ready to be part of 2018 Confirmation!

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 with any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be told to me as well at any time.

Our new Member-at-Large to the Council is Joanne Kelly.

Greetings From the Diaconate

Imagine, here we are in August....where does the time go? Thinking ahead to the fall season seems far away but truly it is just around the corner!

First of all, we hope you have been able to attend some of our summer services. It has been great to participate in the many ideas Reverend Lorraine has put forth. "Christmas in July" was so much fun. Our beautiful tree with all the changing colored lights, our handmade stockings that 'we hung with care' and we even had a fireplace to keep us warm. Then we headed on to our "New Years Celebration in August." I'll never forget the laughter and closeness we all felt as we celebrated with those we hold dear in our Church Family. I guess my "New Years in August" resolution was to be grateful and try to find the best in everyone. Cheers!!

We are blessed here at our church to have so many of our Church Family lend a hand with their skills. Our fabulous grill-masters, Ruth and Janice.....where else can you enjoy a delish hot dog, lemonade, iced tea with good friends, hearty laughter and blessings as well. Our talented baker, Ruth, even made Christmas Cookies and Christmas Cupcakes.

I always like to say that it is my honor to serve as head deacon, but my 'job' is made so easy because of our loyal diaconate team, made up of such faithful workers. We had the pleasure of taking care of three services while Rev. Lorraine had a well-deserved vacation. We hope you enjoyed our ideas and had fun with traditions and special Christmas memories. The participation from all of you was just wonderful and I thank you for sharing your moving memories with your Church Family.

I must take this opportunity to thank our musicians who shared their God given talent with all of us. Richard Aberman, Gabe and Rachel Angerhofer, Alecia Balduf, Allan and David Barlow, Bob Knapp, Mary Ann Nelson, Linda Flynn, and our own fabulous bell choir. We also were so grateful to Betsy Kopyc Arsenault for her incredible harp music that brought us such peacefulness and beauty. Each of you spends so much time researching, preparing, and performing for us. Thank you.

A very special thank you to two dedicated men, George Comiskey and Barry Games. You are always there helping with everything.

Also, another faithful member, Joan Chatterton, thanks to you for decorating the "School Supplies" box with happy snowmen. You are a tireless member of missions and never let us down. The box was overflowing because of the generous support of our members. You are all the greatest.

So, as autumn approaches with her brightly colored leaves, New England blue skies, crisp air and magnificent sunsets, we invite you to join us as we return to our Sunday services and embrace your Church Family as we welcome a new season. We are all so blessed.

Please know, we the diaconate, are here for you, to share your sorrows, joys, concerns, and even a hug and smile.

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers for thereby some entertained Angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

Kristen Arsenault, Alecia Balduf,

Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy

Outreach News

"Christmas in July"!



**SCHOOL
SUPPLY**
Drive

Back-to-school gift supplies are being collected from **Wednesday, July 26th through Wednesday, August 16th**, and will be delivered in time for two local missions

to fill school back packs for needy children.

All types of supplies are appreciated!

(Pens, Pencils, three-ring binders and paper to fill them, spiral notebooks, crayons, glue sticks, construction paper, other.)

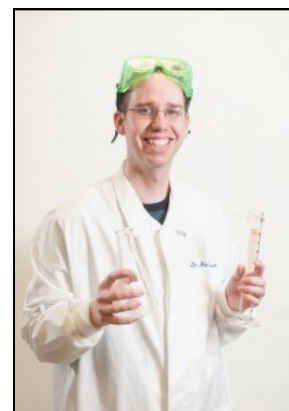
These supplies will be donated to the **Community Giving Tree and/or to Ruth's House**. Both of these organizations do a terrific job of helping struggling families to get their children outfitted for the new school year.

Women's Guild

Our September Program

The first Guild meeting of the new season will be held on **Tuesday, September 26th at 1:00 o'clock**. Our Guest Speaker, Mike Cross, who is Associate Professor of Chemistry, and department chair of Natural Sciences at Northern Essex Community College. His services are being provided by the Speakers' Bureau of NECCO.

Dr. Cross' subject is ***"Chocolate, the Perfect Indulgence"***. He will explain which chemicals elicit biochemical reactions in the brain, making it the perfect indulgence. During the presentation, you'll also learn how to taste chocolate for quality and how to eat it, too!



Following Dr. Cross's talk there will be light refreshments served. Everyone is most welcome to join us and please encourage your friends to



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	Title	Author	Hostess/Location/Phone No.
Sept. 27	The Lilac Girls	Martha Hall Kelly 2016	Joanne Kelly & Carol Lutes Location: Church? Carol: 978-352-7208
Oct. 25	Making Rounds with Oscar: the extraordinary gift of an ordinary cat	David Dosa 2010	Joan Chatterton & Elisabeth Thomas Joan's house: 9 Bartlett Drive Joan 978-352-8033
Dec. 6,	The Underground Railroad	Colson Whitehead 2016	Karen Young 11 Monroe St Karen: 978-352-2697
2018			
Jan. 31, 2018	God Pretty in the Tobacco Fields	Kim Michelle Richardson	JoEllen Fielding Location: Church JoEllen: 978-352-6904



Church Pantry Summer Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10:30 am—12:30 pm Through September 5

Fall Hours: 9:30am—11:30 am

Please remember the needs of the families who visit our pantry, especially this summer when the children will be home from school with the following FAMILY FRIENDLY items for contributing when you are able:

- *Juice Boxes *Peanut Butter *Canned Chicken & Tuna *Cereal
- *Individually wrapped (non-nut) Snacks *Non-refrigerated Snack-Pack Fruits & Puddings
- *PAPER PRODUCTS (toilet paper & paper towels)
- *Personal Hygiene Products: **Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste**



New Pet Pantry to Open

A new ministry is being offered to our friends who visit the food pantry. Many elderly, and others, have pets who are a part of their family and it is sometimes as difficult to care for their needs.

We will be offering items in our Church Pantry that will help our friend keep their friends.

Please consider donation food, treats and supplies for God's small creatures.

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.

Are You Away This Summer? - 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. 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.

Save the Date!
October 20th and 21st

Annual Fall Harvest Fair

CHIC BOUTIQUE

RAFFLES **HOMEMADE
PIES!
COOKIE WALK!**

RED TAG SALE

**SATURDAY
NIGHT
TURKEY
DINNER**

Artisans & Crafters



***We are looking for all those treasures
you found in the
attic, basement
and closets!***



***We are looking for items in clean and usable
condition, no sporting equipment,
no stuffed animals,
no old computers/out-of-date electronics.***

***Summer Office Hours begin June 20th:
Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am—1:00 pm***

***You may bring them to:
The First Congregational Church
7 Andover St. Georgetown Mass
(Please use the office entrance on Clark St.)
And put them in the downstairs
corner classroom.***



Contact the Church office for more details.

978-352-8443

curchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org



Back by Popular Demand!

The Chic Boutique

Open for 2 days during the Annual Harvest Fair!

Friday, October 20th, 10am—5pm

Saturday, October 21st, 8am—3pm

Time to clean out those closets!

We are looking for donations of clean, gently used women's and children's clothing, shoes and boots.

Please bring your donations to the church and leave them in the Bride's Room off the Narthex.

Please contact the church office at 978-352-8443 for more information.



Pat Barlow
Jack Cliffe
Christine Comiskey
Tim Dougherty
Nico Herda
Sylvia Johnston

Lauren Kalfin
Ryan Litch
Jennifer Lutes
Janice Murphy
Mary Ann Nelson
Sam Orender



Kristen Arsenault
Richard Brock
Sarah Comiskey
Mary Dougherty
Mark Fehlmann
Lori Gillen
Lois Hazen
Earl Johnston

Sheila Kelly
Jack Lucido
Betty Rosene
Pam Sheehan
Peggy Smith
Ruth Soper
Dwight Southwick
Julia Southwick



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.



“Strawberry Social Thank You”

A little rain did not dampen our spirits on June 20th.

Once the rain shower passed, the sun came out, and we even saw a beautiful rainbow.

Our “Church Band” performed a wonderful concert.

Thank you to all who helped, served, set up, cleaned up, donated raffle items, sold raffle and strawberry tickets for the Strawberry Social.

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the strawberry shortcake.

A special “Thank-you” to Marini Farms for our delicious strawberries.

Thank you to our Table Sponsors:

Conte-Giamberardino Funeral Home MAZE B&B Auto Clinic

Raffle Winners:

Lobsters: Rich Brock

Hand Craved Bear: Judy Lynn

50/50: Doug Gordan

Visa Gift Card: Sylvia Johnston

TD Bank Gift Card: Rich Brock

Strawberry Gift Basket: Donna Clough

Trifle Bowl: Nancy Clough

Games: Toni Cassidy

Golden Ticket Winners:

Betty Bruce Zachary Brock

Jaime Krenn

Proceeds: \$1,300.00

Thank you, Janice & Emily



Summer Office Hours

During the Summer, the church office is open on
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Summer office hours will continue through Friday, August 26th.

We will return to our regular office hours of Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—
12:00 pm beginning August 28th.