

# 2022 Annual Report



**First Congregational Church  
of Georgetown, UCC**

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

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January 19, 2022

**2022 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

In accordance with Our Congregation's Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Church edifice and/or virtually via an electronic streaming and/or phone device immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, January 30, 2022 to act on the following articles:

**Article I:** To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the "2021 Financial Report and Proposed 2022 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

**Article II:** To receive the 2021 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2022 or take any other related action;

**Article III:** To receive and hear the "Nomination Report" and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

**Article IV:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

By direction of Our Congregation's Council

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

**The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc.  
7 Andover Street, Box 200, Georgetown, MA 01833  
2022 ANNUAL MEETING - ZOOM  
January 30, 2022**

Rich Brock, Moderator opened the meeting welcoming all.  
Meeting called to order at 11:32a.m. the meeting was held via ZOOM, online attendance was taken.  
Holly Brauner, Pastor lead the congregation in prayer.

**Article I:**

To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the "2021 Financial Report and Proposed 2022 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

Gladie Kneeland – Mr. Moderator

I move that the congregation receive the reports of the individual Council Members and their teams and any others requested by the Council, except for the 2021 Financial Report, the Proposed 2022 Budget, and the 2022 Nomination Report.

Bob Knapp seconded the motion.

Moderator – It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive the reports of the individual council members and their teams and any others requested by the Council, except for the 2021 Financial Report, the Proposed 2022 Budget and the 2022 Nomination Report.

Gladie Kneeland – Mr. Moderator

The submitted reports are captured within the 2021 Annual Report, dated Sunday, January 30, 2022, which reflect the activities of the various teams for the previous church year.

Moderator – Is there any other discussion

Moderator – The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive the reports of the individual council members and their teams and any others requested by the Council, except for the 2021 Financial Report, the Proposed 2022 Budget, and the 2022 Nomination report.

All in favor? Apposed? – motion carries unanimously.

### **Article II:**

To receive the 2021 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2022 or take any other related action;

Kristen - Mr. Moderator

I move that the congregation receive the 2021 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2022 or take any other related action;

Motion seconded – Gladie Kneeland

Moderator – It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive the 2021 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2022 or take any other related action;

Kristen – Mr. Moderator

The submitted 2021 Financial report and the proposed 2022 budget are captured within the 2021 Annual Report, dated Sunday, January 30, 2022.

Moderator – Is there any other discussion.

Moderator - The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive the 2021 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team’s proposed 2021 budget, and to approve a budget for 2022 or take any other related action;

All in favor? Apposed?

Motion carries unanimously.

### **Article III:**

To receive and hear the “Nomination Report” and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

Antoinette Jones– Mr. Moderator

I move that the congregation receive and hear the 2022 Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

Motion seconded – Susan Stead

Moderator – It is moved and seconded that the congregation receive and hear the Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

Antoinette Jones– Mr. Moderator

As noted on the submitted 2022 Nomination report, individuals that have are star have either been nominated or re-nominated to serve on the referenced team. Chairpersons are noted and will represent their team on the Church Council. The End of Current Term column reflects the end of the individual’s current term, unless the individual was nominated or renominated. In this case, the End of Nominated Term column reflects the term end date.

Moderator – Is there any other discussion?

Moderator – The question is on the adoption of the motion that the congregation receive and hear the 2022 Nomination Report and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies.

All in favor? Apposed? Motion Carries unanimously.

**Article IV:**

To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

No motions.

Clerks' oath of office

"I, Toni Cassidy, do solemnly affirm, with the help of God, that I will support the Constitution and Bylaws and Policies of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. Further, I will faithfully and impartially discharge the responsibilities of the Clerk to the best of my ability."

Motion to adjourn – Susan Stead, seconded Gladie Kneeland.

Respectfully submitted by  
Toni Cassidy, Clerk

January 18, 2023

**2023 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

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**Article I:** To receive the reports of the individual Council Members & their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the "2022 Financial Report and Proposed 2023 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

**Article II:** To receive the 2022 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2023 budget, and to approve a budget for 2023 or take any other related action;

**Article III:** To receive and hear the report of the Vision Team, and approve the proposed Vision Statement, or to take any other related action;

**Article IV:** To hear the recommendation of the Church Council to modify Section 4.3 and Section 5 of Church By-Laws, approve the proposed by-law changes, or to take any other related action;

**Article V:** To receive and hear the "Nomination Report" and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

**Article VI:** To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.

By direction of Our Congregation's Council

Toni Cassidy, Clerk

## Pastor's Report

It seems that each year as I write this annual report will be just about the time to celebrate the anniversary of my joining you as your Pastor. And so, we arrive at the completion of Year 2 with me as your pastor. Someone asked me recently, "Has it been two years already?" Hard to believe, but there you have it!

As I reflect on this second full year with you all, I am so thankful for each of you as you work to keep the church active and alive. I see so many of you putting your heart and soul into the details of church life, the well-being of the congregation, mission opportunities, church finances and the day-to-day upkeep of an old building. I see the faithful leadership of each ministry team, collaborations which unfold to address concerns that arise. I am thankful especially for the more recent development of the Pastor Parish Relations Team which I meet with monthly for an essential check-in of the quality of life here at FCC.

Other teams are more short-term, to address important details of church life, such as the Visioning Team, and the Behavioral Covenant team. After 18 months of prayerful discernment, with assistance from the congregation, the Vision team have a proposed Vision Statement that will help us all live more deeply into our call as God's hands and feet. A more recent team that formed is the Behavioral Covenant team which revisited our previous covenant, helping to guide us to be our best selves with each other.

It is so rewarding to work with each of these teams; finding the common threads in and between each of these teams is invigorating and inspiring.

Aside from the long- and short-term teams that keep us all going, here are some church life highlights for me this year:

- The Easter celebrations, both the sunrise service at Camp Leslie and the late morning worship service. The amazing campfire, thanks to the Southwick's commitment to dry kindling, kept us warm in the chilly lakeside air. The main Easter worship service brought a different kind of joy with a great gathering of the faithful and the occasional worshipers.
- In July, during our summer Wednesday worship series, I had the privilege of baptizing Isla and Bentley Scott. Baptisms are one of my favorite responsibilities as a pastor. This was a truly blessed occasion with many curious (and challenging) questions coming from Bentley about the nature and meaning of baptism.
- The Summer concert with Henri Smith! What a feel-good event, right on the church's front lawn. Great music, (dancing even!) amazing weather, a cookout, and a fundraiser for the town's local youth council. Thanks to the organizing team for this wonderful night of jazz.
- The Annual Fall Fair of course, even as I worried about many of you overdoing it, like a mother hen worries about her chicks. In the end, after a careful review of this year's fair, it has been determined that much joy comes to many of you even with

the exhaustion from herculean efforts to plan, advertise, organize, set up, cook, clean up every each of useable space at the church.

- The Thanksgiving service, for sure! With 7 regional congregations represented in our sanctuary on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is hoped that this tradition will return to the region, after taking a few years break due to the COVID pandemic.

I am grateful for the Diaconate for their consistent support and care of our congregation as well as the detail of the weekly worship experience. I very much appreciate that this team steps up when I am away on vacation or out sick. This past summer, thanks to their leadership, I felt so confident to be gone for a week at my daughter Ali's wedding in Maine, I was able to be completely present as her mom, totally focused on the nuptial celebration.

October's sermon series on creation stories of other cultures generated good discussion and increased curiosity of our own story of creation found in Genesis. I hope to replicate this kind of curiosity with other series in the coming year although the specific topics are still under consideration.

The Christian Development team began a new endeavor of Movie nights, which may become a quarterly event soon. While attendance has been light so far, it is hoped that with regular offerings of differently themed movies, we will see greater showing and interest. The goal of this work is to offer thought-provoking, gently challenging, learning opportunities to the congregation and out to the wider community.

As for outreach into the wider community, I have enjoyed getting to know the Scout troops who use our building and occasionally participate in church sponsored events. I look forward to further strengthening this relationship.

Likewise, I have attended several events with the Georgetown Youth Community Center, working to strengthen that relationship and get to know some of the families involved. In October I attended a regional breakfast to celebrate the good work of agencies focused on the health and well-being of our area's youth and their families. One area of mutual concern is deteriorating mental health and increase of substance use among youth. There seems to be much room locally to grow support systems for youth and their families, an area where the church might be helpful, particularly in the use of our building, and pastoral care in general.

In church life, Bible study continues on Tuesday morning. And, depending on interest, we may continue to offer an additional study time on the first Wednesday of each month. With the use of various translations of scripture, we have been able to dig into possible interpretations and apply lessons more closely to our own lives. All are welcome to join us weekly or monthly, the more the merrier.

I continue in my position as Moderator for our UCC association, supporting our fellow congregations in any way possible. Our bi-monthly board meetings are broken up by two annual meetings, in the fall and spring which bring together all regional UCC congregations. COVID's restrictions have unfortunately been a barrier for many to gather in this way, negatively affecting our attendance and participation. It is hoped that the coming spring meeting will bring us back together in greater numbers.

This year, I presided over memorial services for: Mildred Gangloff, Paul Tariot, Lee Ames, Pat Barlow, and Hannah Desrochers. Whether their passing was expected or came as a gut-wrenching, heartbreaking shock, their loss is felt deeply, nonetheless. Grief has its own

timeline, and so we continue to hold close the families and loved ones of these who we have lost this past year. In addition to these known loved ones, I presided over several other memorial services and funerals of those in the greater North Shore area.

We ended 2022 on a high note with our Christmas celebrations. Between JT Turner's performance of *A Christmas Carol*, and our earlier Christmas Eve service that welcomed returned families and many new souls, there was much joy in our gatherings. We tried something different by making the Christmas Eve service earlier in the evening and I believe that this allowed several families to attend prior to their other holiday commitments, thereby possibly setting the tone for the rest of their holiday celebrations.

A special thank you to all those who have lent their voices to our worship services throughout the year; to the Diaconate which organizes many of the worship details (like Communion bread and juice) and to the musicians for making our Sunday morning worship enjoyable.

We worship each week to find strength and feed our imaginations of how God might be calling us out into the community.

My prayer is that we continue to worship together, finding ways to feed our spirits, giving us strength for this sacred journey together.

In Faith,

Reverend Holly S. Brauner



## **Moderator's Report**

Our Congregation, Leadership Team, various team member, and volunteers continue to rise above the many challenges confronted this past year. Your dedication and commitment to our greater mission of serving God and our community continue to be the strength of First Church.

Below are the major accomplishments addressed by the Church and the Church Council

### **Pandemic Response**

Throughout the year, the Church Council reviewed the latest information released by the State of Massachusetts determine the appropriate safety protocols to implement to keep our congregation and community as safe as possible. During the first quarter of 2022, protocols were loosened, and the Church was able to host fellowship hour once again after worship. Safety protocols for the Church were adjusted throughout the year based on the prevalence of any covid variants. Council will continue to monitor, adjust, and enforce all safety protocols to keep our congregants and community safe and healthy.

### **Church's Vision**

Throughout the year, the Vision Team worked with the congregation to formulate a new vision statement for the Church. This statement will serve as the centerpiece of all activities for the Church and the Congregation as we continue to grow as a faith community. The proposed Vision Statement, states

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 faith to the needs of the wider community.

Congratulations to the Vision Team on your accomplishments this year.

### **Behavioral Covenant**

Our Behavioral Covenant was reviewed and updated during the year by a small team as the last update occurred in 2011. With the new Vision Statement pending approval by the Congregation, Council also took steps to update the Behavioral Covenant. While the Vision Statement will provide focus and direction, the Behavioral Covenant will guide us in building and strengthening relations, how covenantal we are as a faith community. Congratulations to the Behavioral Covenant Team on their accomplishments this year.

## **By Law Review and Updates**

A review of the By-Laws occurred to determine what changes were necessary to address the availability of congregants to serve on the teams of the Church. Recommendations include dropping the requirement that an individual must be a member of the Church to be on a team, as well as reducing the number of individuals that should be on each team. The recommended changes, once approved by the Congregation, will assist the Nominating Team in filling open positions each year.

A second change was recommended in terms of Church members that are no longer active or participating in the Church. The proposed change will allow the Church to transition members to an Inactive list without requiring the distribution of a letter notifying the individual of the action being taken.

## **Community Outreach**

There were many events where the Church welcomed the Community to share in the bounty that God provides every day. Each event brings the community together in fellowship as we continue to expand our outreach beyond the Church's four walls.

- In June, we hosted our annual Strawberry Social
- In August, we hosted on live Jazz Concert performed by Henri Smith on our front lawn
- In October, we hosted our annual church fair
- In December, we hosted JT Turner's production of a Christmas Carol

As a Church, we need to embrace as many opportunities as possible to participate in activities and events that engage the wider community.

## **Reflection**

It has been an honor to serve the last six years as the Moderator of this Church. As I have reached the end of my second term, a new Moderator will lead First Church in the coming year and beyond. I want to thank the Council members that have served with me over the last six years for their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments, especially during the height of Covid. While we may not know what the future will bestow upon us, we do know that the strengths we gained over the past two years will continue throughout the coming years as we continue to grow as Christians. I'm proud of all that we accomplished, the challenges that were overcome, and the spiritual growth we attained together.

Respectively Submitted

Rich Brock - Moderator

## 2022 Clerk's Report Membership Information

Covid was still in our lives, however, not as limiting as the past two years, we were able to get back to a "normal" life. Council and Teams were able to meet in person with the ZOOM option still available as well. Church services were held in the sanctuary and also through ZOOM, thankful for the ZOOM Team that brings the services to our home audience. We are still aware of the Covid threat and follow safety protocols when needed.

In February of 2022 FCC hosted the installation of Pastor Holly Brauner, the service and the installation was up lifting and a much needed boost to our congregation after a very long search for a new Pastor. The time, effort and energy the Search Team put into fulfilling our need was much appreciated and we are very thankful, well done.

In April the Mission's Team held a very successful Fund raiser for the Ukrainian Relief Fund, in collaboration with the UCC. Christine Litch offered Yoga classes; line dancing classes continued. The Woman's Guild continued with their meetings.

Christian Development set up a Book Walk on the front lawn of the Church. A little library and bench were built in memory of Karen Young and placed at the beginning of the walkway in front of the church.

The Strawberry Social was held in June, the weather cooperated, the Church Band played, people were happy to fellowship and enjoy the beautiful evening. Summer Services returned on Wednesday evenings.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> a Henri Smith New Orleans Concert was held on the church lawn, the proceeds from this concert were donated to the Georgetown Youth Center.

Our Annual Fall Fair was held in October; appropriate Covid protocols were followed. The Boy and Girl Scouts were very helpful with set up and take down for the fair. The Turkey Dinner on Saturday evening was the conclusion of a successful fair.

A plaque honoring the quilt Project that hangs in the foyer of the church was dedicated in November. Joan Chatterton helped with researching the history of the quilt. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving FCC hosted a Thanksgiving ecumenical service.

A Christmas Carol, presented by J. T. Turner was held in the sanctuary on December 18<sup>th</sup>, great one-man play. Christmas Eve service was held at 5:00 pm, a change from the past 7:00 pm start.

We continue to reach out to the community to support financial and spiritual needs.

Our church family lost beloved members:

Mildred Gangloff  
Esther Leona Ames  
Patricia A. Barlow  
Hannah Desrochers

Member Report Beginning 1/1/2022:	Total: 173
Deaths:	-4
Total as of 12/31/2022	169

Respectfully submitted by, Toni Cassidy, Clerk

## **Annual Report of Member-at-Large**

Greetings from your 2022 Member at Large! It has been a year of great conversation and sharing of ideas as we continue to grow in our faith journey together! We are so blessed to have the opportunity to worship in person as well as on Zoom. In 2023 I look forward to new ways we can connect with each other. As I continue as Member at Large please know that I am available to listen on any thoughts you may want to share.

Being part of the council and attending monthly meetings have given me a great perspective of all that goes on in the Life of our Church! As we move forward into 2023, I pray that we will embrace all the opportunities God has in store for each of us and will continue to grow in Grace.

Blessings,  
Susan Stead

## **Annual Church Fair October 2022**

Our annual church fair occurred on Friday October 21st and Saturday, October 22nd. Everyone was eager to kick off our biggest fundraiser of the year with joy and fellowship.

Some of our regular vendors stayed away and we welcomed new vendors. Some of our staff changed and others stepped up to the plate to take over. Once again, our favorite committees were present and accounted for, including our Advertising and Vendor Solicitation, the Pie Machine, the Grannie's Attic team the Raffle tea, the Lunch Bunch the Country Store, and the Saturday Night dinner crew, who once again served up the best Turkey dinner north of Boston.

A Fair recap meeting occurred on November 17th to identify new ideas and suggestion for the 2023 fair.

Everyone agreed the fair is about fellowship, bringing the community together.

The fair will continue to occur over a two-day period. The hours will change to 11 am to 7 pm on the first day of the fair. The fair will shut down earlier on the second day, possibly at 2 PM.

Additional advertisements options will be evaluated to expand our outreach and increase attendance.

Emily Knapp and Rich Brock will be co-chairs for the 2023 Fall Fair.

Many thanks to Deb Lamoureux for her assistance as co-chair over the last couple of years.

Respectively submitted,

Rich Brock – Co-Chair

Deb Lamoureux – Co-Chair

## **Christian Development**

The below represents an overview of the 2022 accomplishments of the Christian Development team.

### **Congregational Reading on Racism**

During Lent, the book *Waking Up White* was read and discussed with a group of congregants as part of an initiative to learn more about Racism and how the Church can assist when racism occurs within the community. The group met on March 13, March 27, and April 10.

*Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, where she her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, she offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. As Irving unpacks her own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, she reveals how each of these well-intentioned mindsets perpetuated her ill-conceived ideas about race. She also explains why and how she's changed the way she talks about racism, works in racially mixed groups, and understands the antiracism movement.

### **Movie Nights**

Christian Development hosted a Movie Night as a next step on Racism after our **congregational reading on racism**. On Saturday, November 5th. the film *Selma* was shown. The group discussed the movie after the showing. Pizza was also served.

*Selma* is a 2014 historical drama film directed by Ava DuVernay and written by Paul Webb. It is based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches initiated and directed by James Bevel and led by Martin Luther King Jr., Hosea Williams, and John Lewis.

### **Story Board/Walk**

The new Story Board/Walk on the front lawn of the Church was completed. Parts of each story were strategically placed along the sidewalk and front walkway for pedestrians to read and learn the various teachings of Jesus. The first Story Board/Walk was the book *Thank You, Omu!* By Oge Mora, a title which ties in beautifully with the Church's Missions work.

### **Little Free Library**

A free library was installed on the street in front of the Church, due to the work of Warren Young and Steve Pinto. A plaque in memory of Karen Young was also installed.

### **Blessing of the Animals**

The Blessing of the Animals occurred on Saturday, October 1 at 4 p.m. on the church lawn. Donations (of pet food, gently used bedding, towels, etc.) were accepted for Nevins Farm in Methuen.

### **Graduation Sunday**

On June 12, 2022, the Church recognized the accomplishments of Tori Orender, Cadynce Pesce, Gabe Angerhofer, and Katie Bridges.

Respectively Submitted by  
Rich Brock – Christian Development

## **Report of the Women's Guild**

Two of our 2022 spring gatherings became meetings of conversation and shared stories because our guest speakers were not able to visit due to illness and bereavement. For the May meeting, a last-minute call out to book lovers brought about an interesting and lively discussion on children's books; books that we loved when we were young, and contemporary books that we enjoy reading to our grandchildren! Our June gathering took place at the Roma Restaurant in Bradford where we enjoyed the luncheon outing in our own private comfortable room.

Glenna Etheridge was our knowledgeable Guest Speaker at our kick-off fall meeting in September. Glenna is an active volunteer with the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center of Greater Newburyport. As an advocate for victims of abuse, she reminded us of the varied expertise and programs involved with this mission in proactively saving lives and families.

In October Gladie Kneeland wowed us with a fun subject on the history of cameos and discussed the differences in the artistry and what those differences meant. She shared her personal collection of this beautiful type of jewelry and told family stories about each one.

Amy Smith-Boden, Executive Director of Ruth's House in Haverhill, enhanced our knowledge about this mission at our November meeting. Amy gave us important information about Ruth's House and their steadfast support of struggling families in the Merrimack Valley. With the help of our congregation, our Ruth's House Sock Collection during November brought in over 200 pairs of children's, men's, and women's socks.

Our Holiday Dessert Social in December was a joyful celebration! Church Fair Pies were served, a Christmas Story was read by Shirley Powell and music performed by Richard Aberman and Mary Ann Nelson. It was a special afternoon, and we were one in the spirit.

The Guild continues to support our annual Church Fair with a Cookie Walk presented a little differently since Covid struck us. Cookies are packaged, a few to each baggie, but patrons can still pick and choose while they round up a dozen or so and browse the Country Store! We wish to thank those in our congregation who helped the Guild with their cookie contributions. Our membership has suffered many losses since 2019, and we greatly miss those who have passed from our sight, but not from our hearts. We are happy to note the fact that we've welcomed new members into our fold this past year. They are wonderful women who are adding their life's journeys to ours. We continue to learn from each other, to develop new friendships and sometimes new ways as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year (1923 -2023).

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Chatterton, Secretary

## Diaconate Report

*“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of others.”* Charles Dickens.

Hope and Dedication .... Two words that truly sum up the work of your Diaconate team this year. The responsibilities of this team are many and are done by these exceptional people: Antoinette, Emily, Pam and Sharon. You do so much, and do it quietly, tirelessly and without complaint. Thank you. The deacons did Pastoral coverage, pulpit supply ministers, lay services, all were beautifully covered by this board. It has been my joy to be your Chairperson and I can only say thank you, well done, good and faithful friends. By the time you read this I will no longer be on the Diaconate. I wish my successors much compassion, patience and enjoyment. Thanks to everyone in our church family for the support, love and care I have received in this office.

This year many goals were accomplished by the hands and love of our church members.

A big thank you to all who have participated in our services...via in person or via zoom. Our scripture readers, Christian service helpers, and everyone who lent a hand or an ear helping to keep our Church Family feel connected and not alone. You all stepped up to help each other, a warm phone call, a little note “how are you doing” and simply keeping everyone tucked in your hearts. Our music program is superb. To our organist Emily Knapp, our choir, our bell choir and our band director, Bob Knapp, your God-given talents amaze us and fill our ears and hearts with love. Music is such an important and beautiful part of our services.

Thank you to Jaimee Krenn, our very talented flower coordinator. Her tireless work adds so much to the beauty to our services. She also tends to our church garden, which provides nature's beauty for the entire community to share. She and Steve Pinto helped with the wreaths and twinkling outside lights at Christmas to add to the magic our church represents to many citizens of our town.

Our Hospitality Team Ruth Soper and Pam Sheehan continued our Church tradition of serving delicious food and warm friendship. They hosted coffee hours and other events for us. We are blessed with the response of so many to our ‘clipboard calls’ for yummys.

To thank the Missions Team requires a large applause! Your dedication and love for others is unsurpassed. These projects bring all of us, young and old alike, working together to help those less fortunate than ourselves. You provide so much to so many.

Usher Duties: I would like to thank many who have stepped up in this role. Derek and Sarah Pesce are always ready to assist, even at the very last moment! The bell ringer, Mason, calls us all to church with great enthusiasm and lights the candles when we forget! It's been great to see George Comiskey back as usher with our church historian, Chris Comiskey.

Our Stewardship Team: Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey and Sylvia Johnston. Thank you for coordinating this important part of our church. As stewards you are called to care and preserve this Church in order to continue its missions and spiritual message. Thank you for all you do. Also, a big thanks to the speakers in church who shared their stories of blessings they have received as members of this church.

## **JANUARY**

Our annual meeting was held in accordance with our congregation's constitution and bylaws. New Teams were announced.

## **FEBRUARY**

Holly Brauner's Installation Service was held On February 6, 2022. A great celebration and we welcomed many to share in this important milestone for Holly and our Church.

## **MARCH and APRIL**

Easter Sunday is a glorious day filled with hope and joy. We enjoyed meaningful and beautiful services. We began this season with a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper and transitioned into an Ash Wednesday service. Palm Sunday service was attended by many. Thank you to Jaime Krenn for ordering, preparing and delivering the palms.

Maundy Thursday service was held. Thank you to all who participated. Easter morning, we held our traditional sunrise service at Camp Leslie. There is something so moving about Sunrise service that stays tucked into our hearts all year. To commune with nature and all her beauty... how blessed we are! Sunday then continued with an Easter Service and distribution of Easter Lilies.

Diaconate did the April 24<sup>th</sup> service "Bright Sunday!" Folks wore bright colors and we brightened the corner where we were!!

## **JUNE**

Our STRAWBERRY month. Our annual strawberry social under the very capable leadership of Emily Knapp and Janice Murphy. YAY!!!! Mouthwatering desserts were enjoyed by all !! The community coming back to celebrate with us made it so special. So many hard workers who tirelessly help every year...you are the best.

## **JULY and AUGUST**

Wednesday evening worship services began our summer season. The Diaconate was responsible for two services in July and two services in August. Thanks for everyone who helped.

Thank you to Hospitality Team, Ruth Soper who provided us with delish hot dogs, lemonade, and iced tea each week. We also enjoyed a change and had delicious salads as well. We hope you all had fun and enjoyed sharing traditions and your memories with your Church family.

During our summer services, we were so blessed to have our musicians, who shared their God-given talent with all of us. Each one of our musicians spend so much time researching, preparing and performing for us. Thank you.

The mission team continued the school supplies drive. A big thank you to all who donated and participated.

We held visionary meetings and during these meetings we shared our experiences at church, what we value about church, and three wishes for the future of our church.

## **AUGUST**

This month brought us together to our annual blueberry picking. Thank you to the organizers, the pickers, the sorters and later on to the bakers!!!

SEPTEMBER: Our Rally Day and our School Supplies Drive. Great to be back refreshed and ready for the autumn events ahead.



## **OCTOBER**

Annual Church Fair! We were all so excited to watch this magnificent event unfold before our very eyes. Too many wonderful workers to name, but suffice it to say "Congratulations to all for a special time of being together with our community!!!A huge thank you to Rich Brock for Taking the Helm once again. Great Teams and a Great Two Days!!! " We held successful luncheons, featuring lobster or chicken rolls, always a sellout!! Of course, our Turkey Dinners with all the fixins is one of the highlights...this dinner fills us up and warms our hearts while sitting with community members and catching up!!

## **NOVEMBER**

A special month for us...we dedicated the Quilt that hangs in the Narthex. Remembering our Heritage makes this a very important addition. Be sure and take a look. The plaque indicates those who gave of their time and talent. This was lovingly made by the following:

Paul Revere & Sons Bell  
The Joel Butler Organ  
The Golden Rooster  
Together for Our Heritage  
Strawberry Social  
Junior Choir  
Communion  
First Cong Church Building  
Advent Candles  
Heifer Project International  
The Orthodox Church  
Antique Kitchen Stove  
Women's Club  
Identifying Our Church

Chris Comiskey  
Marion Harding  
Jackie Moore  
Marge Watson  
Karen LeBlanc  
Evelyn Boose  
Joan Chatterton  
Pat Barlow  
Sandi Schauer  
Jill Hamelin  
Sylvia George  
Ginny Ryder  
Millie Gangloff  
Tracy Southwick

## **DECEMBER**

During the Christmas Eve Magical Candlelit Service, we were able to be in the sanctuary where we embraced the journey of Mary and Joseph and the hope and joy we feel when we visualize Baby Jesus, warm and cozy in the manger, surrounded by sweet lambs. So many feel so emotional when joining in with singing the many carols, so lovingly played by Emily and Bob. Ending with the darkness of the sanctuary... then row by row we 'light' the candles until we are ablaze and filled with the amazement of this, the holiest of nights.

Christmas Morning...actually December 25<sup>th</sup> fell on Sunday this year, so we had a service in the sanctuary to celebrate. Stories of Christmas Joys were shared, together with a carol sing.... a lovely way to share this special day with our church family.

H.O.M.E. for Christmas is our annual Christmas gift-giving, thank you for all who gave so freely to make Christmas special for these children. Your generosity reaches far and wide!

The Diaconate delivered poinsettias and thank you to many of you who continued to donate in the memory of a loved one.

Excitement was in the air as we confirmed the date for J.T. Turner to perform “Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol.” December 18<sup>th</sup> arrived and no disappointments here.... J.T. and his talent with his one-man show continues to allow us to savor the story and really feel the Christmas spirit of Joy and Love.

I do hesitate here because in ‘naming names’ I am always fearful of leaving someone out because each of you have made an impact on the life of our church.

Janice Murphy: Your many, many talents. Organizing, keeping our sign out in front of the church up to date, remembering the ‘little things’ and sharing your caring ways with so many.

Kim Knapp, thank you for keeping our building shining bright!

Jessica Ford, our every competent church office manager. Your hard work, your kind way of keeping our many teams on the right path and your ability to be so organized, we thank you! Especially with the gentle nudge when ‘someone’ almost forgets to send you the monthly newsletter!!!

Lastly, the “heart” of our Church...the Volunteer. I have never asked for help without receiving it, and receiving it with a smile and “anything else I can do?” as well. You are all so loving and generous with your individual talents and endless hours of time. Thank you.

Our community of God is precious. We have a church family that boosts us up when the world is overwhelming, when we feel hurt or lost...and on the flip side a church family who shares your joys and happiness so much it swells your heart!

“Nobody really knows how much anyone else is hurting. We could be standing next to someone who is completely broken and we’d never know. So, be kind always. With yourself and others.” Unknown

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys M. 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.”

## **Hospitality Team Report 2022**

This was a great year as we were able to gather for coffee and goodies along with good fellowship after services on Sunday again after some time of being careful due to the pandemic. It was so good to see smiling faces again and everyone enjoying each other's company. We were also honored to do the collation for loved ones who passed away and to be able to help their families through such a rough time. Summer services were another fun time. We changed the menu up a little and everyone loved it. Now here comes fall and our Thanksgiving gathering with other churches in the area. We gathered downstairs after and got to meet folks.

Again, thank you to all who made this a good year. May you all have a great year and stay healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Soper Chairperson and Pam Sheehan Co-Chairperson

## **Report of the Book Club**

During 2022, Book Club continued to meet over Zoom. Members are delighted that Zoom allows us to meet with our members who have moved to Arizona, Maine, Florida, Texas, Western Massachusetts and other places. During this time, the group read eight novels (including historical fiction, contemporary fiction, magical realism and a classic of American literature). We also read a non-fiction book about Japanese Americans during World War II. A Zoom get-together during the summer allowed each member to share what we have been reading and watching in the interim.

Book Club was saddened by the passing of Pat Barlow who had been a faithful participant in, and original member of Book Club for many years. We honored her with a contribution to the Georgetown Peabody Library. The library purchased and plated three books in her memory. Book Club is open to all who are interested in reading and fellowship.

Submitted by

Nancy Aberman

## **Report of the Outreach Team**

In the Addendum

## **Report of the Property Team**

During the year the team was able to accomplish the following projects:

- Painting of Fellowship Hall's ceiling - work continued on the final pieces of the ceiling. This was a complicated job needing special paint to adhere to the existing plaster.
- THOM Child Early Intervention continues to utilize the first floor of the back section of the church. They are providing educational services to young children.
- An electronic programmable lock was purchased and installed on the church office door.
- A dead tree and dangerous dead limb were identified on the Cottage Street side of the property. This has been removed.
- The steps on Clark Street and the door to the Cottage Street parking lot were painted.

Activities under consideration for 2023 include:

- Repair of several items requiring a lift. These include partial gutter removal, heat tape application on the roof over the office, repair of the siding on the bell tower and painting of the wooden architectural features near the roofline. A quotation is being gathered so that this can be planned.

Finally, I would like to thank our Church Sexton, Kim Knapp who continues to do a great job keeping things clean. I would also like to thank the two team members Michelle Brock and JoAnne Kelly and also Steve Pinto, Tom Johnson for their significant contributions of time and effort during the year. I'm sure we'll be reaching out for more help with clean-up day and other projects in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Davis  
Property Team, Chair

## **Stewardship Report**

The Stewardship Team would like to thank everyone who contributed last year to the Church and have pledged again for another year! The campaign message, “From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving” shows how we all partake at the Lord’s table together.

Many thanks to Bob Knapp who has done a wonderful job taking over for JoEllen Fielding as Collector. Much appreciation is given to Rich Brock for his inspirational stewardship moment on what it means to give to the Church. Also, to Pastor Holly for her spiritual guidance to our Team.

In 2023 we are hoping to convey the message that stewardship is a year-round mission. We are also looking to transition from a traditional fall stewardship season to a January/Epiphany season. More details will come later this year.

For those who still wish to pledge this year, please let one of the Team members know and we will get you a form to fill out.

Blessings,

Toni, George & Sylvia

The Stewardship Team

## Report of the Vision Team

After more than a year and a half of Team meetings, discussions, prayerful discernment and three congregational meetings, The Vision Team has completed a proposed Vision Statement for The First Congregational Church of Georgetown. Our goal has always been to create a Vision Statement for this time that fulfills our Church's Mission Statement: **"To nurture those in our own faith community and to act on our faith by reaching out to others."**

We listened to the concerns and the ideas of the congregation, seeking to find common themes that would help provide a sense of meaning and purpose for our Church family and seek to address certain needs of the wider community. The Vision Team felt that the Vision Statement should reflect committed faith in action. It should challenge us in ways that might make us uncomfortable, while at the same time, it should consist of objectives that are feasible and do-able over time.

Our proposed Vision Statement for the Church is as follows:

"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."**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Aberman  
Marie Birdsall-Chaffee  
Michelle Brock

	Position	Name	Start Date	For Term Limits Start Date	End of Current Term	Nominated* or Re-nominated**	End of Nominated Term
C	Moderator	Michelle Brock	1/2023	1/2023		*	1/2026
O	Clerk	Toni Cassidy	1/2016	1/2016	1/2025		
U	Diaconate Chair	Open	1/2023	1/2024		*	1/2024
N	Christian Dev. Chair	Marie Birdsall-Chaffee	1/2023	1/2025		*	1/2025
C	Property Chair	Steve Pinto	1/2023	1/2023		*	1/2026
I	Finance Chair	Bob Knapp	1/2021	1/2021	1/2024		
L	Member-at-large	Susan Stead	1/2021	1/2021	1/2022	*	1/2023

	Open		1/2023	1/2025		*	1/2025
	Diaconate	Pam Sheehan	1/2020	1/2020	1/2023	**	1/2026
	Team	Toni Cassidy	1/2023	1/2023		*	1/2026
		Sharon Lee	1/2022	1/2022	1/2025		

	CD	Rachel Edwards	1/2020	1/2021	1/2024		
	Team	Rich Brock	1/2020	1/2020	1/2023	**	1/2026

	Property	Joanne Kelly	1/2021	1/2022	1/2025		
	Team	Tom Johnson	1/2023	1/2024		*	1/2024

	Finance	Kristen Arsenault	1/2021	1/2022	1/2025		
	Team	George Comiskey	1/2020	1/2020	1/2023	**	1/2026