

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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June–July 2017



“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Merry Christmas! That's right, we are revisiting Christmas and New Year's this summer beginning July 12th, at our Wednesday evening dinner and worship. Why? Because Christmas is sometimes fleeting, even though we promise to remember and live in its Spirit all year long. Then winter drags on, spring rolls around, and next we are dressed in shorts and fleeing mosquitoes. But by Christmas magic, we can also return to Christmas Eve, its anticipation, its song, and its joy to spread some Christmas cheer.

When I worked on Star Island, we would celebrate Christmas in July, and enjoy the chance to hand make gifts for our secret Christmas pal. And we would let Christmas come again in all our hearts. And so we will embrace the season, and savor its Spirit with an innocence that usually is reserved for the young:



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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.

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"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Merry Christmas-see you at summer services!

Lorraine



The official birthday of the church is Pentecost, **June 4**. It is on this day, a Jewish holiday of first fruits from the harvest, when followers of Jesus gathered, and the Holy Spirit descended on them! Whoosh! Now a symbol of the Holy Spirit is the red flame. The candles in any service are the symbol of the Holy Spirit's presence. **So let's celebrate the church's birthday and wear RED on Pentecost Sunday!**

Summer Office Hours



During the Summer, the church office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Summer office hours begin, June 19 and continue will continue through Friday, August 26th.

We are **looking for someone** (or more than one) **to cover the office**, while Marilyn is our recovering from shoulder surgery, **on June 22, 27 & 29. Also, possibly July 6th.** If you are able to help out, please call or email Marilyn at the office.

Star Island Scholarships Available



Star Island, off New Hampshire's coastline, has been known as a unique place to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence and gain knowledge about the world as it might be. Founded on the tradition and values of Unitarian Universalism and the United Church of Christ, Star Island strives to contribute to our world by providing a sacred and meaningful space for a vibrant intergenerational community.

A week on Star Island is like going to summer camp for all ages and faiths. No matter your spiritual persuasion, all are welcome on Star Island.

Christian Development encourages church members to consider attending a retreat this year as scholarships are available to children and adults. Please contact a CD board member or Rev. Lorraine for more information. You may consider going to Star Island or any other religious retreat center.

Greetings from Your Diaconate

"Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun."

Kahlil Gibran

It is summer! The time for our church family to turn our thoughts to happy things! The months of June and July promise to be full of exciting times. Please try to join us as we celebrate Children's Sunday, Graduation Sunday, and more. Mark your calendars for our traditional Strawberry Social on Tuesday, June 20, always a highlight of our summertime.

As June winds down, and we head into July, we will begin our Summer Schedule.

Remember during the summer months we hold our worship services on Wednesday



evenings. The **first Wednesday service will be on July 5th**. We will conclude our summer worship on September 6th, with our Sunday Services to resume on September 10th. We are looking forward to lots of fun, good food with meaningful services. As always, we will have beautiful music under the leadership of our own talented Bob Knapp.

Our diaconate team consists of Kristen Arsenault, Alecia Balduf, Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy. This team has many responsibilities and talents and are always opening their hearts. Please feel free to be in touch with any one of them if you have a concern, a joy, a sadness, or any new ideas. We are here for you!

"He will cover you with his wings; You will be safe in his care; His faithfulness will protect and defend you."

Psalm 91, verse 4.

Gladie Kneeland, Chair



Our Giving Tree is Blooming—

You will notice that our Giving Tree has once again "blossomed" in the Narthex. The tree is adorned with envelopes which represent church expenses. This is an opportunity for church members and friends to give an

additional one-time donation to help defray the operating costs of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown. Please consider taking an envelope if you are able to help. Simply enclose the designated dollar amount in the envelope and mail it or drop it in the collection plate. Thank you for your continued support!

Women's Guild

Our Women's Guild is sponsoring one of the envelopes from the **Giving Tree** to support our Church.

The Penny Bowl Collection from now until the end of the summer will be put toward heating the church.



Children's Sunday June 11th

We would love to see all of our church children be involved in some way! So if your child has a talent they would like to share during the Children's Sunday service please let us know at rmbjzbrock@gmail.com.



Join Us for Graduation Sunday June 11th

We are planning a wonderful service and would like to recognize the student's accomplishments as well as bless them and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

As we all are thinking of Summer please join us for our last Book Club gathering before the Fall.

All are welcome and you do not have to RSVP to attend.

We will meeting on Wednesday, June 23, at the home of Nancy Aberman, 199 W. Main Street (978-352-2793). Our book for June is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman.



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.

"Save The Date"



Strawberry Social
Tuesday, June 20th
6-8 PM

*"Enjoy the Beginning of Summer
on our Church Lawn"*

Strawberry Shortcake
Strawberries/Ice Cream
Raffles

Help is needed with :
hulling strawberries,
set up, serving and clean up.
Raffle Items Needed

In case of rain the social will be in Fellowship Hall.

Any questions contact Emily Knapp or Janice Murphy

Outreach News

Our Youth Group includes a great bunch of caring teens. They have been hard at work raising funds to feed hungry children through the **30 Hour Famine, a World Vision project**. They sponsored an after-worship luncheon, a car wash, and finally held their evening and overnight famine, May 6 to after the service on Sunday, May 7 to earn money for this worthwhile cause. Our final report on the proceeds will be available in the next newsletter. In the meantime, however, we wish to congratulate our Church Teens in this endeavor. From World Vision:

"I'm writing to thank you for the generosity of your church through World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. I am so incredibly thankful for your partnership! Together, we are in the margins, serving the most vulnerable by providing food to those suffering from extreme hunger. Please know that you're making a life-changing difference." Signed: Dan Berggren, National Director World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

With schedules winding down and summer near, we urge you not to forget our **Church Pantry**. We are in the process of making new plans for the Pantry usage. Since the Senior Center now has their own Pantry at Perley School, our facility is now reaching a different group of people. This will be explained in a later Newsletter. In the meantime please contribute FAMILY FRIENDLY items if you are able:



- *Juice Boxes *Peanut Butter *Canned Chicken & Tuna
- *Individually wrapped (non-nut) Snacks
- * Mayonnaise, Mustard Ketchup
- *Non-refrigerated Snack-Pack Fruits & Puddings
- *PAPER PRODUCTS (toilet paper & paper towels)
- *Personal Hygiene Products: Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste

Finally, during the month of August, you will see a colorful "**School Supplies Box**" in the Fellowship Hall - ready to receive your donations of pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons and other items for needy children in our area. For the past few summers we've collected these supplies for **Ruth's House and The Community Giving Tree in Boxford**. They are very much appreciated and have helped children get off to a good start at the beginning of September.

Many thanks for your continued support with the mission projects we've recommended. Please have a safe and giving summer!

The Outreach Team, Members of the Women's Guild



Allan Barlow
Michelle Bridges
Rachel Edwards
Jeff Fehlmann
Marion Harding

Michael Kalfin
Sarah Moore
Vivian Rasmussen
Lindsay Tobin



Richard Aberman
Rachel Angerhofer
Erik Bratland
Jillian Bridges
Katie Bridges
Jenai Dougherty
Stephen Edwards
Mildred Gangloff
Jeff Gillen

Kelly Gillen
Norma Lawson
Nick Moore
Paul Nelson
Tori Orender
David Smith
Ruth Stewart
Annie Winter



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.

*Our steeple was lit in May in loving memory of Joe Sheehan
by Carol, Pam and family.*

Going Away This Summer? 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. 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.

Some Historical Tidbits:



60 years ago (1957) Church accepts Rev. Arthur Coulthard's resignation. No services were held in July.

50 years ago (1967) Children's bibles presented to Donna Gordon (DeSisto), Emily Perley (Knapp), Patrice Rosene (daughter of Dr. Phil & Betty), Pam Sheehan, & Kim Wood (sister of Peggy Smith). Baptism of Eben Bond. Family picnic at Bradley Palmer State Park. Vacation Church School June 26-30.

40 years ago (1977) Bibles presented to Avlin & Jon Barlow (daughter and son of Pat & Allan), Wendy Harding (daughter of Marion), & Diane Kimball.

30 years ago (1987) Among those honored for graduation: Nicole Amnott, Stephen Boynton, John & Kyle Face, Ginny Games (daughter of Barry), David Grissino, Steven Powell (son of Shirley), Cynthia Stewart (daughter of Ruth). Bibles presented to Andrew Murphy (Son of Arthur & Janice), Jeffrey Stewart, Jason & Bryan Townsend, & Sarah Young.

Flute solo by Rachel Young (Angerhofer) on children's Sunday. Strawberry Social \$1.75! Wedding of Tracy Green & Dwight Southwick.

20 years ago (1997) Confirmed into membership: Abby Chatterton (granddaughter of Joan) Matt Fielding (son of JoEllen), Kerri Kennedy, Danielle Stead (daughter of Sue & Gary), & Jared and Johnathan Young (sons of Karen & Warren). Some of those honored for graduation include Julie Chatterton (granddaughter of Joan), Andrew Murphy (son of Arthur & Janice), & Jeff Stewart. We said goodbye to Donna Muise as Youth Pastor. after she led the Youth Group on a mission trip to North Carolina to help rebuild churches struck by arson, she became a settled Pastor in South Berwick, ME.

10 years ago (2007) Youth Group goes on mission trip to North Carolina to help build houses.

Women's Day Fair 2017

I would like to thank everyone that came out to support our 4th Annual Woman's Day Fair on Saturday, May 13th, We had a great day! The weather cooperated - thankfully! We had some new vendors and welcomed back many others. We had set a goal of raising \$1,200.00 and I am proud to announce that together we met the goal! This would not have been possible without the support of our congregation and community.

A special thanks to Marilyn Crosby for all of her assistance with the printing of the flyers & Janice Murphy for all her help the day of the fair, as well as the volunteers that came out to help with the setup and closing of the fair.

Thank you again! Looking forward to the 5th Annual Woman's Day Fair!!

Michelle Bridges

