

# ***From the Hill***

## ***First Congregational Church of Georgetown***

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## **February 2017**

This summer Steve and I were traveling in Virginia and heard about this boy who lost his father at 11. He was raised by a widowed mother. At 17 he was sent to work, at 19 sent to war. He led an 8 1/2 year war and then built a nation from nothing. And all the while he did this, people around him were impressed and motivated by his actions.

As February arrives, let us study again the life of George Washington, a man who had every reason to blame hardships, but chose instead to always reach higher.

*"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God."*

George Washington

Standing at Mount Vermont, reading about Washington, now as an adult of (ahem) advanced years rather than as a child in a school room, I found myself deeply influenced by a man that had used a monastery manual on moral conduct to learn from in the years he was self taught. And he used its wisdom to build his life and a nation.

When people tell me that we don't need Christianity in a modern world, I look around and see the ways people fall short when they are called to build the future for us. Washington reminds me of the principles that led him to persevere with integrity. Corporal Howe once spoke of needing to find the grit it would take for him to carry out a dangerous assignment during the Revolutionary War. He

*(Continued on page 2)*

### ***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.

(Continued from page 1)

said that his shoulder leaned against the horse Washington was riding, and that the horse and Washington seemed to set the task before them, that it awoke within himself that same calm readiness to face the difficult. In February, let us practice living our beliefs in a way that inspires others to share in the vision.

*"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."*

George Washington

## Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm or blizzard this winter, you can check with Channel 7 (NBC) 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.



## Sign Up to be a Greeter and/or Offering Collector

Sign up Genius is a simple, quick way for you to become involved in church! We are looking for people who would like to greet before the worship service or to collect the morning offering. This can be done by individuals, friends and families, 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 just speak to Mary Ann Nelson.

## Greetings from Your Diaconate

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

February 2017 finds us grateful for a mild January and preparing for the New England winter season, perhaps with a snowy month. 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. It is with much respect and appreciation that we thank Donna DeSisto for her many years of service here on the Diaconate. She is a tireless worker and her kindness does not go unnoticed. She will be missed on this team.

We are happy to welcome Alecia Baldof on board as our newest member . I

know her gentle and caring ways will make her a wonderful addition to the Diaconate.

Be sure and offer both these members of our church family (Donna and Alecia) a congratulations and also a 'job well done.'

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 . Your 2017 Diaconate members are: Kristen Arsenault, Alecia Baldof, Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy.

In church love,  
Gladie Kneeland, Chair



The family of T. Louis Hamel acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expressions of sympathy.

A sincere thank you to all of you at the First Congregational Church for your support. For the food, music, worship time and all the thoughts and prayers.

In Christian Love,  
Tom, Jill and family



# *Super Sub Day!*

Sunday, February 5th 2017

First Congregational Church Of Georgetown

***Are you ready for some football?***

The Youth Group will be taking orders for ham, turkey & Italian subs which can be picked up or delivered to your door in time for kickoff!!

Please visit [www.georgetowncongregational.org](http://www.georgetowncongregational.org) for more info.

The form is available to download and print.

Super Bowl Checklist:

- Awesome Television ☐
- Great group of FANS! ☐
- Plenty of Beverages! ☐
- Subs ordered & delivered! ☐



The Subs are \$8.00 each and  
the proceeds benefit the  
Youth Group and the 30-Hour Famine.

# First Congregational Church Youth Group

## Super Sub Day Fundraiser

### Sunday, February 5th



<u>Name</u>	<u># of Sandwiches</u>	<u>Amount Due:</u> (\$8.00/Sandwich)	<u>Paid</u>
<u>Pickup / Delivery</u>	<u>Address &amp; Phone</u>		

Circle or Check selections below for each sandwich (each column = a single sandwich)

- Return Sign-Up sheets to the Church Office by **February 3, 2017**
- Checks Payable to: **First Congregational Church**
- Subs will be available for Pickup/Delivery on **February 5, 2017**

X	Sandwich 1	X	Sandwich 2	X	Sandwich 3	X	Sandwich 4
	Italian		Italian		Italian		Italian
	Ham		Ham		Ham		Ham
	Turkey		Turkey		Turkey		Turkey
	American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese
	Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese
	Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce
	Tomato		Tomato		Tomato		Tomato
	Pickles		Pickles		Pickles		Pickles
	Onion		Onion		Onion		Onion
	Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing
	Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise
	Mustard		Mustard		Mustard		Mustard
	Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side

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
Feb. 24, 2017	<i>The Boys who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club</i>	Phillip Hoose ©2015	Pam & Carol Sheehan 352-6329	Guild Room at church
Mar 29, 2017	<i>Rosemary: the Hidden Kennedy Daughter biography</i>	Kate Clifford Larson	Peggy Smith Phone: 978-352- 8741	Guild Room at church
Apr 26, 2017	<i>A Fall of Marigolds</i>	Susan Meissner	Joan Chatterton Phone: 978-352- 8033	9 Bartlett Dr Georgetown



We are looking for donations of Prayer Shawls and baby afghans for upcoming Baptisms. If you have any to donate please drop them off at the church office.

Thank you.



## *First Congregational Church of Georgetown*

**Come Join Our Music Team!**

**See rehearsals below:**



**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.

**Tuesdays @ 6:30pm - January 10, 24, February 7, 28, March 7, 28, April 4, 25, May 2, 23, June 6**

**Wednesday @ 6:30pm - April 12**

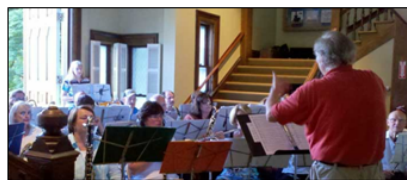


**Bell Choir:** Ability to read music. Any age welcome.

**Tuesdays @ 6:30pm - January 17, 31, March 14, 21, April 18, May 9, 16, 30, June 13**

**Tuesdays @ 7:00pm - January 10, 24, February 7, 28, March 7, 28, April 4, 25, May 2, 23, June 6**

**Wednesday @ 7:00 pm - February 15 and April 12**



**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!!

**Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm - January 17, 31, March 14, 21, April 18 (no brass), May 9, 30, June 13**

**Wednesday @ 7:30pm - February 15**



### **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.

## Jeanne Geiger CRISIS CENTER



Dear Friends at the First Congregational Church

On behalf of all those served by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$500. During the past year alone, we've helped over 1,100 adult and child victims/survivors of domestic violence at no cost to them because finances should never be a barrier to hope.

The mission of the Center is to empower individuals and engage communities to end domestic violence through our many programs and services ... Now in our 35th year we are encouraged by the progress made, but we know that there is still much to do.

... I thank you again for placing your trust and confidence in us as we work together to put an end to domestic violence in our community and beyond.

Suzanne C. Dubus  
Chief Executive Officer

### 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.

The new Member-at-Large to the Council will be announced after the Annual Meeting.



Tim Angerhofer

Brett Davis

Teddy Edwards

Gayle Fehlmann

Julie Fehlmann

Carol Kalfin

Hudson Murphy

Shirley Powell

Chris Southwick

George Tobin

Roberta Tobin