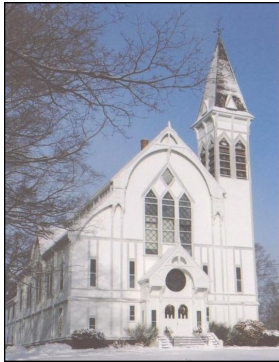


From the Hill



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

April 2018



Something New: It's spring (finally!), and time to step outside and survey our lawns and green spaces. Each

spring my plants seem to pop up in different places from where they were the year before. Some I leave where they pop up, some I move to a new location.

No spring is ever the same. It recalls to me the words of Isaiah 43:19:

*Behold, I will do a new thing,
Now it shall spring forth;
Shall you not know it?*

*I will even make a road in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert. (NKJV)*

This passage always reminds me that with each transition, new beginnings pop up. Our God is ever creating new paths and new opportunities. This is by design. Yes, the new conditions bring challenges with them. But if we invite Christ, who is with us always, into those challenges, they become passages to more possibilities, for:

*God is grace-filled and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding
In steadfast love.
God is good to all,
God's mercy
Is over all that God
Has made.*

Psalm 145:8-9

In these months leading up to me stepping away as your Pastor at the end of June, I think on all the ways we have grown together. With the help of the Spirit, you and I will be led and find new beginnings, for First Church and for you, and for me, as we walk with God through this new season of transition.

Blessings -

Rev Lorraine Edwards



Pen·te·cost 'pen(t)ə,kôst/ *noun*

1. the Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension, held on the seventh Sunday after Easter.
2. the Jewish festival of Shavuoth.

Pentecost is probably one of the lesser known Christian holidays. But it is perhaps one of the most important events in the start of Christianity. And since we are celebrating the 2018 Confirmation Class joining the church on May 20, let's go back and review:

The Jewish community always gathered to celebrate the festival of the first fruits from the harvest-Shavuoth. And at that festival, Jesus' gathered followers experienced the Holy Spirit. That's the simple way to explain it, but what happened in the followers lives was anything but simple.

When the followers have flames over their hands, spoke in tongues, and had the Spirit descend like a dove, they would be changed. None of the Apostles would go back to life as usual. All of them became bold, confident in their life that they would change the world. And they did, each of them started a revelation revolution that ripples and roars across our globe today.

What we ask of the Spirit is nothing short of transformation. And on May 20th, our Confirmands will experience nothing short of transformation. And we also experience on Pentecost Sunday a spiritual transformation that is cooking and rocking our lives. Are you ready to rumble?

Acts 2:1-8,12

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? From every country —we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

May 20, wear red to church, join the revelation revolution!

-Rev Lorraine Edwards

Pentecost

Greetings From the Diaconate

Reflecting on the season of Easter, we are very thankful for everyone who shared their talents and service bringing us moments of joy, remembrance, and expressions of love. The church was bustling with many activities during Holy week, from Maundy Thursday, Saturday's campfire clean-up, to Easter morning worship services.

The diaconate was busy preparing the Maundy Thursday table, Easter cards, flowers, flower delivery, and the Lenten booklet. We gathered to arrange Maundy Thursday's table, which Rev. Lorraine so beautifully and reverently decorated. We were blessed to have many helping hands in arranging the flowers for Easter Sunday's service. As we remember our loved ones through the donations provided for the Easter flowers, we are very grateful for Janice Murphy for ordering and delivering the beautiful flowers.

With much anticipation, we were delighted to read all the thoughtful words, poems, and pictures shared in the Lenten booklet which Emily Knapp compiled for us to enjoy. In reading the booklet, It is so wonderful to see how the Holy Spirit moves and supports each of us in our faith journey.

Easter morning services and meal were a wonderful time to worship God and fellowship with each other. We are thankful for everyone that cleaned the campsite for Sunday morning's Sunrise service. We were welcomed with a colorful campfire, warm hearts, readings from our Confirmands, music to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, and messages of faith. We are thankful for beginning our

fellowship with each over the delicious breakfast that the youth group provided.

As people trickled into the sanctuary for Easter service, we were greeted with powerful organ music, reminding us God's presences. We celebrated the news of Christ's resurrection with the senior choir with the mini-band and the bell choir providing a worshipful expression of music. In hearing the Reverend's words of good news, we are encouraged to enjoy the fullness of forgiveness through Jesus.

In looking back at Holy Week, we are reminded of the season of worship and the passage in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."*

With love, the Diaconate

Confirmation Class 2018 Service Project

PET PROJECT

Please join us in helping animals by donating:

- o Unopened dry or canned cat or dog food.
- o Old, clean, blankets and towels: something to put into cages so animals can be comfy.

Please place your donations in the plastic tub located in the Narthex. These items will be donated to the North Andover Animal Hospital.

Thank you!

Cadynce, Catherine and Tori



Assignment	Day	Task
5/6		Come early to prepare Communion.
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



New Member Sunday will be on May 6th

We will have two Saturday classes to introduce you to First Church, the UCC, and to get to know you better. To become a new member, you must be at least 14 years of age. Contact Rev Lorraine with any questions or an interest in joining at: rev@georgetowncongregational.org.

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 Member-at-Large to the Council is Joanne Kelly.



Hi, you all -

Thanks so much for all the concerns form me. I miss you all.

Love,

Millie Gangloff

I spent a wonderful time on April 17th with the Guild. I would like to thank them for inviting me to share some stories about my Mom and our relationship. I so enjoyed every moment. You 'ladies' are the best!

Thanks again for this opportunity. Remember: "One day, you will be just a memory for some people. Do your best to be a good one"

Gladie Kneeland



**BOOK
CLUB**

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.
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

Outreach News

HEIFER PROJECT CANDY & CRAFT SALE

The Outreach Team In cooperation with Christian Development announce that the **Annual Heifer Project Candy & Craft Sale will be held on May 6**, a week prior to



Mothers' Day. If you like to bake, make candy, or are a crafty person, please consider donating sweets and crafts to this sale. All

donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall prior to worship.

Here are some suggestions for sweets: fudge, peanut butter brittle, rice krispy squares, no-bake cookies, candied popcorn, maple cream and butterscotch candies, decorated cookies or cupcakes, and of course, "Your Own Specialty"! If you can't make something, we encourage you to drop by the table and pick out a gift for Mom, or a special friend, or treat yourself! All purchases are by donation only.



The proceeds will be put toward the purchase of one category of animal that will have been determined at the April 29th worship

service by vote of the congregation. These 2018 animals will be added to literally hundreds of animals that our congregation has donated to Heifer Project over the forty-six years we have supported this mission. It is a mission of hope and happiness, providing livelihoods to families in the United States, Central and South America and overseas. It is the **"Gift that Keeps on Giving."** It is also our Pet Project!



Women's Guild News

MAY LUNCHEON DATE FOR GUILD MEMBERS

The Annual Luncheon outing for Guild members is scheduled for **Thursday, Noon, May 24th at the Bradford Tavern**. Luncheon choices and reservation information were given at the April meeting, or mailed to members. If there is anyone on the membership list, who has not received this information, please contact Joan Chatterton at (978) 352-8033. **The reservation deadline (including the cost of \$14) must be turned in by Sunday, May 20th.**

Church Pantry Sunday is May 6th

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



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.



Jonthan Brock

Althea Chute

Brad Chute

Cameron Davis

Steven DeSisto

Lorraine Edwards

Kyle Gillen

Hannah Lamoureux

Alexa Lee

Amanda Lee

John Magro IV

Jeffrey Moore

Barbara Parsons

Sienna Pasdon

Jean Perley

Mason Pesce

Alexi Wormell

Warren Young

Our Music Ministry

Our music rehearsals are as follows:



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.

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm: 5/1, 5/22



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

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm: 5/8, 5/15, 5/29

Tuesdays @ 7pm: 5/22,



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!!

Tuesday @ 7:00pm: 5/1

Tuesdays @ 7:30pm: 5/8, 5/15, 5/29

We are planning to play on the front lawn again this year for the **Strawberry Social on June 26th!** For those of you not regularly appearing with the band please let me know if you are interested in playing and I'll make sure I have music for you. Here's the schedule:

Mondays @ 7:00pm: 6/11, 6/25

Tuesdays @ 7:30am: 5/15, 5/22, 6/5, 6/12,

Tuesdays at 7:00pm: 5/29, 6/6, 6/20

Sunday @ 11:40am: 6/24




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.



"The Sharing Basket"

There you will find envelopes with dollar amounts indicating on-going church expenses. You are encouraged to take an envelope and donate as you are able. Please look for the display in the Narthex on Easter. We truly appreciate your support."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am -12:00 noon. Rev. Edwards' Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30am—12:30pm or by appointment.						
6 New Member Sunday 10:30am Worship 11:3-am Heifer Candy Sale 11:45am Deacon's Mtg	7 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	1 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 5:45pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Band	2 7pm Boy Scouts	3 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	4 7pm AA	5
13 10:30am Worship Confirmation Mtg.	14 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	8 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 6pm Finance 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Band	9 7pm Boy Scouts	10 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	11 7pm AA	12
20 PENTECOST Confirmation Sunday 10:30am Worship	21 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	22 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Band	23 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Antiques Appraisal	17 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 7pm Council	18 3pm GS Troop 62977 7pm AA	19 12-5pm— Rental
27 10:30am Worship	28 Office Closed 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental	29 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental 6:30pm Choir 7:00 Bell Choir	30 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Book Group 	31 4:30-8:30 Martial Arts Rental		

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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.