

# ***From the Hill***



## ***First Congregational Church of Georgetown***

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**June 2021**

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Dear Ones,

On my walks around Georgetown lately I have so enjoyed all the gardens in bloom. The colors that are bursting. Each garden is a new work of art, week after week. It lifts my spirit as I walk along, clearing my head while I wrestle with the scripture of the week in preparation for the next sermon. We need all the colors of the rainbow, and they are so good to see out in nature.

Equally uplifting are the rainbow flags donning front doorways and front lawns on my walks. And as I pass in front of our church, I am so proud to see our own small rainbow on the church sign, announcing our affinity as "Open and Affirming," and welcoming to all. These flags and signs are reminders of all the colors of the rainbow represented in the people in our neighborhoods. Our hearts and souls are each uniquely made, in love, by our Creator God. Each in love, made to love, as God ordains. Just as God ordains the sun to rise and the rain to feed our gardens.

In January 2015, this faith community voted to become an Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation of the United Church of Christ. I am so excited that you made this bold commitment and covenant of extravagant welcome to all God's children. Following Jesus's example of radical hospitality, I look forward to walking more deeply into this covenant with you; to learn

together how we can best support and celebrate the children, youth and adults living in our neighborhoods who identify as LGBTQ, or some mixture of all these things.

Jesus summarized the great commandments into two, to love God and our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:28-34). And Paul teaches acceptance of one another to the early church of Rome (Romans 14:1-15:13). These are good solid foundations to affirm the welcome of all persons regardless of race, age, gender identity and expression, marital status, physical or mental ability, economic status, nationality, sexual orientation or identity. And this is what you affirmed in your ONA covenant.

June is Gay Pride month in this country - a month when we are invited to remember our LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer) siblings. This month we remember those involved in the Stonewall Riots and June 28<sup>th</sup> marks the date in history when the first Pride march was held in New York City in 1970. Here is a bit of history, courtesy of <https://nationaltoday.com/pride-month/>

In the 52 years since then, laws and statutes have eased some of life for the LGBTQ community. Yet many of our neighbors remain silent, unseen or

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shamed into obscurity and darkness. Many LGBTQ youth still hesitate to name their truth and live out loud and many parents struggle to navigate this journey authentically and completely with their children. Many adults find it difficult to openly live in the light and into their most authentic selves as they perceive or experience critical judgment from society. The church is called to be the light shining in the darkness, overcoming fear and separation.

During this month of June, we as a congregation will be paying a bit more attention to how we might be more openly supportive of the LGBTQ community around us, prayerfully discerning how to move more deeply into living this love of God out loud.

If this is something close to your heart, please reach out to me. Let's talk. We are a community of uniquely made and universally loved children of God. And we are in this together.

God's grace and peace,  
Pastor Holly



## 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.

**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



## **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.

978-697-1982

email: [susan.stead5@gmail.com](mailto:susan.stead5@gmail.com).

## Greetings From the Diaconate

June is such a pretty month and we often 'forget' her quiet loveliness. June seems to be when we are filling our calendars with 'dates'...graduations, Fathers day, strawberry socials, weddings, opening summer cottages, looking with anticipation to a great summer...perhaps even more this year with the promise that more things will open...I have been thinking about June, the quiet way it is suddenly soft and warm, winter behind us, hotter days of summer ahead.

Some of you may have heard my latest episode with putting my lawnmower away I twisted my knee and I have a meniscal tear.....the orthopedic surgeon is having me wear this big brace for 2 weeks and then the decision on surgery. The reason I even mention this is because a very dear friend said "Sometimes things happen because the good Lord has a unique way of telling us to slow down."

I have had the luxury of sitting on my deck with my coffee and really listening to the quiet, to the many bird songs, the way the wind whispers through the trees, the daily visits from "Bunn-Bunn" and his trust that the carrot will be waiting...so my dear church family, this is my wish for each of you...to find the time to really look at those flower petals and the amazing colors that can only be painted by God, to take those deep breaths and feel a sense of peace and renewal, hopefully with the tumultuous Covid in our rear view mirror.

We have made summer plans including continuing our Wednesday night services in July and August. Other activities are in the works and we hope you will feel refreshed and ready to join us in friendship and love.

As always, my deepest gratitude to the deacons, an awesome team...Antoinette, Emily, Rachel and Pam. Please reach out to any of them with any questions, joys, sorrows, we are here for you.

Gladie Kneeland, Diaconate Chair  
508-523-5990 or gladie8@aol.com

"Remember 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,



# Join Us in Person or on Zoom!



**Graduate & Achievement Sunday, June 13**



**Strawberry Social June, 22**



**Blessing of Pets June, 20**

## 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.

## 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 978- 352-7489.



Allan Barlow

Jeffrey Fehlmann

Martha Lucius

Michelle Bridges

Marion Harding

Sarah Moore

Rachel Edwards

Antoinette Jones

Lindsay Tobin

Michael Kalfin

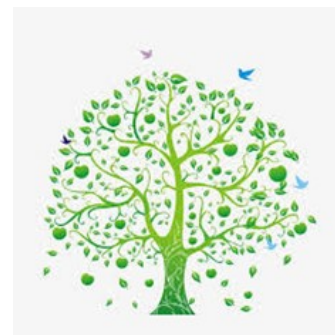
## Stewardship

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!

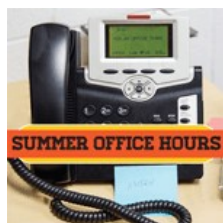
Blessings to all,

Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and Sylvia Johnston



### Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship schedule begins on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> with a light supper at 6:30 and worship starting at 7:00 PM. Please join us, bring a friend, neighbor or family member! Our last Wednesday service will be on September 8<sup>th</sup>, with Sunday worship beginning on September 12<sup>th</sup>.




### Summer Office Hours

During the Summer, the office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Summer office hours begin July 6 and continue through September 2.

# June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 PM Staff Meeting 7 PM Bell rehearsal	2 7 PM Diaconate Meeting	3	4	5
6 10:30 AM Worship	7	8 6 PM Finance 7 PM Bell rehearsal	9	10	11	12
13 10:30am Worship Graduation Sunday	14 NewsLetter DEADLINE	15	16 6:30 PM Council	17	18	19
20 10:30am Worship Animal Blessing Sunday	21	22 Strawberry Social 	23 7 PM Book Group	24 6 PM CD Meeting	25	26
27	28	29	30 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship			



## Looking back

### 50 years ago:

Church family picnic on the church lawn after children's Sunday.

### 40 years ago:

Among those receiving 6th grade bibles are Stephen Boynton & Cindy Stewart (daughter of Ruth)

### 30 years ago:

Strawberry Social

Among our honored graduates Kristen Arsenault & Erica Flynn

### 20 years ago:

Teen mission trip to Kentucky

Strawberry Social \$3.50

### 10 years ago:

Among those honored graduates Thea Chute (College)

Daughter of Brad Chute and Laura Zalewski

Strawberry Social and Concert



## Call for your voices!

Pastor Holly is creating a lay reading/lay leading team, 15 or 20 or so who rotate through the year to lend their voice to help lead worship. Could that be you? Have you enjoyed reading scripture in the past? Reach out to Pastor Holly and become part of this great team of lay reader/leaders!

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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.