

From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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October 2020

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

*You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all your heart.*
Jeremiah 29:13

Dear Friends, This morning I enjoyed listening to the recording of the October 4 worship service, especially the deacons' wonderful reflections on comfort. They've prompted me to some further reflections about knowing God's comfort and even joy during these painful, uncertain times.

Creating an Atmosphere of Worship at Home

One thing we've learned from this season of COVID is that meaningful worship can and does take place throughout the week, even in places outside of the church sanctuary. In the tradition of Hygge, we can facilitate calm and worship and reflection in our homes by creating physical areas that feel like mini-sanctuaries or places of retreat.

Most likely you have a nook, a favorite chair, or even a shelf, table top or other small area that you can use. You don't need much room to create a space that can minimize distractions and help you focus on God. I like to light a candle to remind me of Jesus, the Light of the World, just as we light candles in the church sanctuary. You might also have a journal on hand for noting prayer requests or for recording your thoughts or experiences of the quiet. I also keep my Bible and a devotional on hand, less for study than for meditation on God's character and presence and love. You may like to include gentle music or wind chimes or other elements that create for you a worshipful atmosphere.

In addition to deepening our individual relationships with God, time spent in sacred spaces at home can also promote health benefits. Calming the mind and relaxing are widely considered integral in healing our bodies and in cultivating resilience.

Seeing Uncertainties as a Challenge Rather Than a Threat

I loved the reflections on humor, and how humor can help us see some of the bad things that happen to us as *challenges* rather than *threats*. If we can't change our circumstances, we can at least change how we view them. Perspective makes all the difference.

I've been thinking a lot about the church fair because it figures so significantly in the memories and stories you've shared as a congregation. How might you recreate some of your traditional experiences around the fair? If you can't come together to bake pies, maybe you could bake together virtually via Zoom. Or maybe you could create a How to Bake an Apple Pie online course to offer as an outreach fundraiser.

Be creative! Remember your favorite, funniest moments together! Embrace the challenge of expanding your fair traditions so that they can reach into the realities of daily life during this pandemic. You may even discover new sources of comfort and joy in the process.

Learning from Pooh

In 2016, Bruce G. Epperly published a book called *The Gospel According to Winnie the Pooh*. It's a Christian reflection on the residents of the 100 Acre Wood and how they reflect Christ in their world.

Christ's very act of self-offering is the crux of the Gospel that offers us the security of God's everlasting arms beneath us and the certainty of eternal life to come. As Christopher Robin once said to Pooh, "Forever isn't long at all when I'm with you." Friends, Jesus is with us. Jesus will always be with us. I hope you will take comfort in that unchanging certainty.

In Christ's sure love, Dallas

Greetings From the Diaconate

Imagine here we are beginning our autumn season! Even with all of the uncertainty and worries that seem to dwell within all of us, we must admit time flies! Fall, what a beautiful season and we here in Georgetown are so lucky to witness this time of the year when we unpack the flannel sheets, down comforters and heavy sweaters....feeling that refreshing crispness. We smile as we hear the geese with their 'fall like' song flying high above us, the squirrels hurrying to gather

their winter supplies and the shorter days.

Fall is different for us this year, here at church. "Normally" our Church Fair is on our minds, the pie baking fun, the committees organizing their helpers and the true feeling of love, family, and working together is most evident. We will miss this, and we will miss it a lot. There is no getting around it, it is a huge part of our tradition....so let's try to exchange our disappointments for sharing precious memories of our past fairs. Looking forward is so important and never more than now.

I like to think of this 'new' season with reference to old houses. I, as many of you know, live in an old house. I don't think of it as haunted but I like to think of the spirits of tranquility and graciousness that planned, protected and cherished all who have lived here through the years. The influence of many have welcomed our presence here. So it is with our church. Many have gone before us, many have had huge challenges and so has our church. Our church building, old and beautiful, has seen so much. I truly believe we must hold fast to our faith in our God to bring us through this exceptional time. We will be able to look back and know our faith, our care and our love for our Church Family has brought us through.

So, as always, your deacons, Antoinette, Emily, Marie, Pam and Rachel are here for you. To share your joys, your worries, and above all your Faith. We all wish you the eyes to behold God's paintbrush with the New England colors, the ears to hear the Geese heading off, the smell of a pumpkin pie, and the taste of a crisp apple.

Stay cozy and embrace the enchantments of autumn.

Gladie Kneeland, Chair





From JT Turner

Thank you so much for your kindness, hospitality, and technical genius! I so thoroughly enjoyed preaching for the church this morning, and had such a great time briefly chatting with people during virtual coffee hour. I was so happy that the reverend's message and mine dovetailed so well.

Truly an honor. Sending you and the whole congregation positive energy.

-JT Turner

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 Janice Murphy.



Christian Development

Sunday School

Sunday School classes have begun! While classes are typically available for all children from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade, adjustments are being made due to the pandemic.

Our top priority is the safety of your children. As a result, classrooms will not be used for Sunday School lessons. Classes will either occur on the front lawn (weather permitting) or virtually.

Sunday School lessons will start at 9:45 AM each Sunday morning. If you'd like your child to attend, please complete the attached form or visit our website at www.fccgeorgetownma.org for more information. Sign-up sheets will also be available at the church.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ssctech.zoom.us/j/7628970602>

Meeting ID: 762 897 0602

Teachers

We are in need of individuals who are willing to provide one hour of their time on a given Sunday to teach the children of our congregation the lessons of Jesus and Christianity. The Christian Development team will provide the instructions, tools and assistance to all our teachers. If you are interested in assisting, please complete the attached sign up form or visit our website for more information.

**First Congregational Church
Sunday School Registration Form**

Entering Grade _____

New _____

School Year 2020-2021

Returning _____

Name of Student _____

Birth Date: _____ Age (as of 9/1/20) _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Family e-mail address: _____

Additional parent name (if different): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Siblings Name(s): _____ DOB: _____

_____ DOB: _____

_____ DOB: _____

Emergency Contact (other than parent):

Name: _____ Relationship _____

Phone: _____ Cell _____

Any information about your child that might help his/her teacher:

Allergies? _____

Sensitivities _____

Special needs _____

Planned absences such as sports activities or every-other-week arrangements, etc.

I give the First Congregational Church of Georgetown permission to take pictures and to use pictures of my child in any of their publications (newsletters, bulletins, brochures, public relations materials, etc.)

Signed & Date: _____

We look forward to serving you and your child/children in the year ahead.



Each month we meet to talk about books selected by book club members. Meetings are held in different houses or at the church. If you are interested in attending, 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 books that will be discussed 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	TBA
February 24	<i>Simon the Fiddler</i> ©2020	Paulette Jiles	TBA
March 31	<i>In the Country of Women: a memoir</i> ©2019	Susan Straight	TBA
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



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.



Dallas Bradel

Joan Chatterton

Alex Chute

Kristen Davis

Bridget Edwards

Melissa Edwards

Scott Edwards

Sylvia George

Austin Greenfield

Jessica Lee

Sharon Lee

Carter Lucido

Robert Morehouse

Megan O'Grady

Ryan Quimby

Emma-Kate Winter

We have PayPal!



Go to our website and donate or pay for church fundraisers using your debit card; you can earn points and help our church too! Remember, we get 93% of what you give. Please send an email message to the church office and let us know about your donation.



Looking back

60 Years ago:

Annual Meeting Held. (From our Incorporation in 1954 until 1962 the church year was September to August)

The sanctuary was "egged" and the bell rope was cut on Halloween. (We didn't lock the church back then!)

50 Years ago:

Our choir participated in a multiple choir concert at St. James Episcopal church to benefit the Riverside Memorial church.

Autumn Annual Meeting (From 1963 until 1971 we held a meeting in October to elect officers & board members and approve a budget for the following year. The "regular" Annual meeting was held the succeeding January, as it is today.)

Pilgrim Fellowship paper drive

Richard & Marion Harding become members

40 Years ago:

"Ye Olde" Church Fair chaired by Carol Knapp and Bob Houlden

30 Years ago:

"Through the Looking Glass" Fair chaired by Jan Robertson and Cathie Southwick

Rev. Phil Southwick's 25th year as pastor celebrated with a dinner and presentation of a water-color painting of his summer home in Gloucester.

20 Years ago:

"Magical Mystery" Fair chaired by Donna DeSisto and Gayle Fehlmann

10 Years ago:

Fair chaired by Michelle Brock and Deb Lamoureaux

4th "Annual" Golf event

New boiler installed in original part of the church building



October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:45 am Sunday School Adult 848 5881 7643 Passcode 477009 Children 762 897 0602 10:30 am Worship	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:45 am Sunday School Adult 848 5881 7643 Passcode 477009 Children 762 897 0602 10:30 am Worship	12	13 6:00 pm Finance 6:30 pm All Church Visioning follow-up	14	15 6:30 pm Council	16	17
18 9:45 am Sunday School Adult 848 5881 7643 Passcode 477009 Children 762 897 0602 10:30 am Worship	19	20	21	22 6:00 pm Christian Development	23	24
25 9:45 am Sunday School Adult 848 5881 7643 Passcode 477009 Children 762 897 0602 10:30 am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

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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.