

From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

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

Telephone: 978-352-8443
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June 2022

“... be filled with the Spirit, meditating on psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music to God in your hearts. (Ephesians 5:19)

First Congregational Church of Georgetown knows how to do music! As if we are listening to this good advice from the Apostle Paul to the church at Ephesus who encouraged and instructed them to make music as one path of worshiping God.

St. Augustine is credited with the saying that “those who sing pray twice.” Wise words. Strangely, our Puritan ancestors did not allow instruments in worship, as it was considered extra or frivolous and distracting to prayer and listening for God. Images of that time of Puritan worship styles lead me to wonder where joy was in their world.

Perhaps that is not a fair image; perhaps there was joy amid life way back then. Fair or not, this is what I imagine when I think of Sunday worship in 17th Century in Salem village: 4 or so hours on hard wooden benches hearing the preacher’s word and warning, praying the Psalms acapella, whenever they gathered to worship.

So, I, for one, am thankful that we put music in worship somewhere along the way. I’m thankful for the Psalms that were that first source of music. I’m thankful for the authors and conductors of hymns that added more texture to our New England worship experience. I’m even thankful for *some* of the old 19th century hymns, just as I’m thankful for *some* of the newer stuff. And I’m thankful for the great music program we enjoy here at this church.

We not only have the organ and trumpet each Sunday, in addition, we are gifted with two music teams, the Bell Choir and the *World’s Most Dangerous Church Band* which help lead worship several times throughout the year. Our music program is something special, continuing a long legacy of valuing music as a core component of worship.

This month, as you know, we will host the Strawberry Festival. (Yumm!) Our gathering will be all the sweeter thanks to the WMD Church Band. They are busy practicing already.

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Also practicing to join us this month are the Zilber Beatles - an Interfaith Band who plays mostly at Tabernacle UCC Church in Salem. Just as they did last year, the Zilber Beatles will help lead worship June 29th, our first Wednesday evening service of the summer. In recognition of Gay Pride month, the theme that night is "Love."

In gratitude for all of you musicians and singers who help us "pray twice" each Sunday,

Rev. Holly



Strawberry Social & Band Concert
Tuesday, June 21st
6-8 PM

"Enjoy the Beginning of Summer on our Church Lawn"

Strawberry Shortcake \$6.00
Strawberries/Ice Cream \$6.00
Raffles

Help is needed with hulling, serving, set up and clean up.
Sign up sheets will be available starting May 29th

Due to increases in prices for strawberries and supplies monetary donations will be greatly appreciated. Checks can be payable to First Congregational Church and note it is for the Strawberry Social or contact Emily or Janice.

Raffle Items Needed.

In case of rain event will be in Fellowship Hall.

Any questions contact Emily Knapp or Janice Murphy.

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, Father's Day, strawberry socials, weddings, opening summer cottages, looking with anticipation to a great summer, perhaps even more this year with the promise 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. Remember in May the sudden weather-change where it seemed more like a hot July week instead of a cooler May!

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 and these viral infections in our rear-view mirror.

We have made summer plans including continuing our Wednesday night services in July and August. We will begin our Wednesday night services on June 29th and our last Wednesday service will be September 7th. Themes and activities are in the works and we hope you will feel refreshed and ready to join us in friendship and love.

Our church family will be welcoming and celebrating our graduates on June 12th. How exciting for these graduates to be celebrating their accomplishments and sharing their new ideas and adventures for their futures.

We also urge you to mark your calendars for June 21st, our famous, delicious and music-filled early evening Strawberry Social.

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

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

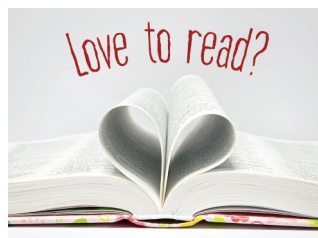
"Remember God's love is so large it can cover the world, but so small it can curl up in the corner of your heart."

Book Group

(Last meeting until September) ****New date****

Wednesday, June 22, 7 PM via ZOOM

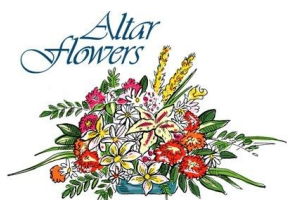
***Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley**



***Join us for Graduation Sunday on June 12th.
Congratulations to all our graduates!***



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

Antoinette Jones

Sarah Moore

Rachel Edwards

Michael Kalfin



Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship schedule begins on **Wednesday, June 29th** 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 7th, with Sunday worship beginning on September 11th.



Summer Office Hours

During the Summer, the office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. If you need Pastoral care you may email Rev. Holly Brauner pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org or leave a message with the office and someone will reach out to you.

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.

THE SAINTS WILL BE MARCHING IN
AT
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN



Henri Smith New Orleans Friends and Flavours

***Concert on the Lawn**

7 Andover Street Georgetown

Saturday, August 27th

5:00pm

NO ADMISSION FEE

* In case of rain, the concert will be held in the church

**A Summer
Mardi Gras!**

**Bring your chairs or blanket
Bring Your Own Picnic or
Purchase Food and Beverages**

Get Your Ya-Yas Out!

BRING YOUR DANCING SHOES!!



June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 PM Band 7PM Boy Scouts	2 7 PM Knitting	3	4
5 9:30 AM Band 10:30 AM Worship 5 PM Line dancing	6	7 10 AM Bible Study 4:45 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	8 6:30 PM Band 7 pm Missions 7PM Boy Scouts	9 7 PM Diaconate	10	11
12 9:30 AM Bells 10:30 AM Worship Graduation Sunday 5 PM Line dancing	13 6:30 PM Band <small>Newsletter DEADLINE</small>	14 10 AM Bible Study 4:45 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM Finance 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	15 6:30 PM Council 7PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Band	16 7 PM Knitting	17 4-8 PM Kaczmarek Rehearsal	18
19 10:30 AM Worship last Sunday worship 5 PM Line dancing	20 6:30 PM Band	21 10 AM Bible Study 4:45 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM Strawberry Social	22 12 PM Women's Guild Annual Luncheon 5-8 PM Kaczmarek Recital 7 PM Book Group 7PM Boy Scouts	23 6 PM CD	24	25
26 5 PM Line dancing	27	28 10 AM Bible Study 4:45 PM Girl Scouts	29 7PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Zilber Beatles	30 7 PM Knitting		

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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.