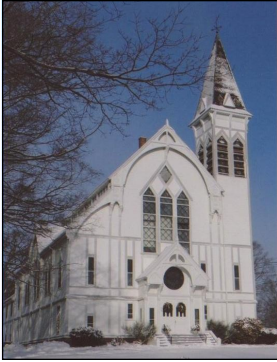


From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200

Georgetown, MA 01833

Telephone: 978-352-8443

Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org

Website: www.georgetowncongregational.org

March 2018

LENT

My Lenten Project Article: The Magnolia Tree



When Iris was in Kindergarten, some twenty two years ago, she was very excited when she came home one day. For Arbor Day, each child received one “tree” for them to plant.

When she revealed the tree her eyes were lit with anticipation. There, grasped

in her small hands was a twelve inch stick, bare and without any discernible root. I took it from her gently and oo’d and ahhh’d over it like any parent would.

But deep in my heart, after years of fearless gardening I knew that this “tree” was unlikely to survive to maturity. And to make it even worse, it was marked as a magnolia tree, a type that really isn’t meant for New England’s harsh winters. But I looked at my daughter, and knew we had to plant it. I chose an especially sunny

spot, close to a wind break, and had to mark it with a stake so no one would mow, walk or play over the short stick. I watered it, fed it, and prayed over that stick.

Other parents had put the “trees” from their children straight into their compost piles. And I wondered if it was wrong to give Iris hope that the tree would survive. Was that hope setting her up for a fall?

First year, second year, third year, we kept counting. The stick started to have leaves, then turned into a bush, then kept growing. Some winters it was almost covered in snow. But somehow, it kept growing. And then I began to notice something as I watched it every season out my back porch. The magnolia actually would set its blossoms, like large pussy willow buds, in the fall. Before the winter set in, the magnolia would prepare for the spring. It had confidence that life would return to it, even before the winter.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I finally grasped the message that the magnolia taught me through the two decades of watching it grow into the double tree, twice as tall as me. That “tree” grew against the odds, certain of coming to life before it went to its winters sleep. It tells me this story every Lent, in the midst of the cold, leafless, gray, that it has prepared for the awakening, the alleluia of big, sweet and full blossoms that shouldn’t be possible, but are. This is the promise of Easter. Before we even are taken by winter’s sleep, Christ has prepared the Alleluia of the resurrection.

Grow in God this Lent-
Pastor Lorraine



Our New Member Sunday will be on May 6th. To become a new member, you must be at least 14 years of age. Also we have three Sunday classes to introduce you to First Church, the UCC, and to get to know you better. Look at the Newsletters for information. Contact Rev Lorraine with any questions or an interest in joining at: 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 10th (official change is March 11th at 2:00am).

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 (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.



Greetings From the Diaconate



Lenten Booklet Project

Help us put together a church booklet of some of your favorite Easter/Springtime stories, poems, scriptures, photos, drawings – or maybe a springtime joke or riddle.

Send your booklet items to the Church office (churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org) or to Emily Knapp (tyembob@aol.com) or you can give your submissions to Emily or Rev. Lorraine on Sunday mornings.

The booklet will be available on Palm Sunday, March 25th, so please get contributions in by Sunday, March 10th to allow for us to compile everything and print it all up. Also, if you are interested in reading your story or poem in Church on a Sunday morning, please let Rev. Lorraine know!



Palm Sunday—March 25, 2016 @ 10:30 am

Morning Service—Procession of the Palms



Maundy Thursday—March 29, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

Candlelight Service with Music



Good Friday—March 30, 2016 12:00—3:00 pm

First Congregational Church Rowley

The Last Seven Words of Christ - come and hear local clergy as the each speak on one of the last seven words. Come for part of the time or joins us until the end.



Easter Sunday—April 1, 2016

6:30 am Sunrise Service @ Camp Leslie
(W. Main St. RT. 97)

7:00 am Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Easter Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn



FLOWER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute flowers or make a monetary contribution for the Communion Table for an anniversary, birthday or a special occasion please contact Jaime Krenn at 978-352-7932 or the Church Office.

***Thank to Joan Chatterton for donating the beautiful flowers
for the month of February.***



Please join us for Confirmation!

Confirmation is a ten week course that helps our youth think through and create a personal understanding of their faith. The ten weeks include attending worship, participating in special services such as Maundy Thursday and Sunrise at Camp Leslie on Easter, thinking and discussing faith topics, a service project, and a mission event. Attendance at church services is required. Confirmands must be at least 14 years old by the time of Confirmation.

Our youth are asked to invite a confirmed adult to be their Mentor. The Mentor will come to the meetings with the Confirmand, and will lead discussion of the work material. The Mentor will only meet with the youth when at the Confirmation meetings, when others are present.

The leader of the program is, to contact with questions or signing up:

Rev Lorraine Edwards

Pastor, 1st Congregational Church of Georgetown

978.352.8443 email: rev@georgetowncongregational.org

The Deacons of 1st Church are also co-leaders



Confirmation Schedule

Assignment	Day	Task
3/11	Meet 3	
3/18	Meet 4	
3/25	Meet 5	Palm Sunday
3/29	Meet 6:	Maundy Thursday, 7 pm
4/1	Easter Sunrise at Camp Leslie	
4/8	Meet 7	
4/22	Meet 8	
4/29	Meet 9	
5/13	Meet 10	Rehearsal for Pentecost Confirmation Service. Also make up day for any missed meetings.
5/20	Confirmation:	Please wear nice clothes. Invite family and friends

Outreach News

The **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** will be held nationally **on SUNDAY, MARCH 11**. This is an inter-denominational offering that helps people in crisis across the globe. Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) number over 60 million in the world today. Some have resettled in new countries and need the tools to take charge of their lives again. Others live in refugee and displacement camps, waiting to go home or to be resettled. They are families and children, people seeking lives free from war, conflict, or natural disaster. Fifty percent are children under the age of 18.

In the face of so much sadness, what can we do? We are a small congregation! The statistics are staggering.

The reason for the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** is this: We all pull together, no matter what our ties are to any religious organization. That's what we can do. Collectively we pool our resources to reach out, to give solace, to give medicines, to give food, to provide the tools needed to begin a new productive life, and to become self-sufficient.

Give what you are able. Please see the informational pamphlet in this newsletter. **An envelope, for this offering, is attached and will also be in your Sunday, March 11 bulletin.**

The Outreach Team

Members of the Women's Guild

The following is a portion of a letter received in response to our relief efforts:

"Thank you for your gifts totaling \$2,424.60 for the UCC Disaster Relief Fund USA following the hurricane and fire disasters experienced last fall. Your donation is helping to address the recovery that is needed to get communities restored and people back into their homes. We ask for your continued prayers for everyone impacted by these storms and fires, and for your on-going long term support. Thank you for being inspired by God's grace and for partnering with us."

Nichole Collins,

Office of Philanthropy & Stewardship,

The United Church of Christ

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 an usher, use the sign-up sheet on the table near the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 978-352-8443.

Church Pantry Sunday is March 4th



Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:30 am—11:30 am

We want to thank all for their generous donations to our Community Food Pantry! We have received a bounty of vegetables, soups, cereals, baking items. We still need the following items for the food pantry :

Following is a list of items that are in need:

Individually wrapped soaps Individually wrapped toilet paper
Paper Towels Shampoo Deodorant (men's & women's)
Dish soap Cleaning products (409, Lysol, sponges, etc.)
Toothpaste Tooth Brushes Coffee & Tea Canned Tuna, Chicken & Spam
Juice Boxes Bottled Juices

Donations of grocery store gift cards are always welcome. These enable families to get those perishable items that they cannot get at the food pantry.



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**

Women's Guild News



BRING YOUR OWN SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, March 20 at NOON

OUR PASTOR'S EXPERIENCES IN THE U.S. NAVY

Rev. Lorraine will share with us her varied experiences while serving as a Navy Chaplain. It is always a special meeting when Lorraine is with us, one you won't want to miss!

Dessert: Mary Ann Nelson & Carol Sheehan

Devotions: Millie Gangloff



**Come join in on the
Annual Church Clean-up on
Saturday, March 24, beginning @ 8:30 am.
Help get the Sanctuary read for Easter!**

Definition of Cleaning: the activity of removing dirt from things and places, especially a house (of God!); figuratively, it can apply to spiritual purification (of one' soul!).

So much gratification in the activity of cleaning!



Christian Development



Thank you to everyone who supported the Youth Group Fundraiser on Super Bowl Sunday. Over 70 sub sandwiches were ordered by the congregation and friends of the church. The youth worked hard and assembled all the sandwiches prior to the end of worship. This event raised over \$600. The proceeds will be donated to the Continuing Our Legacy campaign.



Do you have....?

Christian Development is giving the nursery a facelift. We will be relocating the nursery to the second floor classroom next to the Office. We are looking for a few things to enhance this new space. It is our hope that someone might already have some lightly used items they could donate.

We are in need of a baby gate (preferably the kind that you can walk through) and a baby monitor (it does not have to have video) that has reception capacity to reach the distance from the office to the Sanctuary. We would also love to have a 5x8 rug that is bright and cozy and maybe a crib set. If you can help us out with any of these things, please contact Michelle Brock or the Church Office.



Nancy Aberman

Cecelia Andrus

George Comiskiey

Chuck Davis

Haleigh Harris

Gladie Kneeland

Carol Lutes

Barbara Morehouse

Cadynce Pesce

Lyla Schneider

Tim Southwick

Our Music Ministry

Our music rehearsals 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.

Mondays @ 6:30pm: 3/5

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm: 3/27, 4/3, 4/24, 5/1, 5/22

Thursday @ 6:30pm: 3/1, 3/29 (Maundy Thursday @ 6pm)



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

Mondays @ 7pm: 3/5—@ 6:30pm: 4/9

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm: 3/13, 3/20, 4/17, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29

Tuesdays @ 7pm: 3/27, 4/3, 4/24, 5/22,

Thursdays @ 7pm: 3/1



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!!

Mondays @ 7:30pm: 4/9

Tuesday @ 7:00pm: 5/1

Tuesdays @ 7:30pm: 3/13, 3/20, 4/17, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29



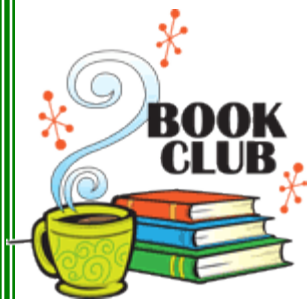
Light The Church Fund

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.



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.
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
May 30, 2018	The Red Coat: a novel of Boston	Dolley Carlson 2016	Dee Wyatt Location: Camp Denison (Lodge), 84 Nelson St. Dee: 617-957-6090
June 27, 2018	The Traitor's Wife	Allison Pataki 2014	Nancy Aberman Nancy's home: 199 W. Main St Nancy: 978-352-2793

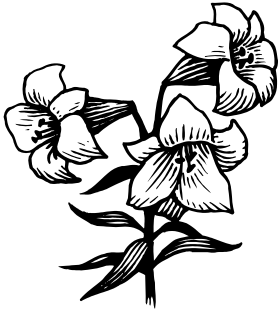
From the Member-at-Large

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.

MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Bell Choir	2 7pm AA	3
4 Third Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacon's Mtg	5 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Bell Choir	6 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 5:45pm Staff Mtg	7 7pm Boy Scouts	8 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	9 7pm AA	10
11 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship Confirmation Mtg.	12 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	13 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Band	14 7pm Boy Scouts	15 Newsletter Deadline 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 7pm Council	16 3pm GS Troop 62977 7pm AA	17
18 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30am Worship Confirmation Mtg.	19 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	20 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Band	21 7pm Boy Scouts	22 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	23 7pm AA	24
25 PALM SUNDAY 10:30am Worship Confirmation Mtg. 	26	27 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Bell Choir	28	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6pm Choir 7pm Tenebrae Service 	30 GOOD FRIDAY 	31



Easter Plants: In Memory Of or In Honor Of

The front of our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers on Easter Sunday morning. The Diaconate welcomes your contributions in memory of or in honor of beloved friends and family members. Donations may be made payable to The First Congregational Church of Georgetown and may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church at PO Box 200, Georgetown, MA 01833.

The deadline for your contribution will be Sunday, March 25, 2018. A listing of those who have contributed will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Flowers will be delivered to members who are homebound and to those who have recently lost a family member.

Yes, I would like to make a donation (in any amount) \$_____

IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF (please print))

From: _____



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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.