

# 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](mailto:churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org)

Website: [www.fccgeorgetownma.org](http://www.fccgeorgetownma.org)

Summer 2022

Dear Church,

Love is . . . what is love for you? Love is. . . what does that mean to you?

We read in scripture that *"God is love."* (1 John 4:16) We read also that we are to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind, . . . and to love your neighbor as yourself."* (Mark 12:30-31, & Matt 22:37-39)

We read that *"faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love."* (1 Cor 13:13) And on it goes. Love is central to the teachings of Jesus, and *he learned it* from his relationship with his Abba, and from reading and interpreting the Hebrew texts. Love is, it just is. Over and over, we are reminded in scripture. Thank God for these words of assurance of love that remains, always.

Friends, I find this so helpful and grounding as I look at the world around me. It is so good to remember that love is more powerful than hate! That we are better together than separate!

As I read the news lately, I cry at the hatred I see and hear so openly expressed in public discourse, on the public square and among divided factions of our fractured society. I shake my head at the backward motion of some of our legal wranglings, reversing laws once found to be constitutional. I mourn at the loss of freedom for this country's women of childbearing years, that their choices were just cut off. And I wonder what's next for *this* world.

I fear for the lives of brave souls, young and old, naming openly their truth as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer and all the mixtures in between. And I continue to remember all who are still at the margins, pushed further a-field by policies more

focused on personal gain and economics and less on the greater good.

It's all enough to overwhelm the heart and head. We could turn away from these conditions and pretend they are not there, shake our heads and just move on as if these things don't affect us. But they do.

When one of us suffers, we all suffer. When one of us hurts, we all do. And it is good and right to name these dark realities. It is right to name the evil we face. It is important to express fear and doubt of what comes next. It is good to get real with what happens around us, to us and to our neighbors, particularly people of color, the LGBTQ+A community including the youth, and now women.

*And*, in the face of all this, there is love! In the face of all this temporal reality, there is the deeper truth of love: God's love, greater than any rule of law, greater than any worldly force that tells us otherwise. This truth gives me strength to hold tight to my faith that love will win.

So, Dear Church, hold on to love, watch out for your neighbors, especially those you know or suspect might be hurting, especially those you might even disagree with. God is love and we need each other. And may God's steadfast love, grace and peace guide you throughout these summer days and weeks.

In Christ,

Rev. Holly

## **“Strawberry Social Thank You”**

The weather did cooperate this year even though it was a bit chilly.  
We enjoyed a fun filled evening and a terrific Band Concert on the Church Lawn  
Thank you for the support from our wonderful church family.

Thank you to all who hulled, served, set up, cleaned up, donated raffle items, sold raffle tickets and strawberry social tickets, helped with publicity and counted the proceeds from the Strawberry Social and played in the World's Most Dangerous Church Band.

Special thank you to Marini Farms for the delicious strawberries.

This year we had a few obstacles: “Did you know there is a whipping cream shortage?” Also, there were rising costs for strawberries and all the ingredients (we all see this at the grocery store). This was the first time that we asked for help in the form of donations toward the Strawberry Social. We were overwhelmed with the donations and were able to have the Social and keep the cost affordable.

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the strawberry shortcake.

### **Thank you to our Table Sponsors:**

Conte-Giamberardino Funeral Home  
Best Bagel  
MAZE C&I  
Crosby's Marketplace  
B&B Auto Clinic  
Black Swan Country Club  
American Flatbread



### **Raffle Winners:**

Iris Glass: Abby Chatterton  
Bird Glass: Nancy Clough  
Stonewall Gift Basket: Sylvia Johnston  
Sweatshirt: Eleanor Young  
Crosby Gift Card: Kailey Hooper  
50/50: Rich Brock  
Visa Gift Card: Addison & Hudson Murphy  
Handmade Pillow: Eleanor Young  
Hatters Tea Gift Certificate: Pam Sheehan  
BP Gas Gift Card: Donna DeSisto

Proceeds: \$1,785.00

Thank you,

Janice & Emily



## Summer worship schedule

This summer's Wednesday evening worship schedule is full of a variety of fun, light-hearted themes. These evenings are geared to gather us in fellowship, share a simple meal, sing favorite songs and listen stories of our lives. We will begin June 29<sup>th</sup> with the Zilber Beatles, that almost-famous interfaith band from Tabernacle Church in Salem which will lead us as we celebrate God's extravagant love together. We'll celebrate Christmas in July by collecting gently used shoes for adult patients being discharged from Boston Medical Center. We'll practice gentle chair yoga with our own Christine Litch, a certified yoga instructor; and Alison Sloan will be back this summer to lead us in practicing Qi Kong, an Asian form of meditative healing exercise. Together we will baptize two young people into the faith as we remember our own baptisms and what we understand about this ancient sacrament.

In August we'll compare our knowledge of scripture with Bible Jeopardy and later Bible trivia. Christine will lead us through another session of gentle chair yoga. We'll share our favorite poetry on evening; all are invited to bring a poem to share. And we will end the summer series with "Story night" where you are invited to come with a short story to tell - a story of surprise, or of extravagant joy; a story of wonderment, or of unexpected blessing. So, think back through your life. What brief story might you come to share? We all have one; what is yours?



### Worship Schedule for the Summer

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas in July

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** - Yoga with Christine Litch

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** - Baptized into Community - with baptisms of Bentley and Isla

**July 27<sup>th</sup>** - Qi Kong with Alison Sloan

\*\*\*\*\*

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Bible Jeopardy, hosted by the Diaconate

**August 10-** Yoga with Christine

**August 17** - "Exploring our faith; Exploring our world," with the Diaconate

**August 24** - Poetry Night - bring a poem to read out loud and share with everyone

**August 31** - Bible Trivia Night

**September 7** - Story night

# Diaconate News

Greetings from your Diaconate for July and August

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

Time to celebrate 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 our graduates and their accomplishments and our love and prayers for their wonderful futures!

Hurray for our traditional Strawberry Social, always a highlight of our summertime....Yum, Yum, Yum!!! Thank you to all who made this happen!

We will begin our Summer Schedule on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Remember during the summer months we hold our worship services on Wednesday evenings as the summer days with her golden sunshine seem to last long into the evenings. We are off to a rousing start with the Zilber Beatles and look forward to seeing you enjoy each other and what is better than sharing light meals (or maybe a salad or a charcuterie board) with cherished friends. Much is being planned, and we hope you can attend, from lots of music to yoga, to Qi Kong, and the ever-popular Bible Jeopardy. If anyone would like to participate in any way, we would love your help. Perhaps you would like to try a reading in a less formal atmosphere...or make a dessert or bring a friend that might enjoy our friendship and companionship. 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, Sharon 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!

***"I leave mundane worries as peace washes over me like the gentle waves breaking on the sand."***

Gladie Kneeland, Chair

## Missions News

\*On July 6th the Diaconate is hosting a Christmas in July service and will be requesting that the congregation bring a "gift" to support a church Mission. The Mission Team is requesting that interested congregants bring new or gently used shoes to donate to Boston Medical Center to support individuals experiencing homelessness. Missions will set up a table on July 6th that will stay up through the summer. BMC is in need of all sizes of men's and women's shoes, preferably sneakers and comfortable shoes. They are in particular need for larger men's shoes.



\*Missions is also going to set up a table for ongoing donations to the Council on Aging. We will regularly update the list of needed items. Currently they are in need of:

1. Dish detergent
2. Individual wrapped paper towel
3. Canned tomatoes
4. Canned carrots
5. Canned mixed vegetables
6. Two small cooking oil (canola etc.)
7. Packaged cookies



\*We will begin our annual school supply drive at the beginning of August for Ruth's House and will set up a table in Fellowship Hall. Items can be left in the shed as well.

Thanks in advance to all for supporting our community near and afar!

## 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

Paul Nelson

Jillian Bridges

Victoria Orender

Katie Bridges

David Smith

Jeff Gillen

Ruth Stewart



Pat Barlow

Ryan Litch

Christine Comiskey

Janice Murphy

Sylvia Johnston

Mary Ann Nelson

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.



# Summer Concert

**The First Congregational Church of Georgetown**

**7 Andover Street Georgetown MA 01833**

**Enjoy the sounds of :  
Henri Smith New Orleans Friends and Flavours!**

**Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00pm - NO ADMISSION FEE \*\*Free will offering**

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



**Bring your chairs or blanket  
Bring Your Own Picnic  
or Purchase Food & Beverages at the event**

**Proceeds raised will benefit the :  
Georgetown Youth Community Center**

*Save the Date!*  
*October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>*

# 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 21st 10am -5pm  
Saturday, October 22nd 8am-3pm



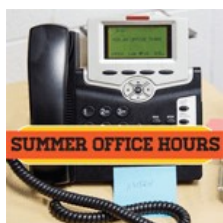
*The First Congregational Church of Georgetown 7 Andover Street Georgetown Mass 01833*





## Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship schedule begins on **Wednesday, June 29<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 7<sup>th</sup>, with Sunday worship beginning on September 11<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. If you need Pastoral care you may email Rev. Holly Brauner [pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org](mailto:pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org) or call (978) 561-9623 and someone will reach out to you.



Bible Study continues over the summer! Join us Tuesdays at 10 AM on ZOOM.

## WAS GRAMMIE A FLAPPER?

Hey friends - I am working on a fun project to celebrate the Guild's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and would love your help. I am looking for photos of women who personified "the modern woman" of the 1920s. Pictures should be of Georgetown women OR women directly related to current church members or attendees, even if they weren't from Georgetown. Photos must be from the 1920s.

You may send digitized photos to me at [comgeorge@aol.com](mailto:comgeorge@aol.com). Print photos can be given to Joan Chatterton or me to be scanned and returned. Please include the woman's name and how she is related to you.

So let's dig out those old family photo albums and have some fun with this. The more participants, the better!

Chris Comiskey





# July 2022

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 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Christmas in July	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Yoga with Christine Litch	14	15	16
17	18	19 6:30 PM Bells	20 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Baptized into Community	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Qi Kong with Allison Sloan	28	29	30



# August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Summer Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-11:30AM	1	2	3 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Bible Jeopardy	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Yoga with Christine Litch	11	12	13
14	15 Newsletter DEADLINE	16 6:30 PM Bells	17 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Exploring our faith	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Poetry Night	25	26	27 Summer Concert Henri Smith Band
28	29	30	31 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship Bible Trivia			

First Congregational Church of Georgetown  
7 Andover Street PO Box 200  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
www.fccgeorgetownma.org



### Inside This Issue

Pastors Message.....	1-2
Diaconate News/Missions News.....	4
Strawberry Social Thank You.....	2
Summer Worship Schedule .....	3
Birthdays .....	5
Summer Concert .....	6
Fall Fair .....	7-8
July & August Calendars.....	10

*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.