

First Congregational Church of Georgetown
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FROM the HILL

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March 2017

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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.



Do you have one of those closets, garages, drawers, or work benches that becomes a catch all? Odds and ends, this and that, collect until the day you need to find something in the space. Looking at it all, you know that you have to clear it out and, if you are like me, you groan. But as each thing comes out you think, 'Wow, that's where that went' or 'I can really use this!' So when you are finished you've also uncovered missing treasures and all sorts of useful things (and maybe tossed away a few things you realize you have been keeping but don't really need after all).

I like to think of Lent that way. We begin by spending more time talking with God, sorting through the ways we would like to change, and what may be standing between us. At first the time may seem a bit chaotic and going in every direction. But soon we discover good things, things we forgot about, things we can let go of, and focus on the ways God's Spirit is around us in our daily lives.

All of this prepares us for the coming Easter, where a great mystery and holy gift is given to us. And when we gather at Sunrise, we will have a clear mind and a close bond to Christ that awakens our great "Alleleuia".



On **Ash Wednesday March 1st**, the third floor Chapel will be open from **9:30 am through 7:00 pm with ashes** for you to come for a time of reflection. We will be creating a **labyrinth** to walk through in prayer and reflections, along with a seated prayer area. Come and begin this forty day journey on the right step.

Lenten Study Group

This Lent come together starting on March 12th, Sunday after church to share thoughts on the path to Easter. We will have a combination of reading, activities, and conversations on questions we have about the season. We will have classes through April 2.

Come to any or all of the meetings. For more information, contact Rev Lorraine Edwards at 978.352,8443 or rev@georgetowncongregational.org



It's That Time of Year!

Have you noticed how much lighter the sky is in the morning? Or how much more daylight we have in the late afternoon? Spring is coming!

Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 11th (official change is March 12th).

Some Historical Tidbits:



60 years ago (1957) Church Cabinet REJECTS Heifer as a mission project.

50 years ago (1967): Youth group Paper drive. March 24th Union Good Friday Evening service with the Episcopal and Baptist churches. March 26th Easter Sunrise service with the Baptist church. Two regular Easter services at 9:30 and 11:00.

30 years ago (1987): Architect selected to design addition to the back of the building.

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.



SignUpGenius

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 contact the church office at 978-352-8443.

Storm Cancellations



In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm or blizzard this

winter, you can check with Channel 7 or Channel 56 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.

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.



Cecilia Andrus

George Comiskey

Chuck Davis

Haleigh Harris

Gladie Kneeland

Carol Lutes

Barbara Morehouse

Lyla Schneider

Tim Southwick

Greetings from Your Diaconate



"Spring into Spring Bake Sale"

Sunday, March 19th

You know how we like to bake and cook!
Enjoy some of our wonderful treats for sale in Fellowship Hall

Donations needed

For more information please contact
Janice Murphy 978-273-2999

Women's Guild

Please note that the Women's Guild schedule has changed for March!

The new arrangements are as follows: **Wednesday, March 15,** will be a visit to the *Giving Tree* in West Boxford for a service project from 1:00—2:00 pm.



Please meet at the Church at 12:45 for car-pooling to Boxford.

We will return to the Church at 2:30 pm for a Brief Meeting & Refreshments!

Would you like to become a Member of First Church?

You are invited to join our new members class, led by Rev Lorraine Edwards. In this hour we share our spiritual journeys, what life at First Church is like, and what it means to be part of the United Church of Christ. After the class you can decide whether or not to join the church.

New Members will be welcomed into the church on Palm Sunday during the service.

For more information, contact Rev Lorraine Edwards at 978.352.8443 or rev@georgetowncongregational.org



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women's Retreat: Friday night April 21– Sunday morning April 23 God's Love for us!

Up by Conway, NH we will gather for conversation, shared meals, easy hikes, and to see the sights at a country home Toni Cassidy has arranged for us to stay at. We will create teams to welcome us, to prepare meals, and lead activities so that the retreat is affordable for anyone who wants to attend. Come, even if you can only take part for Saturday. It will be a casual, relaxing time to feed the soul and cheer the spirit.

Outreach News

On **Sunday, March 26**, our congregation will have the opportunity to join with other denominations across the United States in the ***One Great Hour of Sharing!***

What is ***One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)***? It is an ecumenical Christian effort to empower, provide clean water, supply food and give relief from disasters. At the present time ***OGHS*** is focusing on the refugee crisis.

Although the refugee situation remains an unresolved political issue in the U.S., the fact is that the number of civilian casualties and displaced people is drastically increasing. Refugees are in a crisis situation in many parts of the world and host countries are overwhelmed.

For instance: The Syrian war is now in its 5th year with no signs of ending. Half of their population has been displaced. That's hard to imagine! Thousands have fled and remain in the Middle East region, especially in Jordan and Lebanon - countries with limited resources themselves. Food is scarce. Clean water is scarce. The United Church of Christ, with ***OGHS*** funds, is working in these countries with partner agencies to provide food, water, sanitation and health care. They are also working with Global Ministries within the Syrian borders to preserve the lives of 6,000 displaced people.

In the coming four weeks, please decide what you are able give for our church's ***One Great Hour***.



Enclosed is more information and an offering envelope for your convenience.



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.

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 9am—12pm. Rev. Edwards' Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am—12pm or by appointment.			1 Ash Wednesday 9am-7pm Chapel Open 7pm Boy Scouts 	2	3 7pm AA	4
5 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacon's Mtg	6 5:30pm Christian Development Mtg	7 5:45pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Choir 7:00 pm Bells	8 7pm Boy Scouts	9	10 7pm AA	11
12  10:30am Worship 11:30am Lenten Study	13	14 6pm Finance 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band	15 7pm Boy Scouts 	16 7pm Council	17 3pm GS Troop 62977 7pm AA	18
19 10:30am Worship 11:30am Lenten Study Spring Bake Sale	20	21 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band	22 7pm Boy Scouts	23	24 7pm AA	25
26 10:30am Worship One Great Hour of Sharing 11:30am Lenten Study	27	28 6:30pm Choir 7:00 pm Bells	29 7pm Boy Scouts	30	31 7pm AA	

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
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
May 31, 2017	<i>Everybody's Fool</i>	Richard Russo	Dee Wyatt Phone: 617-957-6090	Camp Denison (Lodge) 84 Nelson St Georgetown

Our Music Ministry



Ever want to be part of the music ministry but didn't think you had enough time to commit to rehearsals? Well here's your chance!

Come join the choir for Easter. You don't have to read music, though we will still allow you to sing if you can. Rehearsals are February 28, March 7 and 28, April 4 and 12. You don't have to be at every rehearsal, just attend as many as you are able. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!! (Full money back guarantee!) Any questions speak to Bob or Emily Knapp.



Handchimes

We are also hoping to have some extra players (4 or 5) to play the hand chimes with the bells on Easter Sunday, (Especially some of our youth musicians!). For this part you don't have to read music, though it would be helpful. If you'd like to give it a try speak to Bob Knapp, our Music Director.

March Rehearsals

March 7	6:30pm	Choir	7:00pm	Bell Choir
March 14	6:30pm	Bell Choir	7:30pm	Band
March 21	6:30pm	Bell Choir	7:30pm	Band
March 28	6:30pm	Choir	7:00pm	Bell Choir