

From the Hill

First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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

Telephone: 978-352-8443

Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org

Website: www.fccgeorgetownma.org

February 2022



... "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13: 12-13

Dear Church,

I encourage you to read them to yourself, slowly - again. ([Complete chapter pg. 2](#)) What do you see in these words?

Today, I see great reassurance in these last words from 1 Corinthians 13. That last line (above) is a *deep reminder* that no matter what we plan or wish or work for, the greatest of all is love. Nothing else really matters unless we start with the goal of . . . unless we approach life from the side of . . . unless we think and act with the view of . . . love.

You have heard the expression that "love is a verb, not a feeling." Here, love is a condition; a motivation or jumping off point for living. All the success in the world is nothing without love. All the Facebook friends are for naught without deeper love somewhere, somehow. And Paul's words to the people of Corinth come from Jesus's teaching to "love one another, as I have loved you" And, that greatest of commandments, the "Love the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul and mind and Love your neighbor as yourself."

Often times, the view of how we are to see our neighbor gets skewed with judgment or impatience, as we wish and hope for a better day, a more peaceful way of living side by side. And how we get to clearer vision of just what we might do to help make the world better or more peaceful is often lost in our sheer desire to just make it all better and again, to make pain and suffering go away. And maybe if we are successful in our own life, we might not need to concern ourselves with the rest of the world. And Jesus is very clear, and Paul follows this - that without love, well, we aren't really on target at all.

So, as we strive and (often) fail to see a vision for how God wants us to respond to needs we see around us, know that, in time, things will be clear. In time, we will *see more clearly* as we *meet God face to face*. And, if we lead with love alone, which is an openness to see our neighbor as they really are, we will see God face to face, and things just might get less fuzzy, and a bit clearer, in time. We will know more fully, in time, when we lead with love.

We do well to remember, that even as we might not see clearly God's call, we have been fully known by God, by Love, all along.

So, breathe in assurance, and breathe out love, the greatest of these . . .

In Christ's service,

Pastor Holly

1 Corinthians 13: 12-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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 with me as well, at any time.

Your Member - at - Large to the Council is Susan Stead, 978-697-1982 email: susan.stead5@gmail.com.



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 978-352-7489.

Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday snowstorm, check Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings.

Also, there is a free mobile app, *search WHDH in the app store to view storm status.*

We will update our website & Facebook page.



Book Group



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.

February 23 7:00 p.m. ZOOM	<i>Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II</i> ©2021 560pp	Daniel James Brown
--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------



Shirley Powell

Chris Southwick

Gayle Fehlmann

George Tobin

Julie Fehlmann

Roberta Tobin

Carol Kalfin

Christian Development

The Christian Development Team would like the ladies of the church to save the date! Mark your calendars for May 6-8, 2022 for a Women's Retreat getaway. Toni Cassidy is providing a wonderful location and Pastor Holly will facilitate this opportunity for us to grow in our faith fellowship. More information will follow!



Men's Group

Men's Group will meet on the **second** Saturday of the month at Café Sarina 8:00 AM.



***First Congregational Church of
Georgetown***

***In cooperation with
The Northeast Association of the
Southern New England Conference
of the United Church of Christ***

**Cordially invites you
to
The Installation of
The Reverend Holly S. Brauner
As our next Settled Pastor**

**Sunday, February 6th, 2022
At Three O'clock in the afternoon
7 Andover St.
Georgetown, Massachusetts**

All are requested to wear masks in the building.

Clergy are welcome to robe and process. The color of the day is red



Greetings From The Diaconate

Corrected Article

***“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God.”
1 John 3:1***

February 2022 finds us grateful for a mild January and perhaps preparing us for a New England snowy month ahead. Often times when we pull up our memories of February, many think of Valentine’s Day. Thoughts of boxed chocolates, trimmed with satiny red ribbons, handmade heart cards, shared with those we love. Many wishes to each of you for a Happy Valentine’s Day.

The diaconate team, as per our church by-laws changes yearly. It is with much respect and appreciation that we thank Rachel Angerhofer for her years of service here on the diaconate. We wish her well as Chair of the Missions Team and are sure her tireless ways and kindness will be well received in her new position. She will be missed on this team.

We are so happy to welcome our new team member Sharon Lee. I know her gentle and caring ways will make her a wonderful addition to this great team.

As we enter into a new ‘season’ here at church, let’s take three deep breaths as we look forward to having our Lenten and Easter season plans get underway with love and anticipation.

As always, we are here for you to share a joy or a sorrow. Your 2022 diaconate members are Antoinette Jones, Emily Knapp, Sharon Lee and Pam Sheehan.

“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, Chair

Light the Church

Our steeple is lit this February for Karen and Warren Young, from their children, in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Although our mom, Karen, is no longer physically with us, we wish to lift up this love that was so powerful that it continues even now.

Vision Team Update



The Vision Team has been working to develop ways to fulfill our Church's **mission**, "To nurture those in our own faith community and to act on our faith by reaching out to others."

Our strategic **vision** consists of the goals we will strive for over the next few years to fulfill our mission.

Thank you all who joined us on November 7th, for good fellowship, good food and great ideas that will lead us into our vision for the future.

Next Meeting:

We will meet again soon to build on the ideas collected in November, we'll continue developing our vision—where do we see the church going in the next year? In five years? How do we make our mission a reality?

We'll begin by determining which general areas of "reaching out to others" are most meaningful and attainable to Church members. Working with the elderly and sick? The young and marginalized? The poor and disadvantaged? Protecting animals? Conserving our environment? Any and all suggestions are welcome!

From there, we'll look at the list and determine where the Church would have the greatest impact, asking: What does the Church do well? Where do people's interests and passions lie?

In the meantime:

First, if you haven't already done so, please get together with your "buddy." At the end of our November 7th session, attendees were paired together as "buddies" and asked to find time to meet and talk and vision together, considering these three questions:

- What difference do I make today?
- What/who do I care about?
- What gives me meaning and makes me greater than myself?

The answers to these questions will help inform the direction our Vision takes.

If you don't have a buddy, and would like one, please contact us.

Second: Please consider the following questions: What does “reaching out to others” mean to you? In what ways might our Church reach out to the community around us?

Here are some examples (please add any that we’ve missed). Once you have listed them, please rank order them, state how the Church could have the greatest impact, and the ways in which you could assist:

Ways of Reaching Out to the Community	Rank Order (1=most important; 5 = least important)	How could the Church have the greatest impact?	In what ways could you assist?
The elderly and sick			
The young and marginalized			
The poor and disadvantaged			
Protecting the environment			
Protecting animals			
Other (please name):			
Other (please name):			

(If you can’t attend the meeting, please respond to these questions by email, or if you prefer, phone one of us.)

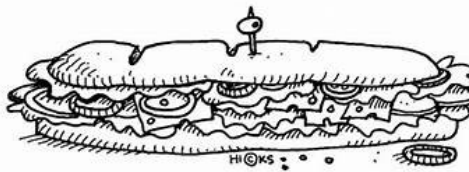
Many thanks!

If you have any thoughts or feedback to share with the team, feel free to talk to any of us after church, email, or phone us. The Vision Team is:

Richard Aberman: richardaberman@hotmail.com, 978-457-5475

Marie Birdsall-Chaffee: mbirds2516@aol.com, 617-797-2252

Michelle Brock: mbrock8484@gmail.com, 978-239-0271



<u>Name</u>		<u># of Sandwiches</u>	<u>Amount Due:</u> <u>(\$10.00/Sandwich)</u>	<u>Paid</u>
<u>Pickup / Delivery</u>		<u>Address & Phone</u>		

1. Circle or Check selections below for each sandwich (each column = a single sandwich)
2. Return Sign-Up sheets to the Church Office by **February 11**. Online/phone orders fccgeorgetownma.org/subs by **February 12**.
3. Checks Payable to: **First Congregational Church**
4. Subs will be available for Pickup/Delivery on February 13

	Sandwich 1		Sandwich 2		Sandwich 3		Sandwich 4
	Italian		Italian		Italian		Italian
	Ham		Ham		Ham		Ham
	Turkey		Turkey		Turkey		Turkey
	American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese
	Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese
	Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce
	Tomato		Tomato		Tomato		Tomato
	Pickles		Pickles		Pickles		Pickles
	Onion		Onion		Onion		Onion
	Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing
	Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise
	Mustard		Mustard		Mustard		Mustard
	Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side		Condiments on the Side



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	2 7PM Boy Scouts	3	4	5
6 9:30 Band 10:30 AM Worship 3 PM Installation of Rev. Holly Brauner	7	8 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Finance 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	9 Missions meeting 7PM Boy Scouts	10	11	12 Men's Group 8:00 A.M. Café Sarina
13 9:30 Bells 10:30 AM Worship Super Sub Day	14 	15 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	16 7PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Council	17	18	19
20 10:30 AM Worship	21 President's Day Office Closed	22 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	23 7PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Book Club Facing the Mountain	24 6:00 PM Christian Development	25	26
27 10:30 AM Worship	28 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band					

Looking Back

50 years ago:

Pentucket Workshop for preschool children rents the 1st floor of Metcalf house (now owned by the Durkees behind the church)

40 years ago:

"Visiting Volunteers" formed to assist the Diaconate with visiting the home-bound and the sick.

A covered dish supper kicks off our 250th anniversary year featuring "Sounds of Truth".

The Covenant players, a traveling mission-based theater company, performs short skits during a worship service.

We hold a union Ash Wednesday service with West Boxford.

30 years ago:

In January the church offices move to the Narthex as construction of our addition begins.

In February the offices move to the stage in fellowship hall (now removed).

10 years ago

"Georgetown Abbey" skits, based on Downton Abbey and written by new pastor Lorraine Edwards' husband Steve, explore life at FCC.

In an attempt to balance our budget, major cuts to our staff are initiated:

- 1) The Director of Music becomes a volunteer position.
- 2) The paid Christian Education Director is eliminated in July.
- 3) The Sexton's hours are cut in half.

First Congregational Church of Georgetown
PO Box 200
7 Andover Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
www.fccgeorgetownma.org
(978) 352-8443



Inside This Issue

Pastors Message	1
Rev. Holly Brauner’s Installation.....	4
Book Club/Men’s Group	3
Diaconate News.....	5
February Birthdays	3
Sub Sunday	8
Storm Cancellations	3
Vision Team News	6
Calendar/Looking back	9

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.