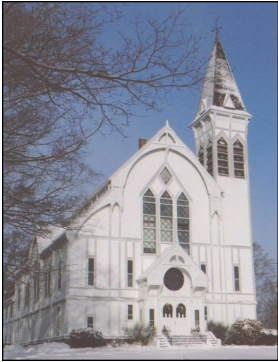


From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200

Georgetown, MA 01833

Telephone: 978-352-8443

Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

Website: www.georgetowncongregational.org

February 2018



OK, Lent starting on Valentine's Day is just trouble brewing. What if you get candy on Valentine's Day and have just given up candy for Lent? What if you plan on having a special steak dinner and have given up meat? Maybe we should agree to "officially" start Lent on February 5th!

However Lent the season before Easter in our tradition, can and should link love with Jesus' ministry. How else can we explain all the healing Jesus offers, or the teaching about God's love that Jesus reveals, or the basic way Jesus talked and shared his life with all the people he met.

Lent is a real love story, a mission by Jesus to share the love of God with us all. This is the message, and the way. When I was

young, the book and movie "Love Story" said "Love means never having to say you're sorry". But I have always disagreed, most strongly. In Lent, we learn to say we are sorry to Jesus, to God and to one another. We are imperfect, but we can try to be better. Jesus told us that when we rely on God's strength, Jesus love, and the Spirit's compassion, we can live in a higher place than we thought possible.

"God makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and enables me to tread on the heights". Habakkuk 3:19

Now that IS good news.

A Lenten Sojourner with You-
Lorraine

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.

Lenten Project: Join us on this important collaboration.



This Lenten season, we will create a booklet to share with everyone on Easter from contributions from all of you. Please send your stories, verses, poems, pictures or reflections on Lent and Easter, and its meaning to you. These will be published for the congregation by printed booklet or email.



Our New Member Sunday will be on May 6th. To become a new member, you must be 14 years of age. Also we have three Sunday classes to introduce you to First Church, the UCC, and to get to know you better. Look at the Newsletters for information. Contact Rev Lorraine with any questions or an interest in joining at: rev@georgetowncongregational.org.

Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm or blizzard this winter, you can check with Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings. If you want to know if church is cancelled just 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.

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

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

February 2018 finds us grateful for the warmth and friendship we find here at our church. Winter's cold does beckon us indoors to find comfort and solace with our church family.

Often when we pull up our memories of February, many think of Valentine's Day. Thoughts of boxed chocolates trimmed with satiny red ribbons, handmade heart cards, shared with those we love. Many wishes to each of you for a Happy Valentine's Day.

The diaconate team, as per our church by-laws, changes yearly. Two people have terms that expire this year: Janice Murphy and Gladie Kneeland. Janice has always given 110% to all she does for the diaconate and will be continuing her active role as Coffee Hour Chair.

It is with mixed feelings that I am stepping down from the Diaconate team. It certainly has been my honor to serve our church with such a wonderful circle of dea-

cons. You are not only a very important part of 'the team' but I am so proud to call each of you a special and dear friend. As I have often said, I have never asked anyone for anything without an affirmative answer. You are all the best!!

Slowing down a bit, after a hectic but beautiful Christmas and New Year season, I find myself taking "three deep breaths"....as Rev. Lorraine has urged us to do when beginning our prayers. Here at our church, plans are underway for lent and the Easter season with love and anticipation.

As always, we are here for you, to share a joy or a sorrow .

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

In church love,
Gladie Kneeland, Chair



Dear Friends,
I would like to thank you all for the prayers, cards and well-wishes that you have sent my way during and following my knee replacement surgery, I have felt each one.
As I write this I am looking forward to returning to the office on February 5th.
Marilyn Crosby



Please join us for Confirmation!

Confirmation is a ten week course that helps our youth think through and create a personal understanding of their faith. The ten weeks include attending worship, participating in special services such as Maundy Thursday and Sunrise at Camp Leslie on Easter, thinking and discussing faith topics, a service project, and a mission event. Attendance at church services is required. Confirmands must be 14 years old by the time of Confirmation.

Our youth are asked to invite a confirmed adult to be their Mentor. The Mentor will come to the meetings with the Confirmand. And the Mentor will lead discussion of the work material. The Mentor will only meet with the youth when at the Confirmation meetings, when others are present.

The leader of the program is, to contact with questions or signing up:

Rev Lorraine Edwards

Pastor, 1st Congregational Church of Georgetown

978.352.8443 email: rev@georgetowncongregational.org

The Deacons of 1st Church are also co-leaders

Confirmation Schedule

Assignment	Day	Task
2/11	Meet 1:	Mardi Gras following worship. This is for parents and youth to review the confirmation schedule and have the first lesson.
2/25	Meet 2	
3/11	Meet 3	
3/18	Meet 4	
3/25	Meet 5	Palm Sunday
3/29	Meet 6:	Maundy Thursday, 7 pm
4/1	Easter Sunrise at Camp Leslie	
4/8	Meet 7	
4/22	Meet 8	
4/29	Meet 9	
5/13	Meet 10	Rehearsal for Pentecost Confirmation Service. Also make up day for any missed meetings.
5/20	Confirmation:	Please wear nice clothes. Invite family and friends.

Outreach News

We've received thanks from the following organizations:

Dear Members

We are grateful for the continued support of your church. Thank you for the large box of socks that was delivered in time for Christmas. Necessities, such as socks, are truly appreciated by those who visit our shop and receive help. Their lives seem hopeless at times, but their spirits are lifted when they are able to outfit their families with needed clothing items.

Judy Rochileau,
Ruth's House

Members & Friends of the First
Congregational Church

The children of H.O.M.E. were given a wonderful Christmas Party because of your gifts, and the gifts from other sister churches. Their smiles and laughter said it all! The staff and volunteers of H.O.M.E. thank you most sincerely for your generous spirit of giving.

Gerald Botta

**Homemakers Organized for More
Employment (H.O.M.E.)**

A Reminder from Our Team:

Don't forget to support our Youth Group's fund-raising project! Order now -- those famous **SUPER BOWL SUBS!** The proceeds will be given to our **church's Legacy Fund.**

The One Great Hour of Sharing will be observed on **Sunday, March 11.** This year's focus will be on the millions of world-wide displaced persons -- men, women and children who no longer have a home or, in some cases, a country of their own.

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).

If you would like to sign up please see an usher or contact the church office at 978-352-8443.

Church Pantry Sunday is February 4th



Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:30 am—11:30 am

With the winter months upon us, non-perishable protein-rich foods delivered to our Church Pantry, will be appreciated by the several families and single adults who use the Pantry.

Pets are cared for too!

The Pantry will be monitored for overstock in certain items. **Extra food items will be taken to Our Neighbors' Table in Amesbury** where there is a large food pantry that serves twelve area towns, including Georgetown. We want you to know your contributions will always be used - either by visitors to our pantry, or to a larger one.

Some Suggestions are: Juice Boxes Canned Tuna Canned Chicken
Chowders & Stews Spaghetti Sauce Hot Chocolate Mix
Canned Pasta Meals Coffee & Tea Kraft Mac & Cheese

Also in demand:

Shampoo Toilet paper Paper Towels
Household Cleaners Toothpaste

Since we no longer accept refrigerator or freezer items we will gladly accept grocery store gift cards. To enable families to pick up fresh meats, eggs and milk.



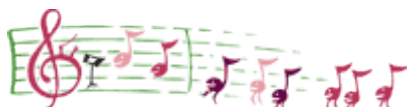
Pet Pantry Items: We now offer pet food to help families keep their animal companions fed and healthy.

Canned and Dry Food Treats Cat Litter

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.



Music Rehearsals Resume

Our music rehearsals are as follows:



Choir *Rehearsals*

Senior Choir: All welcome regardless of ability to read music. Only the desire to sing is necessary. Anyone under 6th grade please speak to Bob Knapp.

Mondays @ 6:30pm: 3/5

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm: 2/13, 3/27, 4/3, 4/24, 5/1, 5/22

Thursday @ 6:30pm: 3/1, 3/29 (Maundy Thursday @ 6pm)



Bell Choir: Ability to read music. Any age welcome.

Mondays @ 7pm: 3/5—@ 6:30pm: 4/9

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm: 2/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/17, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29

Tuesdays @ 7pm: 2/13, 3/27, 4/3, 4/24, 5/22,

Thursdays @ 7pm: 3/1



Band: Instrument required. If you don't have one but can read music speak to Bob Knapp. There are always rhythm instruments if nothing else!!

Mondays @ 7:30; 5/1pm: 4/9

Tuesdays @ 7:30pm: 2/6, 3/13, 3/20, 4/17, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29



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.



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.
Feb. 28, 2018	The Whole Town's Talking	Fannie Flagg 2016	Gladie Kneeland & Ruth Soper Location: Church? Gladie: 508-523-5990
Mar. 28, 2018	The Summer Before the War	Helen Simonson 2016	Alecia Balduf Alecia's house: 3 Bayberry Lane Alecia: 978-835-9094
Apr. 25, 2018	Britt Marie was Here	Fredrik Backman 2016	Pam & Carol Sheehan Location: Church Sheehan: 978-352-6329
May 30, 2018	The Red Coat: a novel of Boston	Dolley Carlson 2016	Dee Wyatt Location: Camp Denison (Lodge), 84 Nelson St. Dee: 617-957-6090



Tim Angerhofer
Brett Davis
Teddy Edwards
Gayle Fehlmann
Julie Fehlmann
Carol Kalfin

Hudson Murphy
Shirley Powell
Christopher Southwick
George Tobin
Roberta Tobin