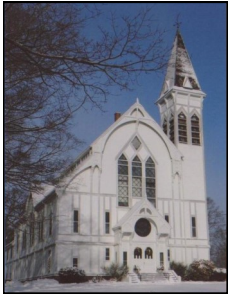


From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown

**7 Andover Street, P.O. Box 200
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And just like that, (snap!) we have taken one more turn around the sun! Where did the time go? And now, as we lean into 2023, what are we leaving behind and what are we looking forward to? Have you set any goals for the new year?

No pressure! This is just an invitation to wonder about the new year.

One helpful way to consider the future and what you can do with it is to ask the question, “What’s my why?” Or “What on earth am I here for?” This is another way of asking, “What’s my purpose?” or “What gives me great joy?” Some folks are lucky enough to find this answer early in life. Others take much of their lifetime searching. It is never too late to figure out our purpose.

Frederick Buechner says that our vocation, or where God calls us to be is: “where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

I wonder, what might that mean for you in this new year?

What brings you joy? What is your “why?” “Where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet” – this is the vocation of the Church: to put our gifts to use meeting up with the world’s deep hunger.

Here in the Northeast, in our little corner of this Commonwealth, there is much deep hunger – people of physically hungry, mentally and emotionally on edge, there is much deep hunger right here among our neighbors.

The purpose of the Church in general is to be the hands and feet of God, sharing love and shining light into the dark we witness around us.

What is our “why”? To be the light and source of love to those in need of reassurance around us. We can be that for each other, those of us active and attending this faith community at FCC. And we are called to use our gifts to be that for others we meet along the way.

In these days following Christmas, known as Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus’s arrival among us. Each year we remember that Jesus came among us to show us how to love. To love our neighbors as ourselves.

God’s love is revealed in the arrival of Jesus, the Christ child. If we are true to this invitation to follow Jesus’s example of how to love, then we know our “why”? We know our purpose.

At our upcoming Annual meeting, the Visioning Team will be sharing our new Vision statement which was prayerfully written with input from many of you. May this vision statement lead us to live into our purpose as God’s hands and feet out in the greater community among our neighbors.

And may God help us live fully into this vision.

Greetings From The Diaconate

From time to time there is a need for a short-term volunteer opportunity to assist people in need in our congregation such as giving someone a ride to church or a medical appointment, cooking or baking to help a family in need due to health issues, bereavement, etc. We thought it would be very helpful for Rev. Holly and the Church Leadership Team to have a list at the ready for these types of needs. This worked well several years ago and gives the Church Family a real sense of caring for each other. Being on the list doesn't obligate you it just means if a need arises, we will possibly call you to see if you can assist at that moment.

We will have a sign up at coffee or you can email Pam Sheehan at pamelajsheehan@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Missions

The Mission/Outreach Team would like to thank all those who contributed gifts for the children of H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) in Orlando, ME. Thanks to the generosity of our church, 30 children will receive gifts this year. Marie Birdsall-Chafee and Ruth Soper are acting as Santa by delivering these gifts to HOME.

We continue to collect donations for the Council on Aging Marketplace (food pantry). Most needed items include paper goods (toilet tissue, paper towels, tissues, etc.) as well as laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid. Please leave any items on the table in the long room near the Missions bulletin board.

Women's Guild

THANKS FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

Thank you all for the wonderful response to collecting warm winter socks for Ruth's House. A total of 215 pairs of socks were delivered to this mission before Christmas. There were equal numbers of children's, women's and men's socks that will go a long way in helping Ruth's House outfit all members of a struggling family facing uncertain times.

It was very rewarding to have the congregation support our Women's Guild with this longtime Christmas sock collection tradition.

Jean, Joan, Judy, & Nancy, The Guild's Steering Committee



Annual Meeting January 29, at 11:30 ~ It will be here before you know it!

Please prepare your team's **Annual Report** and send to:
churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org by Monday, January 9th.

Teams are asked to get their **2023 Budget** to the Finance team ASAP so they can prepare a report for the January Finance Meeting.



January 25

The Vanishing Half ©2020 Brit Bennett

Zoom 863 8107 4235 <https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/>

Select: *Book Club, What We are Reading*



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Gabe Angerhofer

Henry Edwards

Benjamin Brock

Kevin Southwick

Brendan Comiskey

Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm, check Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings. If you want to know if church is cancelled tune to the TV listings on these channels. There is also a mobile app that you can download for free by searching WHDH in the app store and view storm status anywhere, anytime.

We will also update our church Facebook page.



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, January 14th.



Light The Church Fund

Contributions for lighting the church can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to make a contribution or need more information please contact Bob Knapp at 978-352-7489.

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.



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 10:30 AM Worship	2 Office Closed New Year's Day Observed	3 10 AM Bible Study Bells 6:30 Band 7:30	4 7-8 PM Evening Bible Study ZOOM 7PM Boy Scouts	5	6	7
8 10:30 AM worship	9 Annual Report Deadline	10 10 AM Bible Study Bells 6:30 Band 7:30	11 7PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Missions	12 6 PM Finance 7 PM Diaconate	13 3-6:00 PM Girl Scouts	14 Men's Group 8:00 A.M. Café Sarina
15 9:30 Band 10:30 AM worship	16 MLK Jr. Day Newsletter Deadline 	17 10 AM Bible Study Choir 6:30 Bells 7:30	18 7PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Council	19 6:00 PM Christian Development	20 5-6:30 PM Girl Scouts	21
22 9:30 Brass 10:30 AM worship	23	24 10 AM Bible Study Bells 6:30 Band 7:30	25 7 PM Book Club 7PM Boy Scouts	26	27	28
29 9:30 Bells 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Annual Meeting	30	31 10 AM Bible Study Bells 6:30 Band 7:30				



2022 Christmas Flowers

Given By

Nancy & Richard Aberman

Allan Barlow

Toni Cassidy

Joan Chatterton

Donna & Steven DeSisto

Rachel & Scott Edwards

Mark & Gayle Fehlman

JoEllen Fielding

Pamela, Wendy, & Jennifer

The Harris Family

Sylvia Johnston

Jo Anne Kelly & Tom Johnson

Carol Kirby

Jamie Krenn & Steve Pinto

The Murphy Family

Jean R. Perley

The Powell Family

Schneider & Desrochers Families

Pam Sheehan

The Stead Family

Jen Studer

Gloria Webster & Glenna Etheridge

Warren Young

In Memory or In Honor Of

Thomas Scale

Patricia Barlow

Loved Ones

Donn Chatterton

Donald E. & Muriel R. Gordon

Jackie & Nancy McGrail

Dorothy & Charles Blanchard

Karen Young, Harris & Virginia Rogers

Marion & Richard Harding

Harris and Driscoll Family Loved Ones

Earl Johnston

Joy & Jim Carpenter

Jack Kirby

Floss & Joe Pinto, Phyllis & John Krenn

Benedetta Murphy, Jim & Betty Blomley

Loved Ones

Loved ones, Barbara, Lee, Carol

Hannah Desrochers

Joe & Carol Sheehan

Loved Ones

Floyd Webster, Paul Webster, Gail Rappoli

Karen Young



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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.