

# 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)

Summer 2019



I have been dreading writing for this newsletter because it means our time together is drawing to a close. I have also been looking forward to it as it gives me a chance to tell you just how much I have loved and appreciated our time together

this past year. I want to thank each and every one of you for welcoming me and my family here with open arms from the very beginning. You have been gracious, kind, encouraging, affirming, and so much fun. You have shared with me your joys and your heartaches as well as the realities of daily living. It has been such an honor, joy, and privilege to walk with you and to know you.

Churches at their best can be communities that show God's radical love and care in the most powerful ways imaginable. Churches can also be toxic and damaging. I have been closely connected with churches of all varieties, and I want you to know that this church has blown me away. You extend to each other the same care, concern, and positive regard you have shown me. You don't ignore mistakes and human foibles, but you don't let them define anyone. You show up for each other, with enthusiasm, energy, and generosity. You are open to change and growth, and your good nature makes this church truly family friendly (your patience with my children's antics, particularly when I want to melt into the floor with embarrassment, has been such a gift).

So many of you have given to this church of your time, talents, and treasures for so long (I have also loved hearing the stories from years past). I know that you want this church to continue to grow and thrive and to be even more of a presence in the community. I have total faith that you have the foundation and the building blocks to thrive in new, dynamic ways (while keeping your beautiful

traditions and gifts) in the coming years. You will be in my thoughts and prayers always, and I will be praying in particular for a minister who loves you fiercely and appreciates all you have to offer. A minister who can partner with you to shine with God's love for each other, for Georgetown, and for the broader world.

I leave you with my gratitude, love, prayers, and a final blessing from Jan Richardson, one of my favorite poet-theologians.

In God's hands,  
Julie

### "Blessing That Does Not End"

From the moment  
it first laid eyes  
on you,  
this blessing loved you.

This blessing  
knew you  
from the start.

It cannot explain how.

It just knows  
that the first time  
it sat down beside you,  
it entered into a conversation  
that had already been going on  
forever.

Believe this conversation  
has not stopped.

Believe this love

(Continued on page 2)

## Pastor Continued...

still lives—the love that crossed

an impossible distance  
to reach you,  
to find you,  
to take your face  
into its hands  
and bless you.  
Believe this  
does not end—  
that the gesture,  
once enacted,  
endures.

Believe this love  
goes on—  
that it still  
takes your face  
into its hands,  
that it presses  
its forehead to yours  
as it speaks to you  
in undying words,  
that it has never ceased  
to gather your heart  
into its heart.

Believe this blessing  
abides.  
Believe it goes with you  
always.  
Believe it knows you  
still.

## Greetings From the Diaconate

As Hebrews 10:25 says, “And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ’s return approaching.”

Sunday, June 30th marks the last Sunday service until September 8th, when we will join together for Rally Day. Our Summer Schedule begins on Wednesday, July 10th with a light supper at 6:30 and worship starting at 7:00pm. Please join us, bring a friend, neighbor or family member. Our last Wednesday service will be on September 4th. The Diaconate is lining up speakers and backup Pastoral Care for the summer starting at the end of July. Please contact the church office at 978-352-8443, Alecia Balduf at 978-835-9094 or Marie Birdsall-Chaffee 617-797-2252 when needed.

With Love,  
Alecia, Marie, Pam, Rachel, and Kristen



A heartfelt thank you to *Sylvia Johnston, Mary Ann Nelson, Joan Chatterton and Martha Lucius* for helping with the newsletter each month. I am grateful to have the support of people like you.

Thank you so much,  
*Jessica*

## Thank You



Dear Julie, Members of the first Congregational Church of Georgetown, Club members and dear friends of Elisabeth and all who contributed in honoring my aunt Elisabeth with the most beautiful service,

THANK YOU WITH ALL MY HEART.

I wish to send you my sincere gratitude for providing a perfect memorial to "Queen Elisabeth". I wish I was able to convey how much I appreciate everything that every person has done to create a lasting tribute to Elisabeth and celebrating her life with a beautiful and elegant service.

Each of you live your lives with grace and love and shared those lives and love with Elisabeth. I am very grateful to each and every one of you for the service to send our love to Elisabeth in Heaven.

I can barely eke oh my daily tasks and I am in awe of all you have done. You are amazing! The music was exquisite, Emily on the Oregon, the trumpet playing, the hymns, to Bob and the members of the bell choir a special thank you for the lovely "How Great Thou Are", making the service even more special.

Thank you, Jamie for selecting the artfully arranged flowers for the service. Phyllis, thank you for the soulful scripture reading. Thank you to those who designed a perfect program to celebrate Elisabeth's life. Thank you to Mary Ann and Faith for sharing your touching memories. Thank you to Julie for bringing the service all together and for the lovely reflections of Elisabeth.

Thank you, Carol, for lighting the candle to honor Elisabeth. Thank you to the bell ringers who celebrated each year of her life. Thank you to Barbara and the 'breakfast club' for the lovely flower arrangement for a wonderful reception. Thank you to Joan and the Women's Guild for an elegant reception with table cloths, tea cups, fresh flowers and an abundant display of homemade delicious treats.

I know Elisabeth was smiling with the display of your love and hospitality. Thank you for sending Linda and I home with delectable goodies and Elisabeth's special tea cup to always remember her and you. Thank you to those who arranged, set up and cleaned up, providing a splendid tribute to a special woman, Elisabeth.

To all of you, who helped to create a perfect service to honor Elisabeth and reflect on who she was as well as the care and love you shared. It was very special to meet, spend time and remember my aunt with such lovely, kind and thoughtful individuals. I am eternally grateful that Elisabeth was able to share her life with you.

Sincerely,  
Renate Jaacks

## FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

As of the writing of this Newsletter, we do not have enough information about the village in Kenya that we will be helping with our safe water offerings. Please look for this information a little later in the summer. We assure you that we WILL be bringing safe water to a village very soon through the work of The Water Project organization.

In the meantime, it's not too early to speak about school supplies that will be collected from mid-July to mid-August. They will be distributed through Ruth's House in Haverhill to needy families in the Greater Haverhill area early in September. Believe us when we say that the folks at Ruth's House greatly appreciate our contributions.

Enjoy the summer months, and especially our Wednesday evening summer services!  
Joan Chatterton, for the Outreach Team

## 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.



Richard Aberman  
Rachel Angerhofer  
Erik Bratland  
Jillian Bridges  
Katie Bridges  
Jenai Dougherty  
Mildred Gangloff  
Jeff Gillen

Kelly Gillen  
Nick Moore  
Paul Nelson  
Kinslee Norton-Graffum  
Victoria Orender  
David Smith  
Ruth Stewart



Pat Barlow  
Jack Cliffe  
Christine Comiskey  
Tim Dougherty  
Nicholas Herda  
Sylvia Johnston

Lauren Kalfin  
Ryan Litch  
Jennifer Lutes  
Janice Murphy  
Mary Ann Nelson  
Sam Orender

## 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.

# Church Pantry

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11:30

Non-perishable protein foods are appreciated. We have several families and single adults who use the pantry. Pets are cared for too!

*Gift Cards are gladly accepted to enable families to purchase fresh produce, meat, eggs and milk.*

## Suggestions:

Juice and juice boxes

Canned tuna & chicken

Mayonnaise

Spaghetti sauce

Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate

Canned Pasta Meals

Chowders & Stews

Shampoo, TP, Paper towels

Please, NO SOUPS/PASTA needed.



## Summer Hours Begin July 2nd

During the Summer, the office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Summer office hours begin, July 2nd and continue will continue through Thursday, August 29th.

Remember we hold worship services on Wednesday evenings.

The last Sunday service will be June 30th and the **first Wednesday service will be on July 10th.**

We will conclude our summer worship on September 4th, with our Sunday Services to resume on September 8<sup>th</sup>, which is Rally Day.



There will be a **Christian Development** meeting on **Thursday, August 22 at 5:30pm.** Please come and find out about this ministry and help plan a year that will be exciting for the children of our church.



*Save the Date!*  
*October 25th and 26th*

# Annual Fall Harvest Fair

CHIC BOUTIQUE

**RAFFLES**

**HOMEMADE  
PIES!  
COOKIE WALK!**

**RED TAG SALE**

**SATURDAY  
NIGHT  
TURKEY  
DINNER**

**Artisans & Crafters**





***We are looking for all  
those treasures  
you found in the  
attic, basement and  
closets!***

***We are looking for items in clean and usable condition, no sporting equipment, no stuffed animals, no old computers/out-of-date electronics.***

***Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm***

***You may bring them to:  
The First Congregational Church  
7 Andover St. Georgetown Mass  
(Please use the office entrance on Clark St.)  
And put them in the downstairs  
corner classroom.***

***Contact the Church office for more details.  
978-352-8443 [curchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org](mailto:curchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org)***



# 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Happy Independence Day	5 7pm AA	6
7	8	9	10 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship	11	12 7pm AA	13
14	15	16	17 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship	18 7pm Council	19 7pm AA	20
21	22	23	24 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship	25	26 7pm AA	27
28	29	30	31 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship			





# 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7pm AA	3
4	5	6	7 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship	8	9 7pm AA	10
11	12	13	14 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship	15 7pm Council <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	16 7pm AA	17
18	19	20	21 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship	22 5:30pm Christian Development Meeting	23 7pm AA	24
25	26	27	28 6:30pm Supper 7pm Worship	29	30 7pm AA	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.