

# *From the Hill*



## *First Congregational Church of Georgetown*

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**May 2021**

Dear Ones,

We have a lot to pray about these days! There is so much to lift up to God -- for blessing, for comfort, for healing, for solace, for strength, for clarity of mind, in sorrow or in grief. Prayers for the world can take up a good 30 minutes if we read the paper! *"Oh God, Our Help . . ."* goes the old hymn. And there are many equally valid reasons to rejoice in prayer - lifting up joys, successes (little and big) , prayers of thanksgiving, for healing realized, for life preserved, for new life (babies!). *"To Thine be the Glory . . ."* goes the old hymn.

For someone who is working to stay close to the Divine, to Perfect Love, to God, the list of prayers might lead them to spend each and everyday in constant prayer. I strive for this, *and* I'm a work-in-progress, I have a long way to go. You may be thinking that as a pastor this kind of thing would come naturally to me. Not so! And I know plenty of other clergy types who also struggle with prayer. I wonder if you do too. Even though we have a lot to prayer about doesn't mean we are very good at it. It is a practice, and as disciples we are called to practice, practice, practice.

So far, I have learned that prayers are best left simple, in plain language, or no language. As Paul writes to the Romans, *" . . . Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."* (Romans 8:26)

And, the Psalms are great inspiration for prayer, as they are prayers brought to music. And as the old saying goes, "when we sing we pray twice." The Psalms contain the whole wide range of human emotion, the angst, anger, grief, sorrow, joy, elation, excitement - all in prayer, all lifted to God. For reference, see Psalm 13 *" . . . How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?"* And this same Psalm ends with *"I will sing to the Lord because he has dealt bountifully with me."* This pendulum of emotion, questioning and trust - the Psalms provide wonderful examples for us to keep practices our own prayers.

And then, for a different type of inspiration, more modern poetry can help. The Late Mary Oliver wrote this which I find encouraging.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Prayer

It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones, just  
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but a doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.

I'm working on silent prayers at the moment, learning to trust that indeed that Other Voice will speak and that I might listen. Prayer is a practice; for this I am so thankful.

And I am thankful for each you as I continue to learn, continue to grow into this awesome privilege of being your pastor. Let us learn together the wonders of God's love which can become all the clearer with prayer.

Grace and peace to you in this merry month of May!

Pastor Holly

## Line Dancing

Directed by Sandy Martin

Mondays 6-8 PM

\$5.00 per person

Outside in our church parking lot!



## **Diaconate News**

Greetings from the Diaconate!

Greetings from your Diaconate for May:

“Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun.” - Kahlil Gibran

We are all ready to step into spring! Whether you are taking a ride along the shore or resting on your deck with quiet reflection, I hope it will be the perfect place to enjoy the beautiful month of May with the pleasures that make you happiest!

May also celebrates the beloved women in our lives. Why not take a moment to feel the smile in your heart as you recall a woman who was dear to you with sweet nostalgia?

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the encouragement and care so many of you have shown to our ever-important Church Family. We have shared our prayers, concerns, tears and joys during this anxious time. We have touched each other in so many ways and have so very much to be grateful for.

As we reflect on the loss of our dear friend and church member of many, many years, Karen Young, I know each one of us will smile in remembrance of her, celebrating precious memories was her wish, not sorrow and tears. She will always remain in our hearts and will be our very own hero.

We are back in our beautiful, historical church as well as still on zoom sharing meaningful services with friends and recharging our minds and bodies. The comforting voice and meaningful positive lessons from Rev. Holly have given us much hope and love.

Our diaconate team consists of Rachel Angerhofer, Antoinette Jones, Emily Knapp, Pam Sheehan. This team has many responsibilities and talents and is always opening their hearts. Please feel free to be in touch with any one of them if you have a concern, a joy, a sadness, or any new ideas.

We are here for you.

As always, God's Love is so Large it can Cover the World, but so Small it can Curl up in the Corner of your Heart.

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

### **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 Susan Stead.

## Stewardship

Dear Fellow Parishioners - During these times of uncertainty there is a definite need for additional funding to support the church and its ministries. Many of you have probably received your stimulus checks. Perhaps you would take this opportunity to donate some of the money to the Church. Thank you for your continued support!

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 Robert Knapp at 978-518-7859.

## Book Club

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.

May 26            ***Coco Chanel: Pearls, Perfume and the Little Black Dress*** by Susan Goldman Rubin

June 23                            ***The Cactus*** by Sarah Haywood

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





# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<sup>1</sup> Eagle Court 11 AM
<sup>2</sup> 9:30 AM Bells 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Diaconate Meeting	<sup>3</sup>	<sup>4</sup> 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bells 7:30 PM Property	<sup>5</sup>	<sup>6</sup> National Day of Prayer 7 PM Bible Study	<sup>7</sup>	<sup>8</sup>
<sup>9</sup> Mother's Day 10:30 AM Worship	<sup>10</sup>	<sup>11</sup> 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Finance 7 PM Bells	<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup> 7 PM Bible Study	<sup>14</sup> Newsletter Deadline	<sup>15</sup> Eagle Court 11 AM (rain date)
<sup>16</sup> 9:30 AM Bells 10:30 AM Worship	<sup>17</sup>	<sup>18</sup> 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bells	<sup>19</sup> 6:30 PM Council	<sup>20</sup> 7 PM Bible Study	<sup>21</sup>	<sup>22</sup> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
<sup>23</sup> 10:30 AM Worship	<sup>24</sup>	<sup>25</sup> 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bells	<sup>26</sup> 7 PM Book Group	<sup>27</sup> 6 PM CD Meeting 7 PM Bible Study	<sup>28</sup>	<sup>29</sup>
<sup>30</sup> 9:30 AM Bells 10:30 AM Worship	<sup>31</sup> Office Closed					

## Outreach

### THANK YOU!

We wish to express our gratitude for the outstanding response we received from our Church Family for the diaper drive that benefited the Community Giving Tree Mission. This mission supports underserved children of the Merrimack Valley, our neighbors who live on the edge. **We received 222 dozen diapers** in all, and the volunteers at CGT were thrilled with the arrival of boxes and boxes and bags and bags of diapers! They had previously expressed concern about their dwindling supply. We obviously brightened their day! The hundreds of moms who depend upon this generosity will be grateful for the help in making their babies comfortable and happy.

Simply put, “thank you!”

Jean, Joan, Martha & Mary Ann

### Women’s Guild

It has been decided that the Guild will **not meet until September.**



### 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.

### FCC Men’s Group

FCC Men's group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, May 22nd at 8:00 AM, at Cafe Sarina.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

## Save the Date



### Join us for Graduation Sunday on June 13<sup>th</sup>

Please contact the church office by Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to let us know who your graduates are. We are planning a wonderful service and would like to recognize your student's accomplishments as well as bless them and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

### Strawberry Social & Band Concert June 22nd

Kick-off the beginning of summer with some delicious strawberry shortcake or strawberries & ice-cream! Help is needed with hulling, serving, set up and clean up. Raffle items needed.

Questions, please contact Emily Knapp 978-257-6277 or Janice Murphy 978-273-2999.



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



## Looking Back

60 years ago:

Our congregation joins the United Church of Christ (UCC)

50 years ago:

Couples Club play "Blithe Spirit" presented in fellowship hall

40 years ago:

Pilgrim Fellowship holds a paper drive. Teens ride around in the back of pickup trucks gathering newspapers to recycle as a fundraiser

Attic above the sanctuary is insulated. In the process one parishioner accidentally puts his foot through the ceiling leaving a large hole. Hole is repaired a few weeks later.

30 years ago:

Broadway Belles 5. Variety show presented in fellowship hall.

Among those joining our congregation are Susan Stead and Nancy Aberman



## Many Voices Joined in Worship!

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





## Thank you!

Dear Church Friends and Guild Ladies,

Thank you for the many things you have done to bring cheer and purpose to our lives. My white poinsettia was just beautiful - although our family couldn't gather for Thanksgiving or Christmas - my oldest daughter, Ellen did come for one overnight, she is very careful. We do talk on the phone which is wonderful. The card handmade by some talented person delighted me with all the cut outs, including the picture of our beautiful church and a wonderful surprise "stocking" packed with little treasures. Although I couldn't do the outdoor services or even zoom, I have felt blessed and remembered. I welcome our new pastor and look forward when we resume life and can meet.

Blessings to you all,

Barb Morehouse



**Hybrid worship at FCC** - As we move towards ever brighter days and warmer weather, we move towards (carefully!) gathering in person for worship. We have begun having "Hybrid" church - in person and on ZOOM.

Those wishing to worship in person need to sign up on the website, [www.fccgeorgetownma.org](http://www.fccgeorgetownma.org). **Individuals will be required to answer a few questions about their health related to Covid-19.** Advance sign-ups will also assist with any contact tracing. **Masks are required.**

Feel free to sign up for as many Sunday services that you wish to attend. Worship sign-ups are available through the end of June. Any questions specific to the sign up process can be directed to Rich Brock [rsbrock88@gmail.com](mailto:rsbrock88@gmail.com) or by contacting the Church Office. And those who wish to remain home, in your jammies with a coffee in hand, can continue to meet up with us for worship on ZOOM. Either way, come to church! It won't be the same without you!

**Sunday worship Zoom Meeting**  
<https://zoom.us/j/95881523357>  
**Meeting ID: 958 8152 3357**

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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.