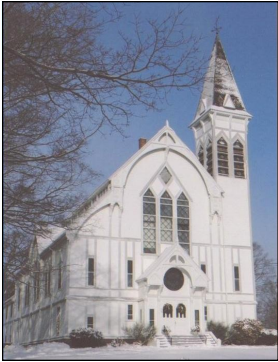


# From the Hill



## First Congregational Church of Georgetown

7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200

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

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January 2018



New Years always reminds me of proverbs: wisdom sayings that give advice on how to live. The Bible has many wisdom sayings, but here are some interesting twists on old proverbs.

A first grade teacher had twenty-five students in her Clarkston, MI class. She presented each child in her class the first half of a well known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

1. Don't change horses.....until they stop.
2. Strike while the ..... bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before..... Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of..... termites.
5. Don't bite the hand that..... looks dirty.
6. If at first you don't succeed ..... get new batteries.
7. An idle mind is .....the best way to relax.
8. Where there's smoke there's ..... pollution.
9. A penny saved is..... not much.
10. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and  
..... you have to blow your nose.

But here is something to think on with all your New Year's plans:

"In their hearts human beings plan their course, but God establishes their steps."

Proverbs 16:9

May you live in God's wise ways-Wishing you a happy and inspiring 2018! -*Pastor 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.

## Greetings From the Diaconate

*Happy New Year  
from your Diaconate!*

This is a 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 love we have 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 hugs when we shed our tears...and the embraces and joy as we have our "Peace Offering" during our communion services.

Let us rededicate our lives to our purpose here. Perhaps it might be to offer to be a scripture reader, or a church greeter, or to lend a hand to any of the church

teams. Think about joining any of the activities we offer here: book club, baking for coffee hour, or helping out with our wonderful children. Whatever idea comes to you, give it a whirl.....you will always find support here to cheer you on. Remember to live your life like someone left the door open!!!

Kristen Arsenault, Alecia Balduf, Emily Knapp, Janice Murphy and Gladie Kneeland have a New Year's Wish for you and that is to become involved, to know you are cared for, and to remind you that 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



**Join in the New Year's Eve Celebration  
during Coffee Hour on December 31, 2017.**

**As they say it will be  
"Midnight Somewhere in The World"**

***Save The Date - January 7, 2018  
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 7, 2018. Sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hour.

All Welcome!



## It will be here before you know it! Annual Meeting–January 28, 2018

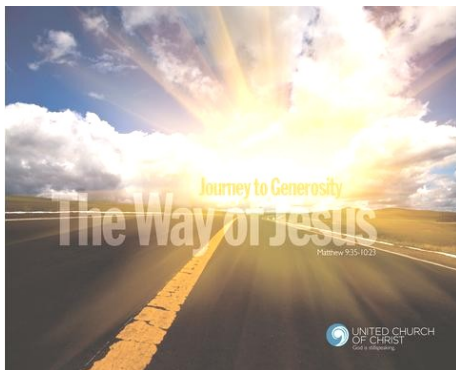
Please prepare your team's **Annual Report** and send it into the office email ([towncongregational.org](mailto:towncongregational.org)) by Thursday, January 8th.

Teams are asked to get their **2018 Budget** into the Finance team ASAP so we can prepare a report for the **January 21** Finance Review Meeting.

## Stewardship Update

We thank all who have contributed to the 2018 pledge. If you have not done so, please take a few moments to fill out your pledge card and place it on the pledge plate on Sundays or mail it to the church. A reminder sign is posted in the narthex or they can be mailed to you if needed.

Thank you for your generous spirit!



## Storm Cancellations



In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning storm, this winter, you can check with Channel 7 (NBC) or Channel 56 for updates. If you want to know if church is cancelled just tune in to the TV channels.

There is also a mobile app that you can download for free by the app store and view storm status anywhere, anytime.

## 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 and usher or contact the church office at 978-352-8443.



### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

January 7

Meeting

January 21 Meeting

February 4

Super Sub Day

### What fun we had making our Gingerbread Houses!

The Youth Group thanks everyone who took part in our Gingerbread House fundraiser, check out the pictures on page 8 of this newsletter.



## SOLES 4 SOULS

WEARING OUT POVERTY®

We would also like to thank everyone who took part in our **Soles4Souls** giving of shoes for those in need, in conjunction with Christian Development. **Soles4Souls** gathers gently used and new shoes to help victims of disasters and poverty, and refugees fleeing from the violence of war. You can learn more at [Soles4Souls.org](http://Soles4Souls.org).

### Pictures from Our Christmas Pageant







## 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.



**Bell Choir:** Ability to read music. Any age welcome.  
Tuesday @ 6:30pm: January 2



**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 @ 7:30pm: January 2

### 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.



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

## Women's Guild

**Our Women's Guild will be taking a winter hiatus** during the months of January, February & March. Too many storms and slippery sidewalks!

We've enjoyed excellent attendance at all of our fall meetings which concluded with a **Christmas Party on December 8th**. Twenty-Two women enjoyed sharing lunch, followed by a wonderful concert performed by our own First Church musicians: Mary Ann Hunt, Alecia Balduf, Kim Knapp and Allan Barlow. There was no better way to celebrate the Advent Season!

Thanks to all those who have contributed their time, talent and treasure to our Women's Guild, and supported our social programs and mission projects.

*Marion Harding & Joan Chatterton*

## Outreach News

Our Church Family NEVER disappoints! What a happy surprise to find all of the H.O.M.E. children's wishes taken the first week they appeared on the Narthex Christmas Tree! More than sixty gifts were returned, and picked up by a H.O.M.E. employee by the name of Josh. This young man drove all day (it is an eight-hour round trip from Orland, Maine and back.) But he did stop by a local eatery for his favorite lunch, a meatball sub, thanks to those of you who gave us money designated for gas and food. The gifts that Josh took back with him will be making a great Christmas for these kids who have so little. **Thank you, one and all, for your outreach and your love for this mission.**



If you didn't get around to returning your Advent Envelope, it is never too late! These funds help us with the expenses of our own church while also providing assistance to those still struggling in the aftermath of hurricanes and wild fires.

Please support our Youth Group's delicious fund-raising endeavor - those **Super Bowl Subs**. See the notice for this in this email newsletter.

# Church Pantry Sunday is January 7th



**Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9:30 am—11:30 am**

With winter upon us, 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.

<b>Some Suggestions are:</b>	Juice Boxes	Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken	Spaghetti Sauce	Hot Chocolate Mix
Canned Pasta Meals	Coffee	Tea
Kraft Mac & Cheese	Chowders & Stews	<b>No Soups needed</b>

## **Also in demand:**

Shampoo	Toilet paper	Paper Towels
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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  
supplies for God's small creatures.



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.
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
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



### 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 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.





# *Super Sub Day!*

*Sunday, February 4th. 2018*

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.

## Benefit for *The Legacy Fund*

**First Congregational Church Youth Group – Super Sub Day – February 4, 2018**

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

1. Circle or Check selections below for each sandwich (use multiple sheets as necessary)
2. Return Sign-Up sheets to the Church Office by **January 26, 2018**
3. Checks Payable to: **First Congregational Church**
4. Subs will be available for Pickup/Delivery on February 4, 2018

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sandwich 1</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sandwich 2</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sandwich 3</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sandwich 4</b>
	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

Special instructions: \_\_\_\_\_