

FROM the HILL



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200

Georgetown, MA 01833

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Summer 2021

"Now concerning spiritual gifts,^[a] brothers and sisters,^[b] I do not want you to be uninformed. . . To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith. . . to another gifts of healing. . . to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits. . . All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses."

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 adapted

Dear Ones of FCC Georgetown,

Grace and peace to you this summer season of renewal. In his letters to the early church in Corinth, Paul spends a good deal of time on the Spirit of God and the invitation to seek within each member their own gifts that come from the Spirit. Paul is exhorting this bunch of early converts to stay together, to keep focused on the building of their community. And he names for them the gifts of the Spirit, that they each might possess *already* in some form to be used in the mission of the early church -- used to build up the body of Christ, or what will much later be called the church.

As usual, there is much that we can learn from Paul's letters. These words of encouragement are relevant for us today as the First Congregational Church of Georgetown considers how best to move forward, and what new thing God has in store for us. And we would do well to remember *daily* that Jesus did not come to live among us to build structures and keep all who gather safe within. Jesus Christ dwelt among us to show us the coming of

God's *kingdom* all around us and that is our ultimate focus. Another word for "kingdom" is "commonwealth." We worship together to celebrate God's love and gain strength from God and from each other to go out into the world (Georgetown and beyond) to share this message of love, alleviate suffering, feed those who hunger, sit with those who are lonely, for the common "wealth" or well-being of all.

I have recently begun to invite you as a faith community to explore this concept of "spiritual gifts" during Wednesday evening worship. I invited the congregation to *begin* to wonder about your own gifts that come from God - gifts of the Spirit. If we can each name our gifts that originated from our Creator God, we can then best discern together how God might be using us today to build up God's *commonwealth* here on earth. This includes the present church body and the greater community.

This exploration is a long-term endeavor; an on-going process of discovery. This is not a one-time exercise where our abilities are defined or judged as good or bad, as helpful or as life-limiting. I invite you to open your heart and mind to what you are gifted with, thanks to your Creator.

It might help to think of things you do, activities that you are part of that bring you great joy. It might be that you have honed a skill over time, and in this effort you have been fulfilled. Consider these skills and aptitudes as gifts of the Spirit of God. When you think of the words "spiritual gifts," what comes to mind? Talents? Skills? Aptitude towards numbers or some form of art such as painting or music? Perhaps teaching or telling stories?

(Continued on page 2)

Some gifts we explored recently in worship included, *compassion, hospitality, helping, administration, music, wisdom, writing*. There are so many gifts, and we when recognize that they have an Ultimate Source (God) we are encouraged to put them to use in the best possible way - to build the kingdom of God here in our own time and place. Let's keep talking and exploring this notion of spiritual gifts, and may you find joy in naming and using your gifts to further the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Holly



Bible Study continues throughout the summer!
Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am. ZOOM Meeting ID 91577887650



A STRAWBERRY SOCIAL THANK YOU ...

Thank you, Emily and Janice ...

for your leadership in providing a memorable *Strawberry Social* event on the evening of June 22. The residents of our community were thrilled to come together and celebrate the arrival of summer, and the advent of a sense of normalcy after so many months of pandemic restrictions. The sweetness of the strawberries, shortcake, whipped cream and ice cream swirled with nostalgia. Did you know that our church's Women's Benevolent Society of the early part of the last century held a mid-week *Strawberry Social* on the lawn? This tradition is more than 100 years old!

Many members of our congregation helped with details of the Social. However, all those details require leadership, the people who are keeping track of the "to do" lists, making telephone calls, sending emails, organizing the shortcake baking, and strawberry hulling, getting in touch with vendors, promoting the event through various media, and following the weather reports. We are blessed with your enthusiastic willingness to crack the whip and get everyone on board!

Old friends, former members who have moved away, newcomers, young people, and older citizens came out to greet and hug each other at this jovial party! Who cared that the rain forced us indoors! It was a perfect evening, and a gift to our town.

Love,
Joan Chatterton

Diaconate News

Greetings from your Diaconate for July and August!

"Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun." Kahlil Gibran

It is summer! The time for our church family to turn our thoughts to happy things! The month of June certainly fulfilled a promise that we are 'back' with exciting times. As we celebrated together (yes in person in our beautiful church) Achievement Sunday, which highlighted our graduates and Missions Team! Hurray for our traditional Strawberry Social, always a highlight of our summertime that was able to be held this year! The rainy weather certainly did not dampen our happy spirits remembering how blessed we are to be all together again. Thank you to all who made this happen!

In July we will begin our Summer Schedule. Remember during the summer months we hold our worship services on Wednesday evenings. We are off to a rousing start and look forward to seeing you to enjoy each other and share a light supper together. Our Sunday Services will resume on September 12th. We are looking forward to lots of fun, good food with meaningful services. As always, we will have beautiful music under the leadership of our own talented Bob Knapp.

Our diaconate team consists of Antoinette, Emily, Pam, Rachel and Gladie. This team has many responsibilities and talents and are 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!

"He will cover you with his wings; You will be safe in his care; His faithfulness will protect and defend you." Psalm 91, verse 4.

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

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Please join our annual School Supply Drive! **School supplies 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.

You may bring donations to church on Wednesday evening or place them in a bag labelled "school supplies" and leave them in the shed.



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.



Richard Aberman	Kelly Gillen
Rachel Angerhofer	Nick Moore
Erik Bratland	Paul Nelson
Jillian Bridges	Victoria Orender
Katie Bridges	David Smith
Mildred Gangloff	Ruth Stewart
Jeff Gillen	



Pat Barlow	Ryan Litch
Christine Comiskey	Janice Murphy
Sylvia Johnston	Mary Ann Nelson
Lauren Kalfin	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 Robert Knapp 978- 352-7489.

Women's Guild

Dear Rev. Holly, Our Diaconate, & Congregation,

We wish to express sincere gratitude for your kind words of appreciation and the thoughtful Litany created for worship on Sunday, June 13th, when the women of our Guild were honored for outreach work.

The last ten years have been a joyous ride because we had an enthusiastic and generous congregation at our backs! From fundraisers, special collections, material aids donations, to dressing up as animals for Heifer Project, you have been with us all the way!

The service on June 13th gave closure to our mission project duties. However, we will support, and be helpful in any way we can to a new team. We are just stepping down, not away from our church's outreach programs. Mission projects may change, as our society changes and different needs are defined. Going in another direction can sometimes be invigorating and *fun*.

At our core, we are a caring congregation, a group of God's people who will, under the leadership of a new team, faithfully carry on the work of assisting those who are struggling and enduring difficult, even desperate, times.

Thank you all - members and friends of our beloved Church Family!

The Women's Guild Steering Committee & **2011 – 2021 Outreach Team**

Joan Chatterton, Martha Lucius & Jean Perley

Team Members in Memoriam: Marion Harding, Ann Kelloway & Carol Sheehan

Honoring: Mary Ann Nelson who has relocated to Medway, MA



CELEBRATE!!!

THE WOMEN'S GUILD will be meeting again in September ...

A GUEST SOCIAL takes place front and center on **Tuesday afternoon, September 21 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** when we'll reunite to the tune of the **Ukululus**, a group of musical women who will be our special guests!

Plan to have your dessert with us that day when tea, coffee and goodies will be ready at 2:00 o'clock, along with visiting and conversing. Following this long-awaited reunion, our guests will take us away on a musical venture.

This is a day for bringing along your friends. There's no charge, but please let us know by Friday, September 17th how many are coming.

Leave message on Joan's phone: (978) 352-8033 or email: jdchat@verizon.net.

Save the Date!
October 22nd and 23rd

Annual Fall Harvest Fair

CHIC BOUTIQUE

RAFFLES

**HOMEMADE
PIES!
COOKIE WALK!**

RED TAG SALE

**SATURDAY
NIGHT
TURKEY
DINNER**

Artisans & Crafters





Summer Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 am—11:30 am

**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.

*You may bring them to:
The First Congregational Church
7 Andover St. Georgetown MA
Please use the back entrance
and put them in the upstairs corner classroom.*

*Contact the Church office for more details.
978-352-8443 churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org*

Time to clean out those closets!

We are looking for donations of clean, gently used
women's and children's clothing, shoes and boots.
Please bring donations to the church and leave them in the
Bride's Room off the Narthex.

Please contact the church office at 978-352-8443 for more information.

The Chic Boutique

Open for 2 days during the
Annual Fall Harvest Fair!

Friday, October 22nd 10am—5pm
Saturday, October 23rd 8am—3pm



The First Congregational Church of Georgetown 7 Andover Street Georgetown Mass 01833



Looking Back

60 Years ago:

Supply ministers fill in for the vacationing Rev. Fleming
Moderator: none, Clerk: Eleanor Jonasch
Organist: Pauline Freeman, Collector: Ruth Jones
Treasurer: Susan Merrill, Office Manager: Eleanor Jonasch

50 Years ago:

Summer union services with Byfield Parish
Moderator: Leland Lowell, Clerk: Wilhelmina (Mina) Marble
Organist: Carl Krumpe, Collector: Ruth Jones
Treasurer: Carol Sheehan, Office Manager: Sandy Annis

40:years ago:

Vacation Bible School
Summer union services with 2nd Congregational of West Boxford. July held in Georgetown, August in West Boxford.
Moderator: Betty Davidson, Clerk: Wilhelmina (Mina) Marble
Organist: Emily Perley, Collector: Ruth Jones
Treasurer: Carol Sheehan, Office Manager: Joan Chatterton

30 years ago:

Summer union services with 2nd Congregational of West Boxford. July held in Georgetown, August in West Boxford.
Moderator: Donn Chatterton, Clerk: Jacqueline Moore
Organist: Emily Knapp, Collector: Ruth Jones
Treasurer: Muriel Gordon, Office Manager: Joan Chatterton

20 years ago:

The Pink Panther presented by the "Royal Stage Ensemble" on our fellowship hall stage. (Now removed)
Summer union services with 2nd Congregational of West Boxford. July held in Georgetown, August in West Boxford.
Moderator: Donn Chatterton, Clerk: Emily Knapp
Organist: Emily Knapp, Collector: JoEllen Fielding
Treasurer: Karla Szutak, Office Manager: Joan Chatterton

10 years ago:

Enjoying our weekends as, for the third year, we have Wednesday night services.
Moderator: Tom Stewart, Clerk: Michelle Bridges
Organist: Emily Knapp, Collector: JoEllen Fielding
Treasurer: Kristen Arsenault, Office Manager: Michelle Brock

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 8:30am-11:30am

Pastor Holly's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 10:00am-3pm Wednesdays by appointment



July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Summer Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-11:30AM				1	2	3
4 Happy Independence Day!!	5	6	7 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	29	30	31



August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Summer Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-11:30AM	2	3	4 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	12	13	14
15	16 Newsletter DEADLINE	17	18 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	26 CD Meeting 6 PM	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.