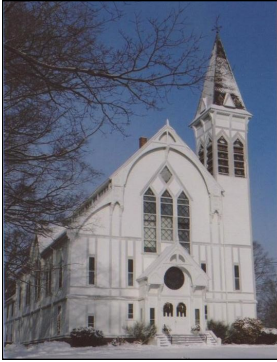


From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

**7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200
Georgetown, MA 01833**

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Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org
Website: www.fccgeorgetownma.org

March 2021

Dear Ones,

Does the name Phillis Wheatley ring a bell? In honor of Black History month (February) and Women's History Month, (March) I thought I would share with you Ms. Wheatley's story.

Ms. Wheatley was a bit of a maverick, a bit of a game changer, with her intellectual prowess *and* poetry. She was not only the first woman poet to publish a book from the Americas, she was also the first Black woman – in 1773! She went against the grain of so much of her society!

The Poetry Foundation.org says this about her:

Educated and enslaved in the household of prominent Boston commercialist John Wheatley, lionized in New England and England, with presses in both places publishing her poems, and paraded before the new republic's political leadership and the old empire's aristocracy, Wheatley was the abolitionists' illustrative testimony that blacks could be both artistic and intellectual. Her name was a household word among literate colonists and her achievements a catalyst for the fledgling antislavery movement.

The Wheatley's (for whom Phillis was named when she was purchased from a ship at age 8) saw her gifts soon after her arrival and taught her to read and write in English, and then they continued to support her writing and creativity. Her poems included musings about her faith and what she saw in the world around her. In addition to poetry, Wheatley wrote letters to political leadership trying to sway various institutions, including slavery.

Two of the greatest influences on Phillis Wheatley's thought and poetry were the Bible and 18th-century evangelical Christianity. She often spoke in explicit biblical language designed to move church members to decisive action. For instance, these bold lines in her poetic eulogy to General David Wooster castigate patriots who confess Christianity yet oppress her people:

*But how presumptuous shall we hope to find
Divine acceptance with the Almighty mind*

(Continued next page)

*While yet o deed ungenerous they disgrace
And hold in bondage Afric: blameless race
Let virtue reign and then accord our prayers
Be victory ours and generous freedom theirs.*

I get a feeling I would have really liked this Phillis Wheatley had we lived in the same century!
How about you? To learn more, just plug her name into your favorite search engine. Happy Reading!
And May God bless you and keep you safe, Pastor Holly

Greetings from your Diaconate

The month of March is one of hope. Although we are still 'buried' in snow, we here in New England always are aware that March brings longer days, warming days, and perhaps a glimpse of a tiny bit of purple, yellow, and green in the sheltered areas of our yards.

Covid is still with us, but our wonderful word of hope as described above helps us to realize, with the vaccines and communication we will continue to look forward to being together as soon as we can!

Your church is looking forward to all that spring has to offer. We have many activities planned, and do hope that you can take some of them, or all of them in!

Easter will be approaching and our glorious services are something to look forward to. Although we may physically embrace the services in a different way, we are together and all feel God's love and arms surrounding all of us each day.

Congratulations to our very own Pastor Holly on her most meaningful and beautiful ordination. We were so happy to be able to be 'with' you as you received this honor. Each member of our Church Family join with me (believe me I have the happy texts, emails, and phone calls) in wishing you every blessing and may you always feel the protection and love of the Holy Spirit.

I am so happy to have been elected as Chair of the Diaconate again and will do my best. Our team consists of Antoinette Jones, Emily Knapp, Pam Sheehan and Rachel Angerhofer. This team has many responsibilities and talents. 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! We always love to hear from you and your thoughts.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and my wish for you is the following:

"May you always have work for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.
May the rainbow be certain to follow the rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near you.
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you."

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

"Remember God's love is so large it can cover the world, but so small it can curl up in the corner of your heart."

Outreach News



SOCK COLLECTION

The *Sock Collection Drive* for Ruth's House has been a rewarding success! We received 352 pairs of socks, for all ages, delivered shortly after Valentine's Day, a gift to those who are in need of new socks in cold and wet weather. Thanks to all of you who have participated.

As always, our compassionate congregation has answered the call to serve those who are turning to Ruth's House for assistance during this difficult winter.

With gratitude,

The Outreach Team



Our sub sandwich sale was a huge success! We raised over \$850!
Thank you to all who participated.



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! Daylight savings begins Sunday, March 14.

Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday.

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 any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared as well at any time.

Your Member-at-Large is Susan Stead.



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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85759618690>

Meeting ID: 857 5961 8690

Passcode: 527292

Date 2020	Title	Author	Location/Hostess/Phone Number
September 30	<i>The One-in-a-Million Boy</i> ©2017	Monica Wood	Zoom
October 28	<i>When Time Stopped: a memoir of my father's war and what remains</i> ©2020	Ariana Neumann	Zoom
December 1 (combined Nov/Dec)	<i>Redhead by the Side of the Road</i> ©2020	Anne Tyler	Zoom
2021			
January 27	<i>The Nickel Boys</i> ©2019	Colson Whitehead	Zoom
February 24	<i>Simon the Fiddler</i> ©2020	Paulette Jiles	Zoom
March 31	<i>In the Country of Women: a memoir</i> ©2019	Susan Straight	Zoom
April 28	<i>The Last Train to Key West</i> ©2020	Chanel Cleeton	TBA
May 26	<i>Coco Chanel: Pearls, Perfume and the Little Black Dress</i> ©2018	Susan Goldman Rubin	TBA
June 30 or June 23?	<i>The Cactus</i> ©2018	Sarah Haywood	TBA

Stewardship

FCC Georgetown is thankful for your support of our church, and we hope you will continue to contribute to our mission in the coming year. The results are amazing when we share the gifts of our time, talent and treasure for a cause greater than oneself. What we are able to accomplish in 2021 depends on the generosity of the entire church family. Your gift is very important as we plan and budget for this year. Every gift makes a difference, and we thank you for your continued support! Please contact the church if you need pledge materials.

With gratitude,

The Stewardship Team

Toni Cassidy George Comiskey Sylvia Johnston



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 at 978-352-7489.

Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm, you can check with Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings. Also, we will send a church-wide email, update our website and Facebook page.

There is also a mobile app that you can download for free by searching WHDH in the app store and view storm status.



MARCH




Nancy Aberman
George Comiskey
Chuck Davis
Haleigh Harris
Gladie Kneeland

Barbara Morehouse
Cadynce Pesce
Lyla Schneider
Tim Southwick



March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 AM Worship	8 Lenten Study 10 AM/7PM	9 6 PM Finance	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings 10:30 AM Worship	15 Lenten Study 10 AM/7PM <small>Newsletter DEADLINE</small>	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 6:30 PM Council	18	19	20
21 10:30 AM Worship	22 Lenten Study 10 AM/7PM	23	24	25 6 PM CD Meeting	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 10:30 AM Worship	29	30	31 Book Club			



Moderator

Rich Brock*

Clerk

Toni Cassidy*

Treasury Team

Bob Knapp*

Kristin Arsenault

George Comisky

Diaconate

Antoinette Jones

Rachel Angerhofer

Pam Sheehan

Emily Knapp

Gladys Kneeland*

Property Team

Joanne Kelly

Chuck Davis*

Michelle Brock

Christian Development

Nancy Aberman

Tom Chaffee*

Rich Brock

Member-at-Large

Susan Stead*



Lenten Series

Mondays with Matthew- A Lenten Study -Join us on Mondays over the next few weeks as we will read and study some of Jesus's teachings in the Gospel of Matthew. What do you know about the Sermon on the Mount? What questions do you have? Do some statements in these passage trouble you? Lean into Lent! Join this group and let's question and learn together. Starting this coming **Monday, February 22nd**, you can join a ZOOM session either at **10 am** or at **7 pm**. We will meet for 5 weeks. Our last week together will be March 22nd after which we will turn to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96284960355?pwd=aXFOMkthK0plOUZSemV3dkFFZTFNQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 8496 0355

Passcode: 638423

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 FCC Georgetown and mailed to the church at PO Box 200, Georgetown, MA 01833.

The deadline for your contribution will be **Sunday, March 28**. A listing of those who have contributed will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Flowers will be delivered to members who are homebound or 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: _____



Looking Back

50 Years ago:

Ham & Bean Supper \$1.50 per person

Pilgrim Fellowship Paper Drive. Teens would ride around in the back of trucks and pick up paper to be recycled from people's houses. (Don't try that today!)

40 years ago:

Sunday night Hymn sing

Covenant players, a traveling drama group, performed small skits and plays during church service. The company still exists today with traveling groups in the US and 30 countries. (Though not performing during covid)

The Jr. Choir festival, with 13 local church Jr. choirs, including our own, performing individually and as a large ensemble, is held in our sanctuary.

30 years ago:

Celebratory banquet held at the completion of the "Together for our Heritage" capital campaign raising funds to build an addition to our original church building.

20 years ago:

Table for 13, a musical by J T Turner and Sandy Nelson, performed in our sanctuary. First of many "Moonlight" productions. See photos below.

10 years ago:

Open House celebrating completion of Sanctuary repairs and renovation.



GEORGETOWN LIVING

The Last Supper, with pizzazz

Original musical has great songs and local cast

By Sally Applegate

Imagine all the apostles waiting for Jesus to show up for the Last Supper. Picture these same apostles spinning yarns, acting out parables, singing songs, dancing dances and counting

with a large family of adorable children.

This is what awaits you at the First Congregational Church where an original musical called "Table for 13" is being performed over

the weekend. There are many exciting songs in this show, performed by a cast with first voices. There's singing, dancing, news and parables and chorale numbers.

"Table for 13" is a joyful, offbeat musical with script lyrics and melodies by J.T. Turner of Ipswich, who also performs the apostle Bartholomew, and directed the show. Turner, who does not play an instrument, hummed the music to Sandi Nass, of West Boxford, who brought it to life

by arranging it into a lively and varied musical score, which she plays as a performer.

The musical was a great success at Ipswich last spring and much of the original cast has returned for this Georgetown production, with local cast and crew.

Bob Watts plays the innkeeper, Steve LeBlanc, the apostle James the Great. Chuck Davis, apostle John. Richard Sherman, apostle Phillip. Julie Richards plays Joanna, and Sara Watson, a servant. Melissa White recited the production by filling in as stage manager and Kate DeRose plays scripture for the show.

Other performers hail from Ipswich, Boxford, Topfield, Middleton, Haverhill and Beverly.

Turner as Bartholomew performs "God Loves You," a lively song and dance number, with his son J.T. Turner III as Nathan, the innkeeper's son.

Impassioned moments in the show include Becky Connelly as Mary Magdalene, doing a heartfelt job in the country-woman number, "With My Eyes Cast Down." Chris Barletta as

Jesus is darkly intense and powerful. A plaintive melody and beautiful voices combine when Christ's Carpenter as Mary joins with Julie Richards of Georgetown, Andrea Bowles, Cassie McCaughan as the innkeeper's wife, and the chorus, to sing "Gentle Rain Shall Fall."

Hilarious moments in the show include "Oy Vay," with Bob Watts and the chorus, and "The Pharisee Walks," with Chris Boyard as the apostle Matthew, and the chorus.

Roots in the Bible: Moonlight Productions, which is presenting this show, was founded four years ago. The idea behind the group is to bring children, teens and adults together in a positive environment to foster self-esteem and give back to the community, according to Turner.

Last year the group was looking for a good spring show, and Turner decided to write one. It is based on the Gospel of Luke in the Bible, which was written by Luke in his native language. Turner said he considers it "a wonderful piece."

LeBlanc, enjoying playing the apostle James the Great, said the musical shows that spreading the word of Jesus was up to the apostles, and they were forced to leave Jerusalem and travel to other lands.

"It is a story told with a lot of humor," LeBlanc said. Watson said it was "kind of weird" arriving in a cast where half of them already knew the lines and the songs.

He considers the show really powerful as well as very funny.

"Now a place or your table (for Jesus) is the idea behind the show," Watson said.

This is a splitting and joyous show, well worth seeing a place in your social schedule to get out and see it.

"Table for 13" continues this weekend at the First Congregational Church across from Town Hall, with performance at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 6, and a matinee at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 7. Tickets are \$10, and can be reserved by calling Moonlight Productions or by e-mail at 608-415-8055 or on the church at 928-372-5441 on Friday.



On May 17, "Table for 13" continues the innkeeper, played by Bob Watts of Georgetown, to, from left, Samantha Palazzo, J.T. Turner III, April Hoffman and Cassie McCaughan.

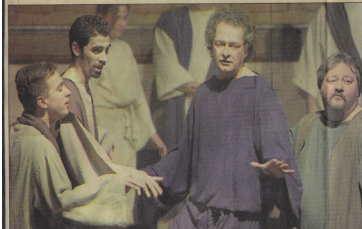


Left, actress Beth SPO. The servants aren't happy to hear about 12 apostles and a child headed to Jerusalem for dinner. From left, Andrea Bowles, Sara Watson of Georgetown, and Julie Richards of Ipswich as the innkeeper's wife.

Bottom right, James the Less, left, played by Chris Van Lierden of Topfield, joins James the Great, played by Steve LeBlanc of Georgetown.

Inset, Chris Boyd of Topfield, as a servant, who is now the apostle Matthew, sings "The Pharisee Walks." The song becomes a big dance number with the entire company.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ROBERT BRANCH



From left, the apostles Andrew, Judas, Peter and Bartholomew, played by Chris Boyd of Boxford, Chris Barletta of Beverly, Brian Hinkland of Beverly, and J.T. Turner of Ipswich hummings with "Jesus Healed Them All."



Turner and pianist Sandi Nass wrote the original musical "Table for 13." Nass is the choir director of the Second Congregational Church in West Boxford.



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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.