

# ***From the Hill***

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

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### *New Year's Message* FROM THE PASTOR

It was much easier when I was young, before I learned about New Year's Resolutions. New Year's was simple: no school, the Rose Parade on TV and a meal with sauerkraut. Ah, sweet, simple bliss.

Then I learned that I was to use the holiday in a "constructive" way. This meant self evaluation, laying out the plan for improvement and breaking the plan down into simple action steps. Suddenly a new beginning meant dredging up all the ways I hadn't performed up to my best. And once this all happened, I found myself feeling rather unmotivated to greet a new year.

"Fear not!" That's what the angel says to the Shepherds when coming with good news of glad tidings. It means that the message of Christmas is way better than seeing an Angel in the sky at night. It means that we begin to see our lives in light of the Grace we have

been given by Jesus' birth. So this New Year, I humbly invite you to make this one important resolution:

In 2017 I will live in God's Grace looking at life through the gift I have been given, and see how that influences my life.

**"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are made new."** Jubilee Bible 2000

Now that you have made your resolution, look at some resolutions others posted online:

- I will avoid taking a bath whenever possible and conserve more water.
- I will wear more deodorant and wash my clothes less often.
- I will think of a computer password other than "password."

*(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)*

- I will no longer waste my time reliving the past, instead I will spend it worrying about the future.
- And last- May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.

Humoropedia, 15 Funny New Year's Resolutions

Happy New Year 2017! The year of God's Grace!



## 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.



## It's That Time of Year Again! Annual Meeting—January 29, 2017 Following Worship

It is time to prepare you team's **Annual Report** and send **them into the office by Thursday, January 12th**. This will enable the office to put it all together and print it to have it to everyone on Sunday, January 24th.

## Greetings from Your Diaconate

Happy New Year from your Diaconate!

This is the time for reflection as well as celebration. In our lives we look back on the past year and all that has happened. It is the same as we reflect on our Church and our Church Family. Let us remember the goals we have attained, the happiness and the love we shared together. Of course we would not be a family if we didn't share the good and the not so good....the laughing together until our sides hurt, the hard work of all, the warmth of the hugs when we shed our tears....and the embraces and joy as we have our "Peace offering" during our moving communion services.

Let us rededicate our lives to our purpose here. Perhaps it might be to offer to do a scripture reading, or be a church greeter or lend a hand to any of your church teams. Think about giving book club a try (it's a lot of fun and we surprise ourselves sometimes with all the knowledge we bring there)...or baking for the coffee hour (maybe your head deacon will give that a try...but I'll warn you first). Whatever idea comes to you, give it a whirl....you will always find support here to cheer on your endeavor. Remember to live your life like someone left the gate open!

Kristen Arsenault, Donna DeSisto, Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy (your Diaconate) have a New Years wish for you and that is to become involved, to know you are cared for and to remind you here at The First Congregational Church there is always a friend who walks with you and beside you.

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

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

*Happy New Year* ♥ *Happy New Year* ♥ *Happy New Year*

***Save The Date - January 8, 2017***

***Happy New Year!***

***New Year's Potluck Brunch***



The Diaconate is hosting a New Year's Potluck Brunch during worship in Fellowship Hall on January 8, 2017. Sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hour.

All Welcome!



# First Congregational Life in Photos



**Five  
Years  
of  
Ministry  
Together**



**We Created Gingerbread Houses...**





## Our Children and Youth Told the Christmas Story



## News From the Outreach Team

For more than forty years our Church Family has helped the children of H.O.M.E. by playing Santa. This year we had an extra week in which to take the tags and purchase gifts. The response was out-standing, and the children's wishes were fulfilled. Thank you - everyone - the First Congregational Church of Georgetown is high on Santa's personal regard list. His heart was made lighter by your generosity!



**The Women's Guild** collected 160 pairs of socks, plus children's underwear, for **Ruth's House** at their annual Christmas Party! Ruth's House in Haverhill helps hundreds of needy families in our area.



**Looking ahead to 2017**, our Youth Group will again sponsor their annual Super Bowl Sub Sale the first Sunday in February - so be sure to look for the details and support our youth in this endeavor. Besides, the subs are delicious, and will add to the festivities of the day!

With thanks and gratitude for your continuing support of our Church's Missions.  
The Outreach Team  
of the Women's Guild

## Thanks from the Stewardship Team

On behalf of the Church, we wish to thank all those who have returned their Pledge cards for 2017. Your gift is very important as we plan and budget for the coming year. If you haven't yet pledged, please consider doing so. It is amazing when we share the gift of our time, talent and treasure for a cause greater than oneself. We sincerely appreciate your support!

With gratitude,  
The Stewardship Team: *Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey & Sylvia Johnston*

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 the month's meeting.

All are welcome and you do not have to RSVP to attend. Below is what 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
Jan 25, 2017	<i>The Little Paris Bookshop</i>	Nina George	Pam & Carol Sheehan Phone: 978-352-6329	Guild Room at church
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

Dear Church Family,

My deepest thanks go out to you all for such a fabulous five year Pastor anniversary! From my bountiful bouquet and charming bracelet, to the homemade cake and potluck luncheon, each part brought such joy to me.

I am forever honored that you called me to be your pastor and friend here at First Congregational Church of Georgetown.

Thanks be to God ~ Lorraine







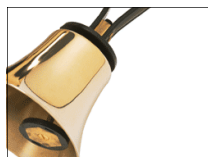
**Come Join Us!**

**Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings, times will be posted.**



**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.

**Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 pm**



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

**Tuesday, January 3 at 6:30 pm**

**Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm**



**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!!

**Tuesday, January 3 at 7:30 pm**



## **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>

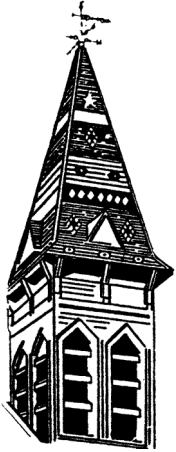
If you do not have email and would like to sign up in person during Coffee Fellowship please just speak to Mary Ann Nelson.



## 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.

Member-at-Large, Mary Ann (Hunt) Nelson, 978-352-2765.



## 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.

## 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.



Gabe Angerhofer

Nolan Andrus

Benjamin Brock

Brendan Comiskey

Henry Edwards

Jordan Greenfield

Aiden Kelly

Kevin Southwick

Shirley Southwick

Travis Tobin

Karen Young

Laura Zalewski



## 2016 Christmas Memorial Flowers



### In Memory or In Honor Of

Loved Ones

Donald Ames

Loved Ones

Michael Kravchuk, Nina Roltsch,  
James Keenan

Donn Chatterton,

Russ & Dorothy Clinton

Muriel & Donald Gordon

Frank and Gertrude Games

Bert & Eva Bailey

Richard Harding

Loved Ones

Ernest Kelloway & Stentiford Family

In honor of my parents

Jim & Joy Carpenter

### Given By

The Aberman Family

Lee Ames

Kristen Arsenault

Toni Cassidy

Joan Chatterton

Donna & Steven DeSisto

Barry Games

Millie Gangloff

Marion Harding, Pamela,  
Jennifer & Wendy

Earl & Sylvia Johnston

Ann Kelloway

Jo Anne Kelly





## 2016 Christmas Memorial Flowers



### In Memory or In Honor Of

Benedetta Murphy,  
Virginia Chappie, Jim & Betty Blomley

Joseph Orender

Loved Ones

John, Joe and Flo

Eddie Powell

Everett and Ethel Manley  
Windom and Helen Rosene

Joseph Sheehan  
Zachary & Matthew Brooks

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Douglas & Lillian Melzard  
Edgar & Viola Stewart, Douglas Stewart

Loved Ones

### Given By

The Murphy Family

Marge Orender

Jean R. Perley

Steve Pinto & Jaime Krenn

Powell Family

Dr. Philip & Betty Rosene

Carol & Pam Sheehan

Dwight & Tracy Southwick  
and Family

The Stead Family

Dave & Ruth Stewart

Carole Young

