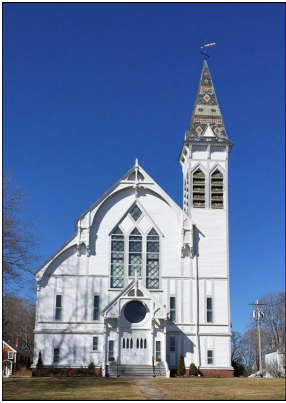


From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

**7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200
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June 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin the month of June under Governor Baker's recent "Safer-at-Home" recommendations and under the UCC advisory that houses of worship remain closed until September 1st, **the church remains open, even though the building is closed.** I've been so grateful to watch you via Zoom as you greet one another and connect in meaningful conversation during Sunday worship and during daily Bible study and prayer gatherings. Even in this stressful season of pandemic and uncertainty, the warmth and genuineness of your fellowship shines.

As you know from Rich's letter, we will continue to worship via Zoom on Sunday mornings. On June 7, we'll conclude our series in the book of Acts by turning to portions of Acts 8 and 10, which very clearly address the explosive issue of racism. God has plenty to say about the ongoing violence against racial minorities in our country, and we, as Christ's Church, have a responsibility to address this injustice in the way we live out our faith. Please pray for God's guidance as to how we, as individuals and as a congregation, can actively advocate for justice and speak compassion and peace into the horrific events unfolding every day in our newsfeed.

Later this month, we'll begin a new series called "When Life is Turned Upside Down." We'll be looking at the

powerful narratives in the book of Daniel, and considering what they have to teach us and how they can encourage us as our own "normal" continues to be turned on its head. We'll also take time to celebrate our graduates and our children, and to express our gratitude for God's good gift of animals, particularly those pets who constitute a part of our own families. Watch the weekly eblast for details. And stay tuned for information about Wednesday evenings this summer! (If you know someone who doesn't have email, let me know so we can mail a hard copy of each eblast to those folks.)

And as always, know that I am praying for you. If you have specific needs and prayer requests, please don't hesitate to contact me at 610-730-7277 or Gladie Kneeland (Diaconate Chair) at 508-523-5990 or Rich Brock (Moderator) at 617-717-9895.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Dallas

News from the Moderator

Hello First Church Congregates and Friends

On Thursday, May 21, 2020, the Church Council made the difficult but necessary decision to continue the suspension of all church operations until Tuesday, September 1, 2020. This decision was based on the guidance issued by the UCC and the concern for the well-being of our congregation and the community.

Although the church building will be closed through the summer, Rev Dallas will continue to deliver a weekly message virtually each Sunday at 10:30 AM and a daily prayer each day at 10:00 AM. These services are available via ZOOM. Information about our Summer services that occur on Wednesday evenings will be shared soon.

In terms of pastoral care and support, Rev. Dallas and Jessica will continue to be available. You are encouraged to reach out to Rev. Dallas if you need pastoral care. While they may not be in the church office much over the next few weeks, both have both been set up to work from home. Rev. Dallas can be reached directly at 610-730-7277.

Alternatively, you can call the church office or send an email. These lines of communication have not changed. Every effort will be made to respond to your pastoral care needs or any other questions as quickly as possible. You may also reach out to Gladie Kneeland (Diaconate Chair) at 508-523-5990 or Rich Brock (Moderator) at 617-717-9895 for assistance.

Over the next few weeks and months, information and updates will be shared via email. Information will also be available on the church's Facebook page.

If anyone has any questions or needs assistance with anything, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Rev. Dallas.

Blessings to All,

Rich Brock, Moderator

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 any of the Council Members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared at any time. Our Member-at- Large to the Council is Janice Murphy.

Greetings From the Diaconate

Greetings from your Diaconate:
I thought I would start this June newsletter article with Psalm 30:5 “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

The splendor of summer helps lift our faces towards the sun and bask in the radiance of hope as we reflect on the past few months. I am hoping we will all find a little balm for our spirits.

Your diaconate (Antoinette, Emily, Gladie, Marie, Pam and Rachel) have tried to help brighten the ‘dark cloud of coronavirus’ that we have all been living under. I hope some of the little things they have offered have brought each of you a little bit of joy. I cannot thank this ‘team’ enough.

I know it is difficult to share our regular traditional events and dates with you because at this time we are just so unsure.

A big thank you to our Moderator, Rich Brock, for the endless conversations, meetings, and care that he has given to us. He surely has helped in keeping us safe and on an even keel. He understands our anxieties and worries and is always there to help.

Huge congratulations to the graduates in our Church Family. Your graduations are different than the celebrations so many of us experienced. May you feel the love and pride your church family wish for each and every one of you!

We continue to worship together via Zoom and I would certainly be remiss if I did not thank Rev. Dallas Bradel for her worship services and her daily prayer group. I am aware of the comfort and the happiness of

hearing and seeing each other through this modern technology.

Please contact any of the above diaconate members if you have any concerns, joys, etc. We are really here for each of you. As always, “God’s love is so large it can cover the world, but so small it can curl up in the corner of your heart.”

Gladie Kneeland, Diaconate Chair

508-523-5990 or gladie8@aol.com

Women’s Guild

The Guild has suspended all spring programs, with the hope that the current crisis in our country will cease when the fall months arrive.

We plan to celebrate and hold our first gathering at the Bradford Tavern where we can once again enjoy the luxury of a pleasant place and delicious food.

In the meantime, our wish is for all of our members and friends to stay safe and to communicate with each other by phone or email.

Outreach News

Our Church Council has made a wise decision in keeping the Church building closed until the fall months, when we sincerely hope that the pandemic will have abated. Since we are not meeting, raising funds for our *close-to-home missions* or collecting material goods for them on a regular basis, we ask that you consider helping the organizations listed below. They are assisting those folks severely impacted by the pandemic. By keeping up with your pledge, and making similar contributions to our Church, you are also donating to the mission arm of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, known as Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). As always, you may be sure that OCWM is on the frontline of disastrous situations.

During this crisis, if you are able to send a cash donation, we submit these worthy local and state causes. Your gift, in any amount, will be gratefully received.

Our Neighbors' Table helps hundreds of struggling families who suffer from food insecurity in twelve of our area towns, including Georgetown.

Donations may be sent to:

Box 592, Amesbury, MA 01913, or online at: ourneighborstable.org.

Children are falling victims to family angst, and in some cases their needs are neglected. The Giving Tree, in partnership with social workers in the Merrimack Valley, support the needs of babies and children.

Their address is: P.O.Box 508, 570 Main Street, West Boxford, MA 01885.

A special fund has been set up for Massachusetts residents by our Commonwealth's First Lady, Lauren Baker. The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund is supporting vulnerable populations across the state including essential workers, first responders, and families in extreme poverty.

Visit their website to donate or send a check to: 265 Franklin St., Boston MA 02110.

Stay safe and pray for those who are suffering and in need. We thank our Church Family for their continuous generosity and compassionate spirit.

The Women's Guild Steering Committee/Outreach Team



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 Bob Knapp 978- 352-7489.

Continued pg. 6



Allan Barlow

Jeffrey Fehlmann

Sarah Moore

Michelle Bridges

Marion Harding

Lindsay Tobin

Rachel Edwards

Michael Kalfin

Stewardship

Our “**Sharing Basket**” has now blossomed and is located in the Narthex. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, we are not there to pick up the donation envelopes to help offset our Church expenses. In order to maintain the level of help needed to run our Church facility, the Stewardship Team has suggested a list of offerings below that you can mail in to help in this mission (P.O. Box 200). Please feel free to donate whatever you can. We understand the difficulty and strain our Church family is under at this time and appreciate any amount you can give in this time of crisis. Thank you very much for your generous spirit.

One week of gas - \$48

One week of Office Supplies - \$70

Monthly Elevator Maint. - \$250

One week of Insurance - \$194



Monthly Water bill - \$21

Monthly Electric Bill- \$330

One week of Telephone - \$34

Blessings from the Stewardship Team,

Toni Cassidy, Sylvia Johnston, George Comiskey



Join Us on Zoom



Sunday, June 14th
Graduate Sunday & Children's Sunday

Sunday, June 28th
Blessing of Pets



Looking back

10 years ago:

Among those joining the church (actually end of May)
were confirmands:

Aidan Kelly, Ben Brock, Jenny Lutes,
Kyle Gillen, Melissa Edwards, Kirstin Hogan,
Bridget Edwards, Michael Hogan

Strawberry Social and Concert

Among those graduating from High School or College:

Kevin Southwick, Cameron Davis, Jeff Fehlmann,
Lauren Kalfin, Anna Lorenz, Emily Aberman,
Molly Lorenz, Jason LeBlanc, Kate Stead

20 years ago:

Among those baptized :

Zachary Brock & David Kennedy (Grandson of Ruth Stewart)

Strawberry Social (\$3.00)

30 years ago

Strawberry Social

40 years ago:

Among the honored graduates
Tom Perley & Pam Harding

50 years ago:

Among those receiving 3rd grade bibles:
Kim Knapp, David Gordon, & Douglas Stewart

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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.