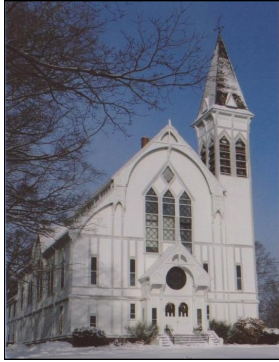


FROM the HILL



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

March 2022

“Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them. . . . Learn a lesson from the way the wildflowers grow. They don’t work; they don’t spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown on the fire tomorrow, won’t God do so much more for you.” Matthew 6:26- 30 adapted

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent in Christian tradition. 40 days set aside for self-examination, self-reflection, encouraged to *give up* some enjoyable activity like chocolate or Friday night glass of wines -- some form of sacrifice to make room for prayer and contemplation - somehow. Lent is a time of repentance, a time to turn to God, to re-turn to face Love full on.

This above passage from Matthew isn’t your typical Lenten reading. But then, this isn’t your typical Lenten season. We are 24 months into a some have called a very *long Lenten* season . . . waiting, reflection, isolation and feeling *oh-so-human*. While we see glimpses of hope as COVID-19 numbers are going down, we are still cautious and remain vigilant in keeping safe to stave off another virus spike.

Instead of *giving up* something this season, wonder if perhaps we might *take on* a new practice of noticing - the beauty of life, God’s beauty, even in our imperfect humanity. Practice paying attention to simple goodness of enjoyment and how much we have in this life; to stop and appreciate what we have - even if we see voids in what we think we need, or what society says we need to have.

And in this season, turn and see that, with God’s beauty and goodness, we are enough; you and I are enough, in all our imperfections.

Life is mortal, it just is. We are mortal, we all die at some point. *And* perhaps, as Rev. Bruce Epperly suggests, “this mortality is the inspiration to celebration and love. We are constantly dying, but we are also constantly living as we reflect God’s vision in the world of the flesh.”

Lent is traditionally a time to “repent and believe the gospel.” Remember this word “repent,” means to turn around, to face God. Perhaps we can repent by “turning around and living more in the moment, appreciating God’s grandeur, and believing the good news—the embodied, yet ever-lasting, gospel of beauty, wonder, and grace—the good news of walking with beauty all around us.”

I wish you God’s grace and inner peace this Lenten season,

Pastor Holly

Outreach/Missions News

The Missions team is abuzz with exciting opportunities! In the month of March, we will be participating in the Community Giving Tree's diaper drive. They are in particular need for **diapers sizes 6, 5, and 4 (in that order) as well as a constant need for baby wipes**. There will be a table set up in the Narthex to bring in your contributions as well as some space in the shed out back for dropping off.

February 17th was the first day of our Knitting Mission. Ruth Soper is leading this effort with 2 opportunities to gather, enjoy each other's company and create items to provide comfort and warmth to others. Knitting Missions will meet every other Thursday at 10am and 7pm on those days. The upcoming dates are: March 3rd, March 17th, and March 31st. Hope to see you there!

Play Ball! We are looking into opportunities to sponsor a Little League team in Georgetown and will be looking to create a team of supporters from our congregation to attend some games, bring snacks and cheer on our team. It will be a wonderful opportunity to serve others through our sponsorship but to also build relationships and bring fellowship into the community. More to come!

March 27th will be an opportunity to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing. The theme this year is "Love Remains". This offering **supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries**.

Nancy and Marie have connected with the Senior Center and are looking at ways that we can partner with them to provide needed goods, support and companionship to seniors in Georgetown. Reverend Holly is attending meetings at the Georgetown Youth Community Center and helping us identify ways that we can also support our youth by defraying costs of enrollment, relationship-building and supporting their activities. More to come on these opportunities!!

The Missions and Outreach team meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm via Zoom. Please feel free to join a meeting and/or talk with any one of us about ideas for service. What are you passionate about? What are your gifts and talents? Let's talk! All are welcome!

With much excitement,

Your Missions Team,

Nancy, Alecia, Marie, JoAnne, Ruth, Holly, and Rachel

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Are you interested in volunteering to help others in our community but don't know where to begin?

Watch the Volunteer Corner in your monthly newsletter for ideas on where you can help out. Your Missions' Team is on the lookout for various opportunities where individual time and talents may be of use to others in our vicinity.

This month's need comes courtesy of the Georgetown Senior Community Center.

There is an urgent need for drivers for the NEET (Northern Essex Elder Transport, Inc.) Program. This organization works in collaboration with your local senior centers to utilize volunteer drivers to assist elders who do not have access or availability to other transportation options. Rides are provided to elders at no cost. Reimbursement and Supplemental Liability Insurance are provided for volunteer drivers. For further information, call the Georgetown Senior Center at 978-352-5726 or call the NEET Program directly at 978-388-7474.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

Book Club



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.

March 30 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Midnight Library</i> ©2020 304pp	Matt Haig	Zoom
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April 27 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Rose Code</i> ©2021 656pp	Kate Quinn	Zoom
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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!!

Women's Retreat will take place May 6-8 at Toni Cassidy's home in New Hampshire. All women are invited for a weekend of nature, spiritual enlightenment and friendship.



Dear Church Family,

Please allow me to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your prayers for my brother Tom, and our family, on his journey. I felt your support which lifted me every step of the way. Tom's passing was peaceful so I know that God heard our prayers and responded.

Blessings to all of you,

Nancy Aberman





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.

*The Steeple is lit in March by Warren Young, in remembrance of Karen Lynne Young. Always in our hearts.
~ January 14, 1951—March 27, 2021*

Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm, check with Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings. We will update our website and Facebook page.

There is a free mobile app for download by searching WHDH in the app store.



MARCH



Nancy Aberman
George Comiskey
Chuck Davis
Haleigh Harris
Gladie Kneeland

Barbara Morehouse
Cadynce Pesce
Lyla Schneider
Tim Southwick

Greetings from your Diaconate

The month of March is one of hope. Here in New England, we always are aware that March brings longer days, warming days, and perhaps a glimpse of a tiny bit of purple, yellow, and green in the sheltered areas of our yards.

In our wonderful word of hope we are looking forward to meeting together again! Let's hope covid will be in 'our rear view window' as we approach spring and summer.

Your church is looking forward to all that spring has to offer. We have many activities planned, and do hope that you can take some of them, or all of them in!

Easter will be approaching and our glorious services are something to look forward to and we worshipping together and feeling God's love and arms surrounding all of us each day.

I am so happy to have been elected as Chair of the Diaconate again and will do my best. Our team consists of Antoinette Jones, Emily Knapp, Sharon Lee and Pam Sheehan. This team has many responsibilities and talents. 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! We always love to hear from you and your thoughts.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and my wish for you is the following:

"May you always have work for your hands to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or two.

May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow the rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you."

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

"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."

Visioning Team Update

The Vision Team has been hard at work on the Church's Vision Statement, and look forward to sharing it with you and getting your input!

Please join us on Sunday, March 20th after church for the great unveiling (as well as some great company and a wonderful lunch!)

Easter Plants

Our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers on Easter Sunday. The Diaconate welcomes your contributions in memory/honor of beloved friends and family.

Make donations payable to FCC Georgetown and place in the offering plate or mail to the church, PO Box 200, Georgetown, MA 01833.

The deadline for your contribution will be **April 10**.

A listing of those who have contributed will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Flowers will be delivered to those who are homebound or who have recently lost a family member.

Yes, I would like to make a donation (in any amount) \$_____

IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF (please print)



From: _____

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.





SET YOUR CLOCKS
Ahead!



March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6 PM Pancake Dinner	2 Ash Wednesday 7PM Boy Scouts	3	4	5
6 10:30 AM Worship First Sunday of Lent	7 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band 6 PM Finance	8 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts	9 Missions meeting 7PM Boy Scouts 7:30 Property	10 7 PM Diaconate Meeting ZOOM	11	12 Men's Group 8:00 A.M. Café Sarina
13 Daylight Savings 10:30 AM Worship Second Sunday of Lent Book Study <i>Waking Up White</i>	14 Begin One Great Hour of Sharing 	15 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	16 6:30 PM Council 7PM Boy Scouts	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 10:30 AM Worship Third Sunday of Lent	21	22 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	23 7PM Boy Scouts	24 6 PM CD Meeting	25	26
27 10:30 AM Worship Fourth Sunday of Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Book Study <i>Waking Up White</i>	28	29 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	30 7 PM Book Club 7PM Boy Scouts	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.