

First Congregational Church of Georgetown  
PO Box 200  
7 Andover Street  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
[www.georgetowncongregational.org](http://www.georgetowncongregational.org)  
(978) 352-8443



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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.

***FROM the HILL***

***First Congregational Church  
of Georgetown***

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

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Website: [www.georgetowncongregational.org](http://www.georgetowncongregational.org)

**May 2017**



Thirty five years ago this May, a young nervous bride, adorned in a borrowed wedding dress that her mother had designed and sewn many years before for her own wedding, held a bouquet of white roses. The day was perfect, unusual for May, a clear blue sky and gentle warmth filled the air. That bride was me, standing in the entry of the Chapel before walking down the aisle at the Yale Divinity School Chapel in New Haven, CT.

As poor graduate students, Steve and I prepared our own reception at the Divinity School common room. My friends made the tea sandwiches and punch, my Mom brought the

wedding cake all the way from Henry's, and Steve's parents arranged for the flowers. It was a busy, happy day.

As everything was winding down, I handed a rose from my bouquet to each friend, thanking them for their part in the day. One of my friends took hers, cut off the stem and told me "I am going to hide this, so you will find this one day". Later, after the honeymoon to Nantucket and the move, I looked around but never found the hidden rose.

Twenty years later, I opened a thick, big study Bible to prepare for a service. And there, under 1 Corinthians 13 "Love is patient, love is kind..." was the perfectly flat dried rose from my bouquet. Having been

*(Continued on page 2)*

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married for all that time, I had learned that it wasn't the grand romantic gesture that makes the marriage, although those are nice. No, it was the many kindnesses and moments of patience, and all the things Paul wrote so beautifully about in 1 Corinthians 13, that make marriage blossom, or any friendship blossom. I sat for awhile reflecting and then gently placed the rose back in the huge book, in the same location, for safe keeping. Maybe in five more years I will bring it out again.

I want to thank Steve for making this journey with me, and to celebrate his place in my life. Happy 35th anniversary, Steve!

Love-Lorraine

**Aramaic Lord's Prayer:** During our Lenten book group, we talked about how the Aramaic language Jesus spoke had many layers of meaning, from the esoteric to the earthy. The group thought it would be nice to have the prayer shared with everyone in the newsletter, so here it is:

O Creator Parent! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,  
Focus your light within us—make it useful:  
Create your reign of unity now.

- Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.
- Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.
- Don't let surface things delude us, But free us from what holds us back.
- From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do, the song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews. Truly—power to these statements—may they be the ground from which all my actions grow:  
Amen.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 5:45pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Choir 7:00 pm Bells	3 7pm Boy Scouts	4	5 7pm AA	6 Youth 30-Hour Famine
7 Youth 30-Hour Famine 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacon's Mtg	8	9 6pm Finance 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band	10 7pm Boy Scouts	11	12 7pm AA	13 Women's Day Fair
14 Mother's Day 10:30am Worship	15	16 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band	17 7pm Boy Scouts	18 7pm Council	19 3pm GS Troop 62977 7pm AA	20 10a-1p Antiques Day
21 10:30am Worship Youth Group	22	23 6:30pm Choir 7:00 pm Bells	24 7pm Boy Scouts	25	26 7pm AA	27
28 10:30am Worship	29	30 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band	31 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday—Friday, 9am—12pm. <b>Rev. Edwards' Office Hours:</b> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30am—12:30pm or by appointment.		



Jonathan Brock	Alexa Lee
Althea Chute	Amanda Lee
Brad Chute	John Magro IV
Cameron Davis	Jeffrey Moo9re
Steve DeSisto	Barbara Parsons
Leiana Donovan	Jean Perley
Lorraine Edwards	Mason Pesce
Kyle Gillen	Alexis Wormell
Hannah Lamoureaux	Warren Young

### 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 is lit in May in loving memory of Joe Sheehan  
by Carol, Pam and family.*

### Thank you for the Prayer Shawls

This last month we blessed the shawls for our Prayer Shawl ministry. What a great way to share our prayers with those who may need them. We also use our prayer shawls as a gift for baptisms. Thanks to Gloria Webster, Janice Murphy, Michelle Brock, Ann Kelloway and all those who donated their handwork.  
- Pastor Lorraine



## Greetings from Your Diaconate

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

- Kahlil Gibran

The month of April was one of hope and celebration! And celebrate we did! We, as a church family shared so many glorious moments....too many to name but I hope you were able to participate in some or all of them. I want to thank everyone who gave of their time and talents to lift the spirit of so many.

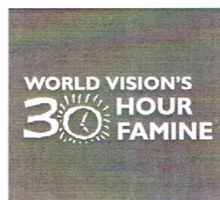
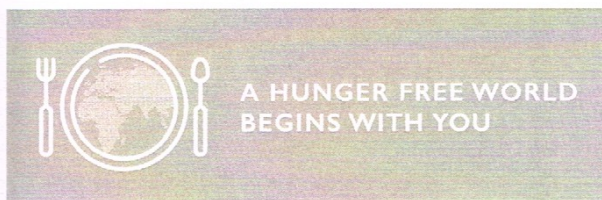
Your church is looking forward to all that spring has to offer. Beginning in May we have so many activities planned, and do hope that you can take some of them, or all of them in! Be sure and check all that is being offered, from a Women's Retreat to share with friends and to

recharge our minds and bodies, to our ever interesting book club, our Sundays with our meaningful services and lively conversation and laughter during our coffee hour....and on and on!!

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!

*Gladie Kneeland, Chair*

**Pentecost is coming:** 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!



## OUR YOUTH GROUP IS DOING WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE.

**WHAT:** For 30 hours, we're going hungry to raise funds to help hungry children around the world.

**WHY:** Every day, nearly 8,000 kids are dying from hunger-related causes. The clock is ticking and we are taking action now!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **Give.** Every \$35 we raise can help feed and care for a child for one month. Make checks out to World Vision and give them to a member of the youth group or the contact person below, or visit our fundraising page at <https://youth.worldvision.org/team/16358>
2. **Pray.** Ask God to bring us together and to help those in need every day.

**WHEN:** May 6th & 7th

**OUR GOAL:** We're raising **\$2,000** to help feed and care for fifty-seven kids for a month.

**CONTACT:** Rich Brock - [rsbrock88@gmail.com](mailto:rsbrock88@gmail.com)



1.800.7.FAMINE (1.800.732.6463) | [30hourfamine.org](http://30hourfamine.org)

30 Hour Famine. Students loving God and fighting hunger.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



## Join Us for Graduation Sunday

Please contact the church office by Monday, May 22nd to let us know who your graduates are.

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.

## 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.

## Welcome to our new Members: Jennifer Harris, Marie Birdsall, and Tom Chaffee!

On April 9th, Palm Passion Sunday, we introduced and welcomed our new members. We are happy to share this faith walk with them. Please say hello to our newest members when you see them.



Dear Church Family,

What a delight to receive the lovely Easter lily! Especially Alecia's wonderful, most welcome visit. Visits like this help to develop cherished friendships within our church family. I am most grateful for the time we shared together.

Thank you.

Fondly,

*Barbara Morehouse*

**We are looking for someone (or more than one) to cover the office on June 22, 27 & 30. Also, possibly July 6th. Please call or email Marilyn at the office.**



Come to the  
**GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**ANTIQUES APPRAISAL DAY!**



**Have your treasures verbally appraised by  
antiques appraiser DAN MEADER  
of McInnis Auctioneers**

**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
10 am to 1 pm**

**At the  
First Congregational Church of Georgetown  
\$5 per item, limit 3 items per person**

For more information, contact GHS at [info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@georgetownhistoricalsociety.com)



We wanted to share some of upcoming events so you can add them to your calendars. More information to follow, but here are some key dates.

May 6-7th      30 Hour Famine

May 21st      Paint Ball (tentative)

**Mark your calendar!**



**Children's Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:rmbjzbrock@gmail.com).

**Women's Guild**

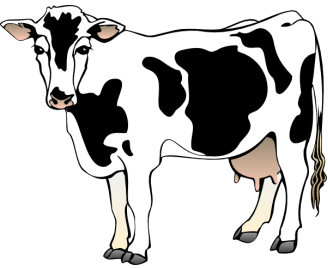


Members will celebrate their **Annual Luncheon Outing**, and final gathering for the season, date to be determined and announced, at the Bradford Tavern. They will receive more information later as to menu choices and price for the luncheon.

# Outreach News

## THE OUTREACH TEAM THANKS YOU!

WE REACHED OUR GOAL OF \$500 TO PURCHASE A COW FOR HEIFER PROJECT! Our congregation's generous response to the recent **CANDY & CRAFT SALE** resulted in reaching our goal to send a cow to one of the poorest areas of our country - the Arkansas Delta. Heifer Project is sponsoring a challenging initiative there to strike at the root of the poverty. They are providing animals, education and cooperatives that will bind small farmers together to boost their buying power and incomes. Heifer Project doesn't just give families their animals. Heifer technicians stay and supervise in order to get small farmers' businesses on solid ground. In supporting Heifer Project for 46 years, we've helped to send animals all over the world. This year we focused our goal on the needs of our own country. We are most grateful for this outcome.



**Our Youth Group is sponsoring the 30-HOUR FAMINE over the weekend of May 6 & 7.** This is their sacrifice to bring awareness to the children who are perishing each day because they don't have enough food. The 30-Hour Famine is a project of **WORLD VISION**, a Christian humanitarian organization devoted to helping children. During our Youth Group's thirty hours of abstaining from food, they will be involved in learning about the *hunger big picture* through games and problem solving. To support our youth in this endeavor, your cash donations or checks, **payable to World Vision**, will be welcomed by the teens and their leaders. If in doubt as to whom to see, please give your donation to Rich Brock. **Please see more information of page 4.**

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
May 31, 2017	<i>Everybody's Fool</i>	Richard Russo	Dee Wyatt Phone: 617-957-6090	Camp Denison (Lodge) 84 Nelson St Georgetown
June 28, 2017	<i>A Man Called Ove</i>	Fredrik Backman	Nancy Aberman Phone: 978-352-2793	199 W. Main St. Georgetown

## Star Island Scholarships Available



Since 1915, 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. Our cherished summer conferences have enriched the lives of generations and deepened the faith of many, and this year's offerings are no exception .

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.

## 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). 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.



## Our Giving Tree is Blooming

Our Giving Tree is again blooming 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 or drop it in the collection plate.

Thank you for your continued support!

## "Coming in June"



## Strawberry Social

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

*More info will be in the June Newsletter*

*Any questions contact Emily Knapp or Janice Murphy*





### Easter thanks!

For all of you who cleaned the church, offered readings and music, gave time to get the Sanctuary ready, provided flowers and shared in the season, a very big thanks for making this an outstanding Easter.

-Season's Blessings, *Pastor Lorraine*

### Women's Retreat

*"I'm still glowing for the fellowship I felt all weekend. I also realize how nice it was to listen to family stories and nice to be listened to. You all are blessings in my life . Thank you."* This was just one of the many comments following the retreat.



## 4th Annual Woman's Day!

The First Congregational Church  
7 Andover Street Georgetown Ma.

**Saturday, May 13th**  
**10:00am - 4:00pm**

**Come and Shop with over 20 vendors!**

**Come try the home made cupcakes at the Cupcake walk!**

**RAFFLES!**

PosterMyWall.com  
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