

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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November 2017

"... In everything give thanks"

1 Thessalonians 5:18



This one Bible quote has perhaps taught me more about living than any other. Because this one phrase has taught me that life can be

good even when it is not great. Perhaps you know what I'm talking about?

Life can have hiccups, jolts, trips and falls. Yet I recall how being thankful catches me, and steadies me when I need it most. Thanks remind me that I need to stop looking at the moment and start looking at the eternity-the far horizon. Yes, looking further out is a spiritual trait. It keeps us aware that today, this moment, is passing. But in the big context, we understand the big picture.

I think of the Pilgrims, floating out on leaky ships from their only homes. And I think of all the years their courage has been remembered with family and friends gathered around the table laden with special family treats from special family recipes.

I think of our Stewardship here at First Church, where we pledge ourselves to our future, believing that God's blessing is still moving and creating in us something new and worthwhile.

And I think of all of you, those of you with whom I share this precious ministry. It takes courage and belief in what is to come to keep the sails set on our course. But there are none other that I would prefer to have as mates on this course.

And I give thanks for you all- Happy Thanksgiving, Pastor Lorraine

Please come to our Community Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday before Thanksgiving at 7 pm, at the LDS Church on Jewett Street. Let's show our support for this gathering!

Rev. 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.



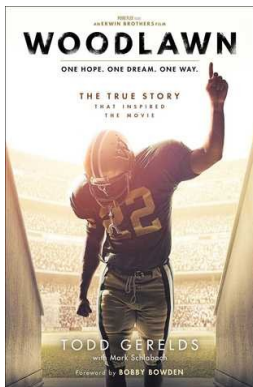
Stewardship season is upon us and this year's theme is **"Journey to Generosity"**. Soon you will receive pledge materials by mail. We have designated November 19th as Stewardship Sunday.

During the first three Sundays of the month we will have speakers in church who will share stories of blessings they have received as members of this church. We encourage you to begin to think of what the church means to you and to give prayerful consideration to your pledge for the coming year.

Blessing and Peace -

The Stewardship Team

Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and Sylvia Johnston



Pastor's Study Group —Continues November 5

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. Please see Rev.

Edwards if you are interested in taking part in this study.

I'm thankful for the things in my past.
 Things that have brought me to where I am at last.
 All the lessons I've learned and more to come,
 All help me to better become.
 The people I've met and remain close with still,
 along with those that have gone on their will.
 All good things come to those who wait,
 Thank you God,
 For the blessings on my plate.

Greetings From the Diaconate

Enormous blessings!!! We, the members of this wonderful Church Family, receive enormous blessings each day. When we reflect on the month of November many of us automatically think of the word blessing.

Blessings of all of the expert teams who bring their gifts of time, talent and love to the success of our Church Fair. Blessings to those who attend and fill our coffers! Each year we share old traditions, new ideas and the warmth of friendship.

Blessings upon your deacons who work hard to be there for each of you. We encourage each of you to share your thoughts, joys, sorrows with any one of us. We love spending time with you, conversing with you, and of course the hugs! Please know that Kristen Arsenault, Alecia Balduf, Emily Knapp, Janice Murphy and Gladie Kneeland are here to listen and care.

Blessings as we approach Thanksgiving, a holiday that fills us with delicious food and our spirit with the love of family and friendship.

Blessings with our Community. The Thanksgiving Community Worship Service will be held this year on November 21st.

Blessings to all who contribute their time to turn our beautiful sanctuary into an "awe-filled, catch your breath" beauty!! We will be 'decorating the sanctuary' on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:00. All are welcome to help.

"Write your Hurts in the Sand and Carve your Blessings in Stone."

Let's welcome this beautiful season of thanksgiving and blessings together,

Gladie Kneeland



Have You Started Christmas Shopping?

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown is now set up to receive a percentage of your purchase amount when you shop AmazonSmile.

www.smile.amazon.com

- sign in or sign up
- find the dropdown for your account
- find Your AmazonSmile on the list & click on it
- change or select a charity—put in First Congregational Church of Georgetown (there will be 2 options, one is Boxford) "select" Georgetown to set your Smile account
- You are all set to shop and the church will benefit from your purchases.

When you shop, be sure to go to www.smile.amazon.com for the church to receive credit - not the regular Amazon account (this won't give us credit).

Outreach News

We are grateful to all who responded so generously to help victims of the terrible storms we've witnessed this fall, and yet another catastrophe unfolding with the devastating fires in California. Our Church Family has raised approximately \$2,000 that will be sent at the close of October to the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ, where it will be distributed to the areas most in need of help. Your Outreach Team, however, is committed to continue the efforts to raise funds, into the late fall, for the UCC Disaster Fund USA. The mission portion of our church's Advent Offering will also go to the relief fund.

Please watch for **the H.O.M.E. Christmas Tree on the last Sunday of November**. A child's Christmas wish will be waiting for one of Santa's helpers!

We are blessed! And, as a Church Family, we strive to be a blessing to the community with our outreach.

Members of the Women's Guild



Church Pantry Sunday is November 5th

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:30 am—11:30 am

With Thanksgiving around the corner, non-perishable protein foods delivered to our Church Pantry, will be appreciated. We have several families and single adults who use the Pantry, and Thanksgiving meals

puts an extra strain on these struggling families

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

Mayonnaise Spaghetti Sauce

Canned Pasta Meals Coffee Kraft Mac & Cheese

Also in demand:

Shampoo Toilet paper Paper Towels

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 supplies for God's small creatures.



Music Rehearsals Resume

Our music rehearsals for The Fall 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: November 20

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm: November 14, December 19 and 26

Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm: December 5



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

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm: November 7 and 28, December 5 and 12.

Tuesdays @ 7:00pm: and December 19



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!!

Monday @ 7:00pm: November 20

Tuesdays @ 7:00pm: November 14, December 19

Tuesdays @ 7:30pm: October 10, 17, 24, November 7, 28 and December 12

Women's Guild



Bring Your Own Lunch

Friday, November 17 at NOON (note the day!)

"Work Bee for BABY QUILTS/COUNTING COINS"

Tying baby quilts and counting change from the Coffee Hour PENNY BOWL is on the schedule for this meeting. Quilts, sewn by our experts, Gloria Webster & Millie Gangloff need the finishing touches of tying! (No experience necessary!).

Proceeds from the Penny Bowl will purchase much needed diapers for the Community Giving Tree, and will be taken, along with the quilts, to this organization in time for Christmas.

Dessert: Jean Perley & Marion Harding

Devotions: Gloria Webster



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.
Dec. 6,	The Underground Railroad	Colson Whitehead 2016	Location: Church?
Carol: 978-352-7208			
Jan. 31, 2018	God Pretty in the Tobacco Fields	Kim Michelle Richardson	JoEllen Fielding Location: Church JoEllen: 978-352-6904
Feb. 28, 2018	The Whole Town's Talking	Fannie Flagg 2016	Gladie Kneeland & Ruth Soper Location: Church? Gladie: 508-523-5990

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.



Dear Church Family,

We want to sincerely thank you for your expressions of sympathy to our family at Earl's Celebration of Life service. We also appreciate all your love and support that was extended to us during his illness.

Special thanks to Reverend Lorraine for all her help and touching words she spoke at Earl's service. Also, thank you to Emily for the wonderful music she provided.

We are grateful to the Church ladies for the delicious luncheon and the gathering after the service. All your love and support is truly comforting.

With love and thanks,
Sylvia and family

Dear Lorraine,

We are most grateful to you for Mom's lovely funeral service on September 29th. Your warmth, compassion, and personalizing of the service mean so much to everyone there.

Thank you from our very appreciative family.

Most sincerely,
Linda Slusarz and the family of Elizabeth W. Merrill

Thank you for all the wonderful ways you share God's love with those you serve.
Thank you for the beautiful ceremony!
Love,
Elizabeth & Franklin Jones
(Kalfin)

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.



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.

*The steeple will be lit in November in loving memory of
Rev. Phillip Southwick from Shirley Southwick.*



Tom Chafee

Kate DeSisto Ressler

Carol Gaffney

Nicole Galley

Barry Games

Tim Lee

Nicole Lucido

Sadie Lucido

Sam Perley

Frank Phillips

Philip Rosene

Gloria Webster



It will be here before you know it! Annual Meeting—January 2018

Please prepare you team's **Annual Report** and send it into the office email (office@georgetowncongregational.org) by Thursday, January 10th.

Teams are asked to get their **2018 Budget** into the Finance team ASAP so they can prepare a report for the **January** Finance Meeting.

Thank You One and All!

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Fall Fair a great success. Special thanks to our Chairperson, Rich Brock for a job well done.

Thank you to the Team Leaders and all who helped them!

Set up, & clean up crews and Boy Scout Troup 51

Marketing & Vendors

Bouncy House Crew

Attic Treasures

Chic Boutique

Pies

Bake Table

Cookie Walk

Country Store

Raffles

Snack Bar

Friday Lunch

Friday Tea

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday Lunch

Turkey Dinner

Michelle Bridges

*FCCG Youth Group
and Advisors*

Peggy & Dave Smith

Nancy Aberman

Emily Knapp & Pam Sheehan

Emily Knapp & Donna DeSisto

Ladies' Guild

Kathy Hogan

Rachel Angerhofer

Joanne Kelly

Janice Murphy

Deb Lamoureux

Kirsten Orender

Kirsten Orender

Steve DeSisto

Friday Luncheon Thank you!

When a great team is behind you it makes the job so much easier.

Toni Cassidy, Karen Young, Jo Anne Kelly and Kirsten Davis got the lobster and chicken ready on Thursday. Friday morning, bright and early, Lee Ames, Ann Kelloway, Sylvia Johnston and Kirsten Davis prepared sandwiches. Our serving team included Ruth Stewart, Ruth Soper, Kevin Southwick, Kirsten Davis, Judy Lynn and Toni Cassidy.

Thank you to Michelle Bridges for helping me with publicity.

A special "Thank You" to Kirsten who came down from Maine to help and guide me through the lunch.

Thank you to this incredible team! We hope you enjoyed lunch!!

Janice Murphy

Thanks for a GREAT Fair!



