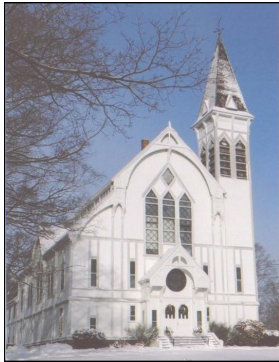


From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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

978-352-8443

Email: churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org
www.georgetowncongregational.org

May 2019



Before looking toward May, I want to celebrate our April journey through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. I love the playfulness of this

church. Not taking ourselves too seriously and being able to tap into the value of fun on occasions such as the Palm Sunday parade makes these experiences more meaningful and impactful for the children present. Plus, it's intrinsically good for us adults to play, too! This past Palm Sunday was no different, and our good crowd of kids plus the bonus, interactive segment teaching us to make crosses from our palms (signifying the Passion Week movement from Palm to Cross) made it a special service for all. The energy and attention of the congregation on Palm Sunday set us up for a solemn, powerful Maundy Thursday service and then a joyful Easter Sunday.

So many of our community members helped bring all these services together in such meaningful ways. The deacons not only provided incredible meals during our Lenten study, they made sure everything ran smoothly for all our Passion Week and Easter services. There are so many details, and they stayed on top of all of them (this is the point in the acknowledgements where the author indicates that any remaining mistakes are her own: so, any missteps or oversights during Passion Week services were mine alone!). And even with all the extra responsibilities, they are always still thinking of ways to bless others. We are so fortunate to have their service. Jessica made sure we had plenty of bulletins,

with beautiful covers, for all the services while still preparing for this newsletter. Also, huge thanks to everyone who got the site at Camp Leslie ready, from hanging signs in windy conditions to readying the campfire to alerting the fire department to our presence to participating in the sunrise service. We returned to the building for a fantastic breakfast prepared by generous volunteers who showed up extra early that morning. The egg hunt was a blast for young and young-at-heart so I am grateful to Christian Development for their coordination and leadership and to everyone who brought eggs (my children are grateful, too). The palms and the flowers in the sanctuary were stunning and the building shining, so another thank you goes out to everyone who helped deliver and arrange the flowers and clean the building. And last but far from least, our music flourished for each of these services, culminating in an incredible Easter music celebration. Many, many thanks to Bob, Emily, and every single person who put in extra practice time and who shared their musical gifts to bless us. What a sacred honor to walk through this season with a community who claims the church as their own and comes together in such beautiful ways.

Looking toward May, we have a lot going on. I am excited to share that on Sunday, May 19th, Reverend Heidi Carrington Heath will be joining us for worship. Heidi is the Interim Chaplain at Phillips Exeter Academy and has served as a UCC minister

(Continued on page 2)

and teacher in Mass and New Hampshire for almost seven years. Heidi is a gifted minister and a dear friend, and she will be preaching on Mental Health Sunday. I am also looking forward to our two new member classes in May. Please let me know if you are interested in finding out more about the UCC, FCC, and membership through these classes.

Another special opportunity: immediately following worship on Sunday, May 12th, Bruce and Susan Dockstader will be renewing their vows to celebrate their marriage fifty years ago in our church. Susan and Bruce are coming into town and thought this would be a meaningful way to honor their anniversary. Everyone is invited to stay for this very brief, special occasion, that honors all the gifts of faithful marriage.

I want to wrap up this article with a special Easter reflection that I hope might stick with you as we live into Easter realities after Easter Sunday.

All blessings to each of you,
Julie

"This year, it feels particularly obvious how much the pain of crucifixion was still so present on the morning of Easter.

It's still so present today.

And so I am especially moved in Luke's Easter story by those brave few who rose at dawn.

When hope was nowhere to be found. When destruction was the only thing in sight. When the loss was so great. Still, they arose and found each other. The women. And maybe the nonbinary folks too. To be together. To bring their spices and tend to the crucified body of God. So courageous, going back to the site of pain. So faithful, refusing to turn from their beloved one's body. So strong, their desire to meet such an ugly reality with such a soft kind of care.

They are the first miracle of Easter.

This is the power of the resurrection, the aliveness of Christ in them, they... the body of Christ still living. They only needed to be reminded of what

they already knew. Like we all do sometimes; especially when the circumstances look grim.

Destruction still persists. Crucifixions continue. And still, something stays alive.

Something in us.

Something that still draws us toward each other vulnerably, fiercely, with hope of overcoming. This is the power of God in us.

The power to find each other; to hold and be held. The power to find and create life in the midst of death-dealing forces. The power to love after loss. The power to keep creating art and music and joy. The power to keep saying no to systems of evil and keep saying yes to our love for each other, to the beauty of the world around us, to the possibilities of creating the worlds we desire.

The tomb is empty.

Christ has risen.

And in us,
will rise again, and again, and again...

May the power of God alive in you bring forth the blessings of love and life and togetherness that persists this day. Now and forever."

Rev. M Barclay

Your Transition Team Is Hard At Work!

The Transition Team is off and running. In the process of creating our church profile, we will be having conversations about who we are as a church, what's important to us, and how we envision who God is calling us to be.

Please find a Transition Team member to share your thoughts and look for more updates.

Bob Knapp, Chair

Susan Stead, Antoinette Jones, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee, and Michelle Brock



Diaconate News

Greetings from the Diaconate!

We pray that this newsletter entry from the Diaconate finds you spiritually filled and nourished from Easter activities. We are writing this as we eagerly prepare for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Sunday Easter services. Inspired by the resurrection story, we are reminded of new life, celebrations, and new opportunities to talk about God's work in our lives, in our community and our church.

We are so very grateful for all the helping hands! God's presence is seen and witnessed as we enter into Holy week, creating a reverent atmosphere, and surrounding each other with faith. Growing as a church, in friendship, and in service, it is amazing and humbling to share time with so many dedicated faithful people! We are looking forward to the church bustling with activities of worship, music, food, palms, flowers, and fellowship.

In experiencing the treasured moments together, we can live the promise in Psalm 105:1-3 "Praise the Lord and pray in his name! Tell everyone what he has done. Sing praises to the Lord! Tell about his miracles. Celebrate and worship his holy name with all your heart." It is a miracle and blessing each day that we have together. As always, we look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

In Christ's Love, Alecia Balduf, Rachel Angerhofer, Kristen Arsenault, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee, Pam Sheehan

Book Club

May 29, 2019 *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

Hostess: Dee Wyatt
Camp Denison Lodge
84 Nelson St
Dee: 617-957-6090

June 26, 2019 *Educated, a Memoir* by Tara Westover

Hostess: Ruth Soper, Gladie Kneeland & Sylvia Johnston
Church
Ruth: 978-352-2500



Stewardship

Our “**Sharing Basket**” has now blossomed for Spring and is located in the Narthex! There are envelopes with dollar amounts indicating on-going church expenses. You are encouraged to take an envelope and donate as you are able. Simply enclose the designated dollar amount and mail or drop it in the collection plate. Thank you very much for your generous spirit.

Blessings to all,
Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and 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 JoEllen Fielding at 978-352-6904.



New Member Sunday will be on June 2nd.

We will have two Sunday classes to introduce you to First Church, the UCC, and to get to know you better; May 5th and 19th. To become a new member, you must be at least 14 years of age. Contact Pastor Julie with any questions or an interest in joining at: rev@georgetowncongregational.org.



2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm Boy Scouts	2	3 7pm AA	4
5 9:30am Bells 10:30am Worship 11:45am Diaconate Meeting 11:45am Bells New Member Class	6	7 Women's Guild Lunch 5:15pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band (no brass)	8 7pm Boy Scouts	9	10 7pm AA	11
12 9:30am Band (no brass) 10:30am Worship	13 6:30pm Band	14 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band 6pm Finance	15 7pm Boy Scouts Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30pm Council Meeting	17 4pm GS 62977 7pm AA	18 Eagle Scouts Rental 11am-1pm
19 9:30am Bells 10:30am Worship New Member Class	20	21 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Brass Georgetown Historical Society Rental 6-9pm	22 6:30pm Band 7pm Boy Scouts	23	24 7pm AA	25
26 9:30am Brass 10:30am Worship No Church School	27 Office Closed	28 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Band	29 Book Club/Camp Denison Lodge 6:30pm Band 7pm Boy Scouts	30 5pm Christian Development Meeting	31 7pm AA	

Outreach News

Our life-giving water project is off and running, everyone! And thank you, all, for your generosity!

The two-Sunday offering in March brought in over \$1,500 in donations. That was a really WOW start. Then we participated in the Lenten Water Challenge where folks sacrificed their special treats in order to enhance the PENNY BOWL earnings at our Coffee Hours. The Challenge ended on Palm Sunday with a random drawing of three names from those people who participated in the Challenge. Prizes, with a water theme, were won by Kai Mavity Maddalena, Joanne Kelly & Mary Ann Nelson. We most heartily thank everyone who entered in!

In coordination with the mission organization THE WATER PROJECT, we have chosen a CLEAN WATER ENDEAVOR in Kenya. Our offerings will be used to help the Musango Community, a remote village of 350 people who will benefit from a "protected spring". The project involves installing pipes that filter clean water to a protected outlet (rather than using runoff from a muddy hill). Stairs built to the collection area will make the water easily accessible (rather than climbing rocky terrain).

If you have friends or family members who would like to assist our congregation in building this protected spring, we have the option to contribute online, through the following link. We encourage everyone to share this endeavor through email and social media. The link is: <https://thewaterproject.org/community/profile/fccgeorgetown>.

Hopefully we'll be bringing this drive to a close at the end of May, or by the beginning of June. Work on the protected

spring will start within this time frame and we'll be able to follow the progress throughout the summer months on social media, and through our church bulletins, emails and Newsletter. The end result will make 350 people, in a small village on the other side of the world, happy, healthier and knowing that the hand of Christianity has reached out to them in a very special way.

Women's Guild

TUESDAY, MAY 7th at NOON

Join us for the Women's Guild Meeting on **Tuesday, May 7th**. This will be a "Bring Your Own Sandwich Lunch". Dessert & Beverage are provided. Our Guest will be Gladie Kneeland who will share her "Crazy Nights At the Boston Garden"! This promises to be a fun afternoon and we're greatly looking forward to a return visit from Gladie.

THANK YOU!

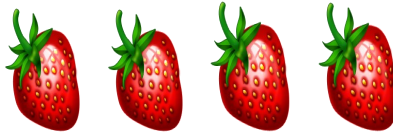
To Rev. Julie and Members of the Diaconate

A sincere thank you for the Lenten Study Series that Rev. Julie facilitated, supported by our dedicated Diaconate. They provided delicious soups and sandwiches for us to enjoy while watching a video presentation, *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, and sharing in discussion of the subject, based on a book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Sceptics*, by Dr. Eric Elnes. Accompanied by Dr. Elnes' observations and insights, the video presentations shared questions and answers with other prominent theologians. The discussions on film led to meaningful conversations within our group. It was an opportunity for reflection that we appreciated.
Joan Chatterton

Save the Date



All-Church Kentucky Derby Potluck Sunday, May 5th! More details are coming, but mark your calendars and tell your friends to join us for lunch after church on May 5th.



*Strawberry Social & Band Concert
June 25th*

*"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*

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 any of the Council Members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared at any time. Our Member-at-Large to the Council is Ruth Soper.



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.



Jonathan Brock

Althea Chute

Brad Chute

Cameron Davis

Steven DeSisto

Kyle Gillen

Hannah Lamoureux

Alexa Lee

Amanda Lee

Jeffrey Moore

Jean Perley

Mason Pesce

Warren Young

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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.