

# ***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](mailto:churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org)

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

**November 2018**



### **November greetings!**

I'm writing this note in the flurry of pre-fair activity. Already the sense of community and camaraderie, the rich memories and traditions, the laughter and the hard work fill the air. My shoulders and legs are sore from my trips up and down the stairs slowly unloading packed classrooms, but I don't care. The muscle twinges are lovely reminders of the fun of pulling together to tackle a big project. I can't wait to see how it all comes together this weekend.

I'm also eagerly anticipating all the new faces who join us for this event. When I woke up this morning, I was greeted by a Facebook feed full of news of national efforts to legally erase the category of "transgender" to describe the reality of a large group of people. A large group of people who already regularly experience exclusion and threats to their safety and basic sense of humanity. My heart aches for people I know well and for people I don't know, who do not feel welcome in their own country.

And while we can certainly respond on a national level to harmful policies, our response on a community level is so critical. Thus, I am so grateful for our church's commitment to being Open and Affirming to people of all genders and sexualities. I know we will welcome everyone who joins us at the fair, and my prayer is that persons who might need to know that welcome more deeply, might sense that welcome and join us for church someday. I know we will welcome them if they give us a try, and I hope we might continue to talk about even more ways of reaching out to people and making our church an even safer community for all who need to know that God loves them and so do we. I have total faith in us.

(continued pg. 3)

## Greetings from the Diaconate

“1 Peter 4:9-10: <sup>9</sup> Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay for the night. <sup>10</sup> God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of blessings. “(The Living Bible)

As we pass through October, blessed by each other’s support, care, and concern we cherish our unity from World Communion Sunday; our unity in supporting those impacted by the tragedy in the Merrimac Valley; and our unity through the Fall Fair.

We are so very blessed by all the devoted people who make the Fall Fair a special event! By opening our church and showing hospitality, we can reflect the love that God gives us for the community and our church. We are so blessed to welcome people to share in our traditions of homemade items, nutritious meals, and delicious baked goods!

As we enter into the Thanksgiving holiday season, we can reflect on all that we are thankful for - loved ones in our lives; precious memories of those who are no longer with us; and a hope-filled future with God’s provision, love, and blessings.

As always, we love you, we appreciate you, and we are so very thankful for all of you!  
-Your Diaconate



## From the Pastor (continued)

Finishing up my second month (wow!), I continue to be so thankful to be walking with this church so full of good people.

Blessings and peace on your November.  
Julie

## 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.

## Light The Church Fund



*Our steeple will be lit in November in memory of loved ones from Marie and Thomas Chaffee.*

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.

## Outreach News

We are excited to announce that the generous gifts, given to the Merrimack Valley Disaster Fund Offering, amounted to \$930; and we're still counting! We are grateful for the support you have given to families in our neighboring towns as they deal with the serious physical, financial, and emotional problems created by last month's explosions. Thanks to everyone. We'll keep you posted.

We are grateful to our Church Family for the continuing support of our Coffee Hour Penny Bowl. Recently we counted up the coins and bills and were able to purchase ninety-one dozen diapers to help small children through the ministry of the Community Giving Tree! Our pocket change and dollar bills are put to good use right here in the Merrimack Valley.

*OUR NEIGHBORS' TABLE* ministry in Amesbury is sponsoring a local Thanksgiving project, and it's not too difficult or too expensive. Next month they will be the recipient of fresh vegetables from neighboring farms and turkeys from the Boston Food Bank. They are asking folks to add the extra Thanksgiving trimmings. If you are interested, please pick up a bag from the Narthex on *Sunday, November 4th*. Stapled to the bag will be a short list of desired items. We ask that the bags be *returned* the following *Sunday, November 11* so that distributions by Our Neighbors' Table may begin on November 13 through the 17th, and will provide Thanksgiving dinners to those who are struggling in twelve neighboring towns, including Georgetown. The six-item list includes: *stuffing mix, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, one or two dessert mixes (such as cookies, cake, brownies) and a \$10 gift certificate to Market Basket.*

THANK YOU FOR CARING AND SHARING!

*We are most grateful for your continued support and enthusiasm for First Church's Outreach Programs. Thank You!*

## Church Pantry

### 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
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

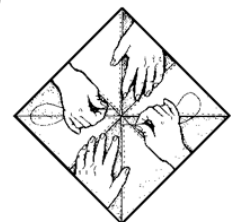
*Work Bee for Baby Quilts*  
*Tuesday, November 6 at 10 a.m.*

\*Guild meeting will continue after lunch

Tying baby quilts and counting change from the Coffee Hour Penny Bowl is on the schedule for two hours in the morning. Quilts, sewn by our experts, Gloria Webster & Millie Gangloff need the finishing touches of tying! No experience necessary. Proceeds will purchase much needed diapers for the *Community Giving Tree*, and will be donated with the quilts in time for Christmas. At **12:00pm** we will break for **lunch** so bring your own sandwich. **1:00pm** we will have "getting to know you" time with our Interim Pastor, Julie, who will share her faith journey with us.

Dessert: Jean Perley, Marion Harding & Nancy Aberman

Devotions: Betty Bruce





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.
Nov. 7, 2018	<b><i>The Preacher's Bride</i></b>	Judy Hedlund ©2010 387 pp.	Joan Chatterton & Elizabeth Thomas 9 Bartlett Drive, Georgetown Joan: 978-352-8033
Dec. 5, 2018	<b><i>I Don't Know How She Does It</i></b>	Allison Pearson ©2002 337 pp.	Karen Young 11 Monroe Street Karen: 978-352-2697
<b>2019</b>			
Jan. 30, 2019	<b><i>The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland</i></b> Non-fiction	Jim DeFede ©2003 256 pp.	JoEllen Fielding & Peggy Smith Church JoEllen: 978-352-6904
Feb. 27, 2019	<b><i>Monticello: a Daughter and Her Father, a novel</i></b>	Sally Cabot Gunning ©2016 384 pp.	Alecia Balduf & Mary Ann Nelson 3 Bayberry Lane Alecia: 978-835-9094
Mar. 27, 2019	<b><i>Evening Class</i></b>	Maeve Binchy ©1997 432 pp.	Nancy Aberman 199 W. Main St. Nancy: 978-352-2793





## Golf Outing a Success

September 23<sup>rd</sup> was a beautiful, sunny day, just perfect for the First Congregational Church' Semi-Regular Golf Extravaganza.

Fourteen golfers assembled at Far Corner Golf Course in Boxford and played 18 holes with a Best Ball format followed by a hamburgers and hot dogs dinner.

The fund raiser, which is considered part of the Fall Fair effort, netted **\$1013** for the Church and a good time was had by all. Among the golfers were Rich Brock, Steve Pinto, Joanne Kelly, Kirsten and Sam Orender, Richard Aberman, George Comiskey and Pastor Julie and her husband, Mike Maddalena. Helping to sponsor the event were Toni Cassidy, Alicia Balduf, Mary Ann Nelson and Jeff Orender.

Many thanks to everyone for their support in making this event a success.

### Have You Started Christmas Shopping?

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown is now set up to receive a percentage of your purchase amount when you shop AmazonSmile.

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

- sign in or sign up
- find the dropdown for your account
- find Your AmazonSmile on the list & click on it
- change or select a charity—put in First Congregational Church of Georgetown (there will be 2 options, one is Boxford) "select" Georgetown to set your Smile account
- You are all set to shop and the church will benefit from your purchases.

When you shop, be sure to go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) for the church



The First Congregational Church of Georgetown

## FALL HARVEST FAIR



Fri. Oct. 26th 10:00-5:00pm & Sat. Oct. 27th 9:00-3:00pm

Lobster Roll & Chicken Salad Roll

Friday 11:30am - 1:00pm

ORDER 4 or more and get free delivery!

CALL 978-352-8443



Chili & chowder!



**TAG SALE- Rummage Sale!**

*Doors open promptly at 10:00am on Friday!*

*Don't miss out on all the great deals!*



**Cookie walk!**



**Looking for that special outfit?**

Stop by our Boutique we have beautiful gently used clothing for women, and children!



Jump start the Holiday Season and start shopping this weekend! Featuring unique creations & products from over 20 vendors!

Delicious Turkey Dinner with all the fixings!

*Saturday night 5:00pm*

*Adults \$11.00 - Kids 10 and under \$6.00*



**Over 40 Prizes!  
Raffle Tickets  
\$1.00**



**Home made PIES!**



***“But behold, if we go, what shall we bring?”***

Stewardship season is upon us, and this year’s theme is **“But behold, if we go, what shall we bring?”** Soon you will receive pledge material by mail. We have designated November 18<sup>th</sup> as Stewardship Sunday. During the first three Sundays of the month we will have speakers in church who will share stories of the blessings they have received as members of this church. We encourage you to begin to think of what the church means to you and to give prayerful consideration to your pledge for the coming year.

Blessings and Peace,

*Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey & Sylvia Johnston*

*“The Stewardship Team”*



### **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.



**Thomas Chaffee**

**Katherine Desisto**

**Carol Gaffney**

**Nicole Galley**

**Barry Games**

**Timothy Lee**

**Nicolas Lucido**

**Sadie Lucido**

**Sam Perley**

**Edward Powell**

**Philip Rosene**

**David Stewart**

**Gloria Webster**

# NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am-12:00 noon.						
4 9:30am Bell Practice 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacon's Mtg	5	6 5:45pm Staff Mtg	7 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Book Club 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Band Practice	8	9 7pm AA	10
11 9:30am Band Practice 10:30am Worship	12	13 6pm Finance	14 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Bell Practice	15 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	16 4pm GS Troop 62977 7pm AA	17
18 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Choir 6:45pm Bells	19 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Bell Practice	20 6:00pm Choir Thanksgiving Service 7pm Community Worship	21 7pm Boy Scouts	22 Office Closed Rental	23 Office Closed 7pm AA	24
25 9:30am Bell Practice 10:30am Worship	26	27 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Band Practice	28 7pm Boy Scouts	29	30	



## 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.



## 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

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November 4th @ 2am

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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.