

# ***From the Hill***

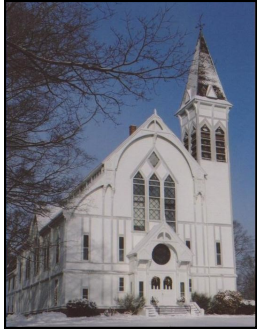
## **First Congregational Church of Georgetown**

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

Telephone: 978-352-8443

Email: [churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org](mailto:churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org)

Website: [www.georgetowncongregational.org](http://www.georgetowncongregational.org)



**December 2019**

---



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your warm welcome on Sunday! It is a joy finally to be settled here in Georgetown. And it seems fitting that we're beginning our journey together at the start of a new year on the church calendar.

Next Sunday begins the season of Advent, a time of reflection and preparation, an "in between" season when we not only prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ the King at Bethlehem, but when we also watch and hope in joyful expectation of the time when Christ will come again to consummate the Kingdom of God with a new heaven and a new earth.

As a community, this is an especially appropriate season for us to be watching to discern where God is at work among us and in our community. This "in between" time of transition in the life of the congregation provides an opportunity not only for looking backward in celebration of a shared history and traditions, but also for straining forward in joyful expectation of whatever new things God will do through us in the coming year.

I look forward to sharing your journey for this

season! As I begin to learn your stories and share in the life of your church family, I invite you to reach out to me if you'd like a visit or would just like to chat over a cup of coffee. I will be keeping regular office hours, with Mondays and Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and noon set aside for drop in visits. You can also schedule an appointment by calling the church office or by emailing me at [pastor@georgetowncongregational.org](mailto:pastor@georgetowncongregational.org).

Wishing you all a beautiful and blessed Thanksgiving holiday. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday in our newly "greened" sanctuary!

Blessings,

Dallas

## Stewardship

**Stewardship Update** – We thank all who have contributed to the 2020 pledge drive. If you have not already done so, please take a few moments to fill out your pledge card and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church. A reminder that pledge cards are located in the Narthex or they can be mailed to you if needed. Together we choose to share the gifts of our time, talents and finances. Thank you for your generous spirit!

Toni Cassidy, Sylvia Johnston and George Comiskey



**PRESENTED BY THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH YOUTH PROGRAM**

### *Our 5th Annual Gingerbread House Contest!*

On Sunday, December 8th following worship Fellowship Hall is turning into Santa's tiny village.

We are having our Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest.  
Entry fee is \$5.00.



### **CONTEST**

#### **Here is what you will need:**

A constructed Gingerbread House of your choosing on a cookie sheet/tray. Kits are available at CVS, Walmart and craft stores (Wilton's has a good kit), or if you are really energetic you may make your own! \*\*You will need to assemble the house the night before.\*\*

All your candies, frostings, cereals and any edible delights you would like to add to your house (the kits come with the basics). \*\* You will decorate your gingerbread house at the church on December 8th.\*\*

We will have a table in the center of the room with all sorts of extra goodies you can use for decorating your house and welcome the donation of anything you do not need to the table so there is more to share! (who needs a whole bag of M&M's or Gum Drops to decorate their house?!)  
More fun to share!!



We will wrap them up in cellophane and hold them on display for the next Sunday when we will vote for your favorite.

**Join us after Worship on December 8th  
for a fun time of fellowship!**

*See you all there to participate or just watch and enjoy the fun!!*

## Outreach

Many thanks to all who participated in the Thanksgiving Project for OUR NEIGHBOR'S TABLE. We have delivered twenty-four bags, filled with Thanksgiving dinner "trimmings" and grocery store gift certificates that were distributed to struggling families in twelve area towns (including Georgetown) by Our Neighbors' Table located in Amesbury. This is a finely-tuned, well-organized Food Pantry where clients are treated respectfully and are made to feel comfortable as they gather the food their family needs. At Thanksgiving time those families receive a turkey provided by the Boston Food Bank, and the trimmings and gift cards from Our Neighbors' Table.

Never underestimate the value of loose change and small bills that are donated to the COFFEE HOUR PENNY BOWL! Our Team recently purchased 54 dozen diapers, from Penny Bowl donations, that were taken to the Community Giving Tree for distribution. Accompanying the diaper donations were eight beautiful baby quilts, made by members of the Guild; they will be part of the "baby bundles" that are given to needy families at Christmas.

**In Fellowship Hall you will see a Christmas Tree, that is an idea from our Church School children, for gently-used or new HATS and GLOVES/MITTENS that are being collected for the Grace Center of Lifebridge, a Salem, MA, initiative to help Northshore homeless people with winter clothing. Please check your closets for these items you may no longer need; bring them to church and hang them up on the Hats & Gloves Tree.**

## CHRISTMAS MISSION

**The H.O.M.E. mission CHRISTMAS PROJECT is underway! The Narthex Christmas Tree, up by Sunday December 1st, and adorned with angel tags is reaching out to the Angels of our Church, asking you to take a tag or two and fulfill a wish or two for children in Orland, Maine, designated as one of the poorest area of our nation. Our gifts are given to the parents of these children to be opened Christmas morning.**

**Please choose your tag/tags and plan to return your gifts to the tree by SUNDAY, the 15th.** There is one child's wish per tag. Wrap your gift/gifts in holiday paper and tape the tag securely to the package. If you choose to purchase a gift card, please put it in a box and wrap it, or put it in a card, then in a gift bag, and tape it closed so it won't get lost! It is important that each gift be returned with the tag. **Take note of the highlighted, coded numbers on the tag/tags that you take from the tree.** You will see a chart next to the tree. **Sign your name next to the corresponding numbers on this chart.** Thank you for taking a few minutes of your time to signup. **Keeping track of these gifts is a huge help to the Outreach Team!**

### HIGHLIGHTS:

GIFTS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.

ATTACH TAGS SECURELY.

PUT YOUR NAME ON THE CHART OPPOSITE THE CODED NUMBER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## **FAIR THANK YOU**

Many thanks to all of the wonderful people that worked on the Fair's tag sale this year. Set up went quickly on Sunday with help from the Boy Scouts and their leaders, lending their muscles and energy to the huge task of lugging boxes to the Sanctuary.

Many of our church family friends spent hours pricing and sorting each day, leading up to the Friday morning rush of shoppers. A good group showed up to help customers by wrapping packages, making change, and keeping things orderly on the pews.

On Saturday afternoon, when everyone was tired from their own Fair responsibilities, so many people came upstairs to lend a hand packing up leftovers, taking down shelves, and restoring the Sanctuary to its usual condition for Sunday morning service. The week was full of laughter and friendship, much appreciated by all. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Rich Brock and Peggy Smith

## **THANK YOU**

I very much appreciated the lovely Birthday Rose, recently presented to me from our Diaconate. Those of us, who celebrate birthdays in the "golden years", realize how special each birthday becomes with each passing year. We also appreciate those of the younger generation who are in leadership positions in our church. Our Diaconate is a group of dedicated women who are gracious as well as giving of their time and talents. Thank you, ladies!

Joan Chatterton

## **STORM CANCELATIONS**

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm or blizzard, you can check Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings.

If you want to know if church is cancelled tune in to the TV listings on these channels.

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



### **Light The Church Fund**

Contributions for lighting the church can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to make a contribution or need more information please contact JoEllen Fielding at 978-352-6904.

## Church Pantry Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11:30

With winter upon us, non-perishable protein foods will be appreciated. We have several families and single adults who use the pantry.

*Gift Cards are gladly accepted to enable families to purchase fresh produce, meat, eggs and milk.*



**Suggestions:**  
Juice and juice boxes  
Canned tuna & chicken  
Mayonnaise  
Spaghetti sauce  
Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate  
Peanut butter & Jelly/Individually wrapped  
after school snacks  
Shampoo, TP, Paper towels  
Please, NO SOUPS needed.



Nolan Andrus	Henry Edwards	Kevin Southwick
Gabe Angerhofer	Jordan Greenfield	Shirley Southwick
Benjamin Brock	Aiden Kelly	Travis Tobin
Tom Chaffee	Nicholas Lucido	Karen Young
Brendan Comiskey	Sadie Lucido	Laura Zalewski

## Greetings From The Diaconate

Luke 2:9-14: "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

I have fond and loving memories of the Christmas story from Luke. It was the first Bible passage that I learned as a child and one that my mother worked with me and my sisters to memorize. I imagined a peaceful quiet field, sheep huddled together, dusk settling in, a sliver of moon, stars starting to twinkle as the sky darkens, and the story of four shepherds. One shepherd is sitting on a blanket, trying to stay awake, passing the time with a lamp, playing a game like ancient solitaire. Two other shepherds are talking with each other about the weather, family, and the latest country news. One shepherd is walking around the sheep, petting them, pulling hay out of their wool, and then scooping up a little lamb for warmth, warmth for both the lamb and the shepherd. Then suddenly, loud music breaks open from the sky, like a rock concert full of energy, flashing lights, and emotion! One shepherd drops to the ground on his belly, two cower together, and the other drops to his knees while cradling the lamb, all of them full of shock and fear! But the angel chorus tells them NOT to be afraid that they have good news! As their minds try to make reason out of what they see, they slowly get up, talking to each other, and then begin asking the angels questions while learning more about the newborn savior.

During Advent, we continue to proclaim this good news, that Jesus is born, bringing hope, peace, joy, and love! While our church joins the angel chorus, we cherish the moments of remembering God's gift through the lighting of candles, beautiful music by the bell choir, organ, church choir, and trumpet, shared by the talent and love of our church.

This year, your Diaconate - Rachel, Marie, Pam, Kristen, and Alecia, we were full of hope. Hope in planning worship services; the hope of finding an Interim Pastor; Peace that God directed our process of interviewing candidates; joy in calling Rev. Dallas Bradel to serve with us; and love for our congregation. It is through this love that we wish you many special moments. It could be the warm aroma of freshly baked sugar cookies, the smell of a pine bough laden ornament, cherishing memories of loved ones, and making new memories with friends and family.

We appreciate Rev. Dallas's first Sunday ministering to us as we reflect on "Are we there yet?" We reflect upon and appreciate the process of being together on our journey of faith. We are thankful that on her first Sunday with us, we welcomed a new Pastor with delicious cake, worshiping through the hanging of the greens, worshiping in song, filling the fellowship hall with laughter, and warm hugs of friendship.

As always, we are thankful for our office manager Jessica, the support that she brings in our times of transition, in creating bulletins, newsletters, and being there for us.

In December, we will grace the sanctuary with beautiful Memorial Poinsettias. The Diaconate will be collecting the donation forms up until December 17. Please read all of the information in this December newsletter; we are brimming with events this month. Take in your favorite ones, maybe try some new ones!

May God bring to you, your friends, and family the Christmas message of hope, peace, joy, and love and the promise of blessings in the New Year.

Alecia Balduf, Chair, Diaconate.



# Christmas Services

## Blue Christmas Services

Advent and Christmas seasons are the most joyous and inspiring weeks of the Church calendar. For some, the joyous sights and sounds of Advent are muted by grief and sorrow, which are also sacred. Whether you have lost a loved one or a job, manage addiction or depression, the divisiveness of divorce, or something else, there is a service for you to honor those experiences and offer comfort, care, and healing.

### Second Congregational Church of Boxford Blue Christmas Service:

You are warmly invited to attend this service on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:30pm.  
173 Washington St., West Boxford 01885

## Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 22nd

Join us for this fun, intergenerational, participatory pageant!

## Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candlelight:

*Tuesday, December 24th 7:00 pm*

Bell choir will bring us beautiful holiday music on this holy night. Stay for some punch afterward.

## New Year's Breakfast Service: Sunday, January 5

Join the Diaconate and your church family and friends for breakfast after worship service in Fellowship Hall!



### Christmas Plants: In Memory Of or In Honor Of

The front of our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers on Christmas 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 Tuesday, December 17, 2019. A listing of those who have contributed will be printed in the Christmas 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# GEORGETOWN BOY SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

At the Knights of Columbus, Rt. 133, East Main St  
Georgetown, MA (next to the Georgetown Building Supply & Liquor store)

Starting Friday Nov. 29, 2019

## Balsam Fir Trees

6-7 Foot - \$45.00

7-8 Foot - \$55.00

8-9 Foot - \$65.00

9-10 Foot - \$75.00

## Fraser Fir Trees

6-7 Foot - \$55.00

7-8 Foot - \$65.00

8-9 Foot - \$75.00

### WHEN THE STANDS ARE MANNED BY THE SCOUTS:

Friday nights 5 pm - 8 pm, Saturdays 9 am - 7pm,

Sundays 9 am - 7 pm.

*Special Hours: Friday Nov. 29 only NOON - 7pm*

OFF HOURS: Trees can be purchased by selecting the tree of your choice and *bringing the colored tag* off the tree with your payment to the Liquor Store next door (next to the Georgetown Building Supply)

Limited Quantity of 12" Decorated Wreaths and Kissing Balls available

Only accepting Cash and Checks  
Made Payable to: TROOP 51

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT*  
*TROOPS 50 & 51*

MERRY CHRISTMAS





# **DECEMBER 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30 Bells 10:30 Worship 11:45 Bells 11:45 Diaconate	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Bells	<b>3</b> Women's Guild Lunch 6:30pm Bells 7pm Band	<b>4</b> Book Group 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7pm AA	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 Band 10:30 Worship Gingerbread House Contest Potluck Lunch	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Bells	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Choir 7pm Bells 6pm Finance	<b>11</b> 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Girl Scouts 4-5:30pm 7pm AA <b>Newsletter            Deadline</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 Bells 9:45 Choir 10:30 Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band	<b>18</b> 7pm Band 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Council	<b>20</b> 7pm AA	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Band 10:30 Worship <b>Christmas Pageant</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6pm Bells <b>Christmas Eve            Service of Carols            and Candlelight            7pm</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7pm AA	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 Bells 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

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



Inside This Issue

Holiday Services Schedule .....	7
Boy Scout Tree Sale .....	8
Calendar .....	9
Outreach/Christmas Mission .....	3
Diaconate.....	6
January Birthdays .....	5
Food Pantry News.....	5
Storm Cancellations .....	4
Memorial Poinsettias .....	7
Stewardship News .....	2
Pastors Message .....	1

Our Church Mission Statement:

*“To nurture those in our own faith community  
and to act on our faith by reaching out to others.”*

We are an Open and Affirming church of the United Church of Christ.