

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

November 2022



Life in New England with the cooling days and nights, brings us to picking the last tomatoes and putting the garden to bed till spring, digging out sweaters, gloves and hats, turning on the heat on those colder nights, and even breaking down and wearing socks to bed.

As a faith community, this is when we take time to be thankful for the bounty of life.

Even as some struggle, even amidst unrest in the world, even in times of some uncertainty, we have reason to give thanks to God; to be grateful for community, and to this community in particular.

And, this is when we turn and enter a “season” of Stewardship. We are encouraged in scripture to thank God for all we have been given, and we are merely stewards of God’s gifts. *“As generous distributors of God’s manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received.” (1 Peter 4:10)⁺⁺*

What if we made Stewardship a way of being here at FCC, instead of a month-long season during the month of November? To steward is to take care of, to attend to -- the earth, the world, to one another; to the gifts we have received. To be good stewards is to take the long view of what we have and how we are to care for creation.

Stewardship is more *a way of being* than a short season in the church year. Afterall, during the rest of the year, are you not stewarding? Are we not caring for creation? Or a loved one? Or the world?

In my time with you so far, I have witnessed that you *are* good stewards all year round. So, it is only fitting that Stewardship be called *a way of being*, not a short month-long season.

Stay tuned for more details from our Stewardship Team, George Comiskey, Sylvia Johnston and Toni Cassidy.

In the meantime, I invite you to find a moment each day for gratitude. To give God thanks for whatever it is you have or what you have learned, for the people you know and love, even those with whom you might disagree. What a rich world we can make if we all sat down together and gave thanks even for those with whom we disagree.

Ours is a God of abundant love that knows no end. Thanks be to God.

See you in church!

Rev. Holly

⁺⁺Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2535). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

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 with any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared 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 Robert Knapp at 978-352-7489.



Thomas Chaffee

Katherine Desisto

Timothy Lee

Sam Perley

Philip Rosene

Gloria Webster

Bible Study

Every Tuesday 10 AM

Evening Bible Study first Wednesday of the month.

Next meeting, November 2 at 7 PM ZOOM



Friday Luncheon Thank you!

When a great team is behind you the job is so much easier.

Toni Cassidy and Kristen Arsenault got the lobster ready on Thursday evening and Marie Birdsall-Chaffee helped with set-up.

Friday morning, bright and early, Susan Stead, Chris Comiskey, Sylvia Johnston, and a new member to our team, Carol Kirby (Sue Stead's mother) got the sandwiches ready.

Our serving team included Ruth Stewart, Ruth Soper, Shirley Powell, and Toni Cassidy.

Michelle Bridges handled the publicity.

Thank you to this incredible team!

We hope you enjoyed lunch!!





Proposed Vision Statement

Faith in Action. That is what our Church's Vision Statement should represent.

The Vision Team has been listening to all the ideas that have been generated in our two previous congregational meetings, going back to one year ago. We have looked for and found a unifying theme that we hope our Church family can rally around and provide a greater sense of meaning and purpose as we move forward, in action, together. Here is our proposed Vision Statement:

"Called as God's Beloved Community, in faith, we will:

Endeavor to strengthen our congregation by **Fostering** trust and confidence in each other;

Connect with the wider community by establishing dynamic partnerships of mutual support;

Be inspired and intentionally **Committed** to responding in faith to the needs of the wider community.

To this end, we believe that The First Congregational Church of Georgetown will be a resource to help foster holistic health -- the harmonious balance of body, mind and spirit -- in our community, and that, through our collective will and shared energies, this principle will transform our faith to life-affirming action."

The Vision Team is inviting everyone to meet after worship on November 6th to consider the Vision Statement and how our church may lean into its fulfillment, as well as where our members and friends may see themselves as participants in this vision. The next step after this will be to have the Vision Statement blessed at the annual meeting in January.

Immediately following the November 6th meeting in the sanctuary after worship the **Vision Team will again host a Chili and Chowder Lunch** down in the fellowship hall. We do hope that you all can attend the meeting, whether in person or on Zoom, and participate in this next exciting and adventurous step forward for the Church.

And of course, any questions or comments you might have can be directed to members of the Vision Team:

Michelle Brock mbrock8484@gmail.com

Marie Birdsall-Chaffee mbirds2516@aol.com

Richard Aberman richardaberman@hotmail.com

Greetings from the Diaconate

Blessings from your Diaconate:

Enormous blessings!!! We, the members of this wonderful Church Family, receive enormous blessings each day. When we reflect on the month of November many of us automatically think of the word blessing. Blessings of all of the expert teams who bring their gifts of time, talent and love to the success of our Church Fair. Blessings to those who attend and fill our coffers! Each year we share old traditions, new ideas and the warmth of friendship.

Blessings upon your deacons who work hard to be there for each of you. We encourage each of you to share your thoughts, joys, sorrows with any one of us. We love spending time with you, conversing with you, and of course the hugs! Please know that Antoinette, Emily, Pam, Sharon, and Gladie are here to listen and care. Blessings as we approach Thanksgiving, a holiday that fills us with delicious food and our spirit with the love of family and friendship.

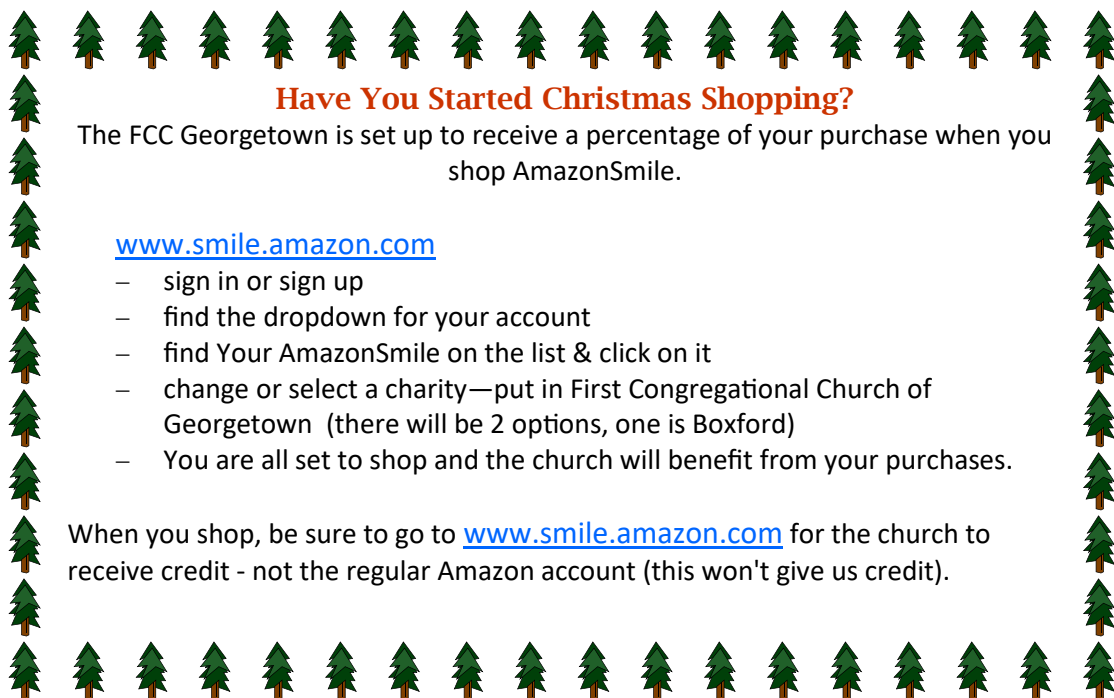
Blessings with our Community. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held this year at our church with many area churches participating on November 22nd. We would love to share this special evening with you and yours.

Blessings to all who contribute their time to turn our beautiful sanctuary into an “awe-filled, catch your breath” beauty!! We will be decorating and will announce the date later. All are welcome to help.

“Write your Hurts in the Sand and Carve your Blessings in Stone.”

Let's welcome this beautiful season of thanksgiving and blessings together,

Gladie Kneeland Chair



Have You Started Christmas Shopping?

The FCC Georgetown is set up to receive a percentage of your purchase when you shop AmazonSmile.

www.smile.amazon.com

- sign in or sign up
- find the dropdown for your account
- find Your AmazonSmile on the list & click on it
- change or select a charity—put in First Congregational Church of Georgetown (there will be 2 options, one is Boxford)
- You are all set to shop and the church will benefit from your purchases.

When you shop, be sure to go to www.smile.amazon.com for the church to receive credit - not the regular Amazon account (this won't give us credit).



Each month we meet to talk about books selected by book club members. Meetings are held via ZOOM. 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.

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
---	--	----------------	--

Women's Guild

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.

(Read more about our holiday mission "Socks for Ruth's House" and Holiday Social pg. 7)



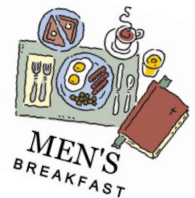
Knitting

Knitting resumes every other Thursday evening in the Guild Room. All are welcome, those new to knitting and experienced who just want a bit of company as you knit.

Upcoming meetings: November 10th

Men's Group

Men's Group will meet on the **second** Saturday of the month at Café Sarina 8:00 AM. Next meet is Saturday, November 12th.



Missions & Outreach



Stay tuned for details from the Missions & Outreach team! They will be announcing their Christmas campaign soon.



Stewardship Season is Upon Us!

November kicks off the start of this year's stewardship campaign. It's a great time to remember all the blessings God has given each of us, as well as our church, over the past year. God has been faithful to us, providing for us financially and spiritually. Through your generous support, we hope that you will renew your generous giving.

We look forward to seeing how God will continue to bless us and use us as instruments of his love in our community in the coming year.

Blessings from the Stewardship Team!

Socks for Ruth's House (Cont. from pg. 6)



NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD



Many thanks, everyone, for your continued support of the **PENNY BOWL**, displayed at our Coffee Hours! The first fifty dollars, ***that has been raised***, is earmarked for **RUTH'S HOUSE**, our longtime mission endeavor that supports various programs for struggling families in the Merrimack Valley. For years the Guild has donated men's, women's and children's socks to Ruth's House for Christmas giving. We have started this collection early so that the congregation will be able to participate if they wish to. You will see a **BASKET** in the **FELLOWSHIP HALL** for the **SOCK COLLECTION**. They will be delivered by the early part of December in good time for Santa's gift list.

We've been blessed by welcoming new members to our group this fall, and enjoying a variety of programs together. The end-of-season program is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 6, for a HOLIDAY DESSERT SOCIAL at 1:00 o'clock**. If you haven't been attending our Guild programs, but are thinking about it, please join us for an Advent kickoff party! We'd love to see you!

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



November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 AM Bible Study 12 PM Women's Guild 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	2 7-8 PM Evening Bible Study ZOOM 7PM Boy Scouts	3	4 5-6:30 PM Girl Scouts	5
6 10:30 AM Worship Vision Team meeting Vision Team luncheon	7	8 10 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Finance 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	9 7 PM Missions Meeting 7PM Boy Scouts	10 7 PM Diaconate Meeting 7 PM Knitting	11	12 8 AM Men's Breakfast Café Sarina
13 9:30 Bells 10:30 AM Worship	14 	15 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	16 6:30 PM Council 7PM Boy Scouts	17 6:00 PM Christian Development	18 3-6:30 PM Girl Scouts	19
20 9:30 Band 10:30 AM Worship	21	22 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving service	23 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	24 Office Closed 	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:30 Band 10:30 AM Worship First Sunday of Advent	28	29 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	30			

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



Inside This Issue

Pastor’s Message1

Bible Study, Light the Church, Birthdays2

Vision Committee3

Book Club5

Diaconate4

Stewardship.....6

Women’s Guild / Sock Drive..... 5 & 6

November Calendar7

Our 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.

