

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

September 2022

Rally Day September 11, 2022

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Beginning September 11th followed by a time of fellowship.

Communion shared on the first Sunday of the month.

Greetings from the Pastor

Dear Church,

Recently, one Sunday morning, I had the privilege of attending another church for worship. Since we don't worship here at FCC on Sundays in the summer, my Sunday mornings have been free to roam, or sleep in, or dig in the garden or just sit and watch the butterflies flit from bloom to bloom, admiring God's creation out among the insects and critters that call my backyard home. A different kind of church for sure.

For those of you that take the summer "off" from formal worship, what did you do for church? Any hikes? Family time? Road trips? Body surfing at Salisbury or some other beach?

Indeed, church can come in many forms, one of them is in a building among fellow worshipers, in communal prayer, song and listening to a preacher extol and encourage faithful adherence to the call of discipleship. As your pastor, I too need to sit in the pew from time to time and be encouraged, exhorted even, to go and do as Jesus taught.

So, on this particular Sunday I felt a pull to formal worship. So, I went to church, indoors, sitting in the 8th pew back from the pulpit. The preacher reminded us that we are called to be beacons of light to those we meet along the way in life. We could each be a sign that God is still speaking, that there is a better way of living than the one we read so often in the news -- news about exploitation, about low wages, homelessness, climate change, flooding, forest fires, news about greed and about crime and all the trials of this world. (Cont. pg. 3)



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 at 978-352-7489.



Bible Study Continues

Bible Study continues this fall!
Tuesdays at 10 A.M.



Come share your gift of music!

If you're interested in helping us restart the choir, come to the church Tuesday September 6th at 6 PM. All that is needed is a desire to sing, whether you can read music or not. If you can't be there but are interested, please let Bob or Emily know.

Bell choir will start Tuesday September 6th at 6:30 PM. All are welcome though ability to read music is required.

The World's Most Dangerous Church Band will begin rehearsals Tuesday September 6th at 7:30 PM. Ability to play an instrument preferred but there are other options!

Any questions please speak to Emily or Bob Knapp.



Kristen Arsenault

Richard Brock

Sarah Comiskey

Mark Fehlmann

Lori Gillen

Pam Sheehan

Peggy Smith

Ruth Soper

Dwight Southwick

Julia Southwick

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.

email: susanstead5@gmail.com
978-697-1982

Greetings from the Pastor (cont.)

I watched as this humble rural community sat and listened. There was nodding and engagement as we each responded to this important reminder. We are all signs of a better way in this world. As people of faith in a better way, a different way, the way of love, forgiveness, mercy and justice; we can all be signs of this better way.

For the people of Galilee, back in the days when he walked and taught, Jesus was the sign that there was a better way. And today, as we each consider the invitation to be disciples, as we might muddle through life, we can choose to be a sign for those we meet. Those in darkness might find you or I to have a light within that they are seeking; an answer to prayer in some weird way. Who are we to say? And how does it all work?

We don't have the answers as to how it all works, not exactly. We are simply told to show love, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. With God's love as our guide, we can be the hands of mercy, the feet of justice, the way of peace. In this we are a sign; showing the way that love is greater than division or discord.

And if, in any of this, you have doubt or wonder, let's talk. Stay curious with me as we begin this new church year here at FCC Georgetown. I look forward to seeing on Sunday mornings, or any other time you might want to chat.

Let's do church together, either in the sanctuary, on the lawn, or maybe out for a walk looking out for God's creatures along the way.

In the meantime, may God be with you and keep you safe, filling you with a sense of comfort and longing for a better way in this world.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Holly

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



WOMEN'S GUILD SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Women's Guild will hold their first meeting of the fall on **Tuesday, September 6th, at Noon**. Please **bring your own sandwich**. Dessert & Tea will be provided by Joan Chatterton and Martha Lucius. We'll be welcoming Glenna Etheridge as our guest at this meeting. Glenna is an enthusiastic volunteer for the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, serving Greater Newburyport towns with intervention and education with regard to abuse in family situations. Glenna is an advocate and compassionate companion to clients facing court hearings. **Inviting all church women, who are available during the day, to join us at our season's kick-off meeting.**

Autumn Cheers,

Steering Committee: Jean Perley, Joan Chatterton, Judy Robillard & Nancy Aberman

WOMEN'S GUILD PROGRAM for FALL 2022 SPRING 2023

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GEORGETOWN, MA**

**ANNIVERSARY YEAR 1923 - 2023
AUTUMN 2022**

BRING YOUR OWN SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, September 6 at Noon

ADVOCATING FOR THE JEANNE GEIGER CRISIS CENTER

Glenna Etheridge, who serves the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center for greater Newburyport, is our Guest. The Center provides protection and preventive action where families are in abusive situations, and Glenna supports and accompanies women who are facing court hearings.

We hope that other women, from our congregation who are free in the afternoons, will join us at our kickoff program in welcoming Glenna, daughter of our Guild member, Gloria Webster.

Hostesses: Martha Lucius & Joan Chatterton

Devotions: Judy Robillard

BRING YOUR OWN SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, October 4 at Noon

STORYTELLING WITH GLADIE KNEELAND

The subject is a mystery! Only Gladie knows what she will share with us, but we're only too happy to hear her topic as she always wows us with a fun theme!

Hostesses: Sue Clay & Lilly Townsend

Devotions: Carol Lutes

IT WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED if you will pay dues of \$5.00 at either the September or October meeting. Thanks, in advance!

VOLUNTEERS will be asked to contribute PACKAGED & LABELED COOKIES to the COUNTRY STORE for the ANNUAL FALL FAIR, OCTOBER 21 & 22. No traditional Cookie Walk, as in years past, but we can help stock the Country Store as we did for last year's Fair!
(Cont. pg. 5)

BRING YOUR OWN SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, November 1 at Noon

BEHIND THE SCENES AT RUTH'S HOUSE

Welcoming Amy Smith-Boden, Director of Ruth's House in Haverhill, a charity that provides life-saving supplies from their volunteer organized Thrift Shop and helping families in crisis situations. Amy will share information on this mission, that our church has supported for many years, and will be happy to answer questions.

Hostesses: Nancy Aberman & Carol Lutes

Devotions: Gloria Minott

Please plan to bring "Socks for Ruth's House" (children's men's, women's) for pre-Christmas mission giving.

HOLIDAY DESSERT SOCIAL

Tuesday, December 6 at 1:00 O'Clock

Church Fair Pies & Ice Cream will be served at 1:00 o'clock followed by Advent entertainment.

*****Christmas Story by Shirley Powell***

*****Strumming & Songs by Richard Aberman***

*****Carol Sing with Mary Ann Nelson***

SPRING 2023

THE GUILD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

ANNIVERSARY GUEST TEA

Sunday Afternoon, March 26, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

by Chris Comiskey

Women from neighboring churches are invited to our Anniversary Tea when our Church Historian, Chris Comiskey will give us the inside scoop on "The 1923 Woman", her life, traditions, occupation, style, church activities, family activities, and how she places in history!

WE ENCOURAGE MEMBERS & GUESTS to dress up in a Twenties Era outfit, or if that is not a possibility, wear a hat, or headband, or flower in your hair!

All willing and able hands will be appreciated to help with this celebratory event! (The 5th Grade Girl Scouts, who hold meetings at our church, will assist us with serving. This program will take the place of an April Meeting)

BRING YOUR OWN SANDWICH LUNCH

Tuesday, May 2 at NOON

THE SOLITARY WOMAN ON THE SELECT BOARD

Amy Smith shares her journey to be elected as a Georgetown Select Board member, only the third woman to serve in this capacity over the course of many decades! Why is it important to Georgetown to have a woman's perspective in decision-making? Let's ask Amy!

Hostesses: Sylvia Johnston & Mary Ann Nelson

Devotions: Nancy Aberman

ANNUAL LUNCHEON OUTING

Tuesday, June 6 at 12:30 at the ROMA in Bradford.

Vision team Update

The Vision Team has been meeting to further refine a vision statement for the Church. We've been listening to the many wonderful ideas that members of the congregation have presented, and we've been exploring how best to use this time of discernment to fulfill our Church's mission.

We've been building on the core precepts of **Fostering** and strengthening our faith community, **Connecting** to the wider community, and **Committing** to a course of action that will be both a challenge and a fulfillment of our shared faith.

To this end, we believe that The First Congregational Church of Georgetown can be a resource to help foster holistic health -- the harmonious balance of body, mind and spirit -- in our community. The Church will accomplish this by partnering with local organizations and programs, addressing those needs and how we can best help meet them.

At worship service on Sunday, September 25th, The Vision Team will provide a brief update of this proposition, and outline the next steps in the process of having a formal Vision Statement that can be adopted at our next annual meeting.



Each month, book club meets to discuss books selected by book club members. Meetings are held via ZOOM at 7 PM. If you are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Aberman naberman1@gmail.com. All are welcome and you do not have to RSVP to attend. Below is a list of books that will be discussed 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.

Date 2022	Title	Author	Location/Hostess/Phone Number
September 28	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> ©1884	Mark Twain	Zoom 857 9842 9936 https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/ Select Book Club, What We are Reading Select link for current month's book
October 26	<i>The Wonder Boys of Whistle Stop</i>	Fannie Flagg	Zoom 857 9842 9936 https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/ Select Book Club, What We are Reading
December 7 (combined Nov/Dec)	<i>The Book of Lost Names</i> ©2021	Kristin Harmel	Zoom 857 9842 9936 https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/ Select Book Club, What We are Reading

Diaconate News

September Greetings from your Diaconate:

“Life Starts All Over Again When It Gets Crisp in the Fall” ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald

Although we have had an incredibly hot summer, can the first chill of fall be coming? This alerts us that autumn cannot be too far behind. We are blessed to welcome the next season as we watch the leaves changing color and share this beautiful season with the wonderment of Gods paintbrush with our very special church family.

To those who attended the Wednesday night services, I hope when you being to fill in your pocket calendars you pause and think of your church family and our ability to explore our lives and our faith. Your church family who always has your back and happily walks this journey beside you.

Your deacons, Antoinette, Emily, Pam and Sharon and I have been working very hard for you. As always, we encourage our church family to share ideas, joys, fears, and sorrows with us. We are here to hear your thoughts. Please contact any one of them.

We have so much to look forward to as this new season approaches...book club, music, and of course our traditional FABULOUS church fair!!

May kindness and blessings envelop you all. 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



Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
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*

Save the Date!
October 21st and 22nd

Annual Fall Harvest Fair

CHIC BOUTIQUE

RAFFLES

**HOMEMADE
PIES!
COOKIE WALK!**

RED TAG SALE

**SATURDAY
NIGHT
TURKEY
DINNER**

Artisans & Crafters





September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship <i>Story night</i>	2	3	
4	5 Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i>	6 12 PM Women's Guild 6 PM Choir 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	7 Last Wednesday worship 6:30 PM Supper 7 PM Worship	8 7 PM Diaconate Meeting	9 5-6:30 PM Girl Scouts	10
11 10:30 AM Sunday <i>Rally Day</i>	12	13 6 PM Finance Meeting 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	14 7 PM Missions Meeting 	15	16 5-6:30 PM Girl Scouts	17
18 10:30 AM Worship	19	20 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Bells	21 6:30 PM Council 7PM Boy Scouts	22 6 PM Christian Development	23 5-6:30 PM Girl Scouts	24
25 10:30 AM Worship Guest Preacher Rev. Alex <i>Shea Will</i>	26	27 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	28 7 PM Book Club 7PM Boy Scouts	29	30 5-6:30 PM Girl Scouts	

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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.