

From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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

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Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org

Website: www.fccgeorgetownma.org

April 2021

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Georgetown!

We extend to you a wide- open, extravagant welcome!

So, welcome to church!

Welcome to you if you live right next door or are connected from states far away like Texas or Florida, Maine or Maryland. Wherever you are, you are welcome to worship with FCC.

Welcome if you have been part of this church your whole life or this is all a bit new to you.

Welcome if you are young or old, male or female, rich or poor, married or single, gay or straight, or some wonderful mixture of all these things!

Welcome to you if you are hurting today, and in need healing - we are with you and you are not alone!

Welcome if you are ready to rock the world with your vim and vigor, or if you are snuggled up on your couch with no plans of

any kind as you read this.

Welcome if your faith is deep and strong, or if you don't know what you believe or what *to* believe...

Somehow, God has brought us together to be with one another in spirit, to be a congregation together, to join as family, as this church family.

Know that you are welcome here at FCC Georgetown.





Maundy Thursday Worship Service via Zoom
April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Service Hybrid- In-person/Zoom
Register to reserve your space online!
April 4, 10:30 a.m.

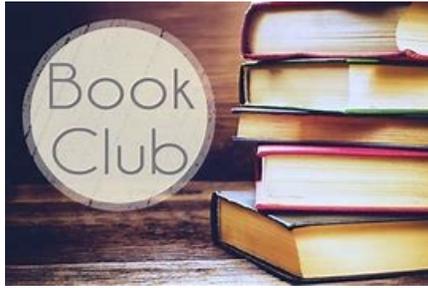
[Join Zoom Easter Worship](https://zoom.us/j/95881523357)
<https://zoom.us/j/95881523357>
Meeting ID: 958 8152 3357

Stay connected with First Church and your church family via email, Facebook, and our webpage! www.fccgeorgetownma.org



Save the dates!





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.

Zoom Meeting for Book Club
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85759618690>
Meeting ID: 857 5961 8690
Passcode: 527292

- April 28 *The Last Train to Key West* by Chanel Cleeton
- May 26 *Coco Chanel: Pearls, Perfume and the Little Black Dress* by Susan Goldman Rubin
- June 23 *The Cactus* by Sarah Haywood



Go to www.georgetowncongregational.org to donate to First Church. Remember, we get 93% of what you give. Please send an email message to the church office to let us know about your donation, and if it should go to a particular designation.

April Birthdays



Emily Aberman

Zachary Brock

Elizabeth (Kalfin)
Jones

Lee Ames

JoEllen Fielding

Deb Lamoureaux

Michelle Brock

Henry Gervais



Thank you!!

Thank you for prayers. Thank you for the cards—all the cards. Thank you for the calls. What a wonderful church family we have and I so appreciate all of you!!

With love and gratitude,
Shirley Powell

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 978-518-7859.



New!! Men's Fellowship

Men! We are starting a Men's Fellowship Group. The group could be a monthly breakfast get together, a monthly work time, or a time for spiritual development, or combination of all these. Come join us at 7 pm on Tuesday April 5th for a zoom meeting. This meeting will be to talk and brainstorm about what each one of us would like this group to look like. We don't need to come up with all the answers, but let's start this conversation.

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 any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared as well at any time.

Your Member-at-Large is Susan Stead.

Stewardship

On behalf of the FCC of Georgetown, we want to thank you for your pledges and donations. We realize that life can be a challenge, especially during these difficult times. What we are able to accomplish depends on the generosity of the entire church family. We truly appreciate your commitment and remember.....Every gift makes a difference!

Sincerely,

The Stewardship Team
Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and Sylvia Johnston

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

Diaconate News

Spring has been beckoning us with her soft breezes and her colors peeking out from the winter browns and grays of the soil. We feel a sudden joy when walking outside either to our car or a longer walk to shake the cold from our heads. We feel this joy as we see a green sprout, promising a happy yellow daffodil, or the rich and heady fragrance of the beloved hyacinth. This my friends is our call from God that hope abounds and the seasons ahead will warm us inside and out!

The description above could also be used to describe our Easter. Although Easter arrived early this year, that same hope and warmth stays with us. Although we shared most of Holy Week with each other through zoom, we were able to share our traditional Easter service, with all its glory in person. How fortunate we are to have such musical talent to soothe our souls and excite our ears! Emily, Bob and all those who share their God given talent with us...thank you!!

A very special thank you to everyone who made this Easter Holy Week so special. To start let's open our hearts with thankfulness for our very own Pastor Holly. Her care, her messages and her ever present positive outlook have reached each and every one of us. Thank you to all the readers on Sundays, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Your voices spoke so clearly of our beliefs. A heart-felt thank you to JoEllen and Karen for their work on mending and cleaning our altar cloths. It was a 'job' we have discussed for some time and never got to it....by asking the two sisters to complete it....it was done, and done with love and care.

Rich Brock, our Moderator, together with our wonderful team of deacons (Antoinette, Emily, Pam, and Rachel) are certainly worthy of mention. Their boundless energy and their many ideas are so important in the 'life of our church'.

To those who wrote, filled and placed our "Easter messages" in the eggs and in the basket for our entire community to enjoy...to Jaime Krenn, for her help obtaining and making sure our palms were available for everyone, socially distanced of course. To Kim, for the glistening sanctuary, to Jessica, our church manager for all the many ways you keep us organized in such a busy month. To all who donated to the Easter Memorial Flowers and those who delivered them, a giant thank you. A special prayer of wellness and comfort for June, (Janice Murphy's friend), who in years past provided us with our beautiful lilies and tulips.

As always, our Community of God is precious. Our church family boosts us up when our world is overwhelming, when we feel hurt or lost, or on the flip side, our church family always shares our joys and happiness so much that our hearts swell!

Happy Spring!

Gladie Kneeland, Chair





Looking Back

60 years ago:

The Couples Club presents a play in Fellowship Hall.

50 years ago:

Ham & Bean Supper

New members join at Maundy Thursday service.

40 years ago:

Among those joining the church-

Beth & Wendal Arsenault (parents of Kristen)

Wendy Harding (daughter of Marion)

Diane Townsend (Rawlins)

The local Organist Guild holds a concert in our sanctuary. A number of area organists perform on our 1874 Joel Butler tracker-action organ.

30 years ago:

First performance during worship of the World's Most Dangerous Church Band.

20 years ago:

Among those joining the church - Sharon Lee



Many Voices Joined in Worship!

Please email Pastor Holly (pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org) if you are interested in being a lay reader and she will add you to the sign-up calendar.



Dear Ones,

Happy April to you! April always fills me with the warmth of renewal. It is a time for new plants to poke up, a time for the birds to sing loudly into the early morning sky, a time to take that early morning coffee out into the yard to see what came up the night before while I was sleeping. And it is a time for the bunnies to come looking for the fresh green nourishment. With some consternation, I have found that Stew, the rabbit, is back in my yard and I've *already* given up on some of the crocuses.

Thankfully, I have this new neighborhood to explore around the church this spring. I have taken advantage of my afternoon walks to get to know the roads of Georgetown a bit. I so enjoy watching other people's crocuses (successfully) bloom amidst the leftover winter leaves in yards along my walking route. The daffodils likewise provide reassurance of yet warmer days still. The tulips and other bulbs aren't far behind - that is if the squirrels and bunnies don't get them as they poke out of the ground. Alas, we are called to share the beauty of this earth, things we planted as well as gracious gifts that God provides without any human effort. We are stewards of this beauty, and we share it with our fellow creatures who reside nearby- even the foxes and deer and who ever else calls the North Shore home.

Since time immemorial, we have been called to steward all nature in our midst. Our Scriptures are full of instruction and reminders of this important role. *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness there of, the world and all who dwell in it."* (Psalm 24:1) And, *"I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things . . ."* (Jeremiah 2:7a)

And, it all started with Genesis - when we were created and then made stewards of all of God's creation:

"Then God said, "Let us make (human) in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Note this word, "dominion," which means that we would be overseeing the care of **all** - not to destroy or "dominate" but to steward; to take good care of it all. Oh, how we humans have misused this notion of "dominion."

Let us remember this spring, as we lean into April and warmer days, that we are stewards of all we see, plants, animals, creatures of every kind that meet along the way. Let us lend to the earth's continued healing, each doing our part to be mindful of what and how we plant and even if it means putting up with Stew, the rabbit who will so enjoy much of the "bounty" that we plant.

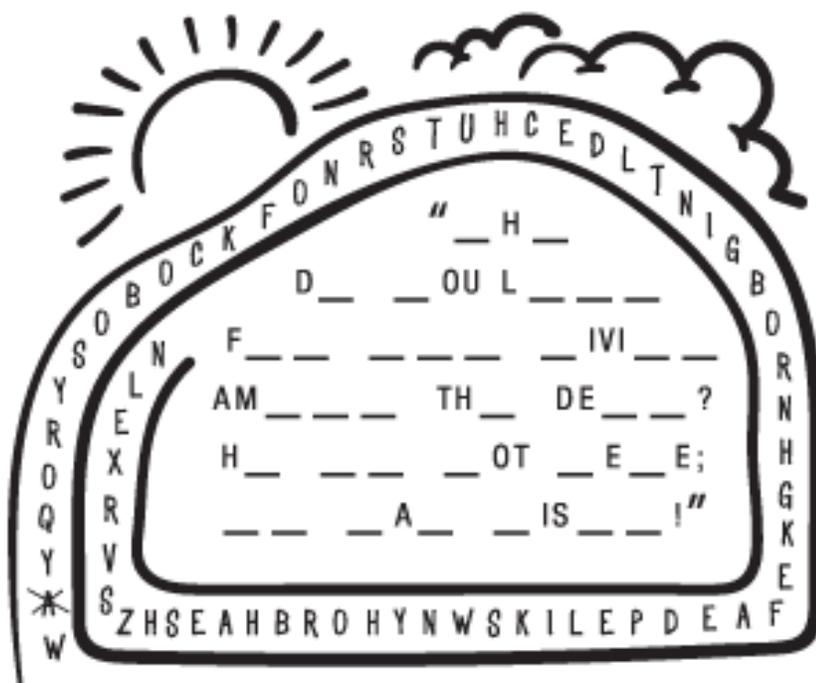
With blessings of Spring, Pastor Holly



EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!



April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday 7pm via zoom	2 Good Friday	3
4 Happy Easter! 9:30 AM Bells 10:30 AM Hybrid Worship In-person and via zoom	5 Men's Group 7 PM	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 AM Worship	12	13 6 PM Finance 7:00 PM Bells	14 NewsLetter DEADLINE	15	16	17
18 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Diaconate	19 Office Closed	20 7:00 PM Bells	21 6:30 PM Council	22 Earth Day 6 PM CD Meeting	23	24
25 9:30 AM Bells 10:30 AM Worship	26	27 7:00 PM Bells	28 Book Group 7 PM	29	30	

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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.

Open and Affirming Covenant Statement:

Guided by the love of God, First Congregational Church Georgetown Massachusetts seeks to be a welcoming community of healing, hope, and hospitality. We celebrate the diversity that God created and seek to reflect that diversity in our community of faith.

Our faith leads us to follow God’s example and welcome all persons, including those of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, faith background, family structure, marital status, physical and mental abilities, and economic circumstances into the full life and ministry of the congregation.

All individuals are welcome to join in our common life and mission as leaders and participants, fully sharing the worship, rights, and sacraments of this church.