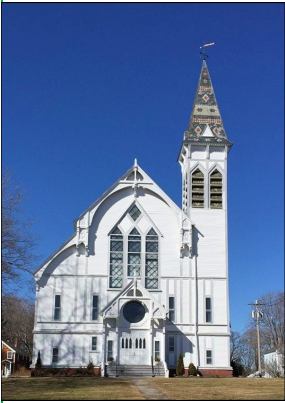


# ***From the Hill***



## **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)**

**September 2023**

### **Rev. Holly's Musings**

Dear Church,

When was the last time you heard someone say, "Everything happens for a reason?" Or perhaps in a moment when you were grappling with how to explain something tragic, you blurted out this sort of helpful/not helpful expression. Or how about the other biggie - "God won't give you more than you can handle."? These both sound nice on the surface but dig at them a bit and we begin to squirm a bit.

To say this to someone could very well lead them to wonder if they are weak because the illness they are facing is breaking them and they can't handle it. This might lead them to ask, "Why does God want me to have this?"

And there are some other expressions, like, "God helps those who help themselves." Or "God said it, I believe it, that settles it."

Do you know other sayings that you really wonder about?

This fall, we will explore in a sermon series the notion of Half-truths, based on a book by the same title by Adam Hamilton. These and other popular expressions are at best half true and at worst harmful and life-limiting when they are tossed around thoughtlessly, even if we have the best of intentions. They can cause more hurt than they help.

But, what then do we do when we encounter someone who needs a voice of reassurance and hope? How best do we respond? What do we say to be truly helpful? The answer may seem obvious if you have been confused and irritated by these sayings. We'll look at what might be a more helpful twist on these expressions, if possible. Or what to say instead!

**(Cont. on p. 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 starting Sept. 12th! 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 5th at 6:00PM. 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 5th 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 5th 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](mailto:susanstead5@gmail.com)  
978-697-1982

## Rev. Holly's Musings (cont.)

And what about the confusing bits in the Bible, what to do with expressions or lessons that seem in conflict with one another? How do we reconcile contradicting notions written long ago? Like the rules in Leviticus about wearing wool and linen in one garment? Hmm. Are they still relevant to us today? What did the writer mean when they wrote this? What does it mean for us today?

Okay, so fair warning. . . we might not find complete answers to all these questions in four weeks of study . . . but we'll give it a good try!

In the meantime, as we speak we might ask ourselves, "Is it kind?" "Is it loving?" "Is it life-giving to the one hearing it?"

If we answer 'no' to any of these questions, perhaps what we say is not entirely true and needs to be reconsidered – or tossed all together.

We are guided by the basic (though not simple) reminder that we are called to be messengers of God's love in the world; encouraged to speak the *whole truth* as far as we understand it, based on what we learn from the message of Christ's presence within and around us. We are guided to love like Jesus did, a bit radically and with the whole truth.

If that is the call, and I believe it is, then the expressions we use, the words we reach for in a time of uncertainty can be weighed by the extent to which they carry love out further into the world.

God, help us always,

Rev. Holly



### **Rally Day is Sunday, September 10th!**

At 10:30 AM we will gather for worship. Please join us one and all! We look forward to catching up with all who have been away during the summer months — and perhaps welcoming a few new faces as well!



### *Do you have a prayer request?*

Each week when we gather for worship, we offer up prayers among the community. Do you have a prayer request that you would like lifted up? Or held more quietly by a small team of pray-ers?

We are stronger when we are together in prayer. Send in your prayers to Rev. Holly by email [pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org](mailto:pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org); or phone at 781-632-8964.

And, as you go about your days, in the struggles and in the joy, know that God goes with you, holding you closely always.



Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 AM—1 PM (call ahead!)

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Beginning September 10th followed by a time of worship

Communion shared on the first Sunday of the month

Hi! My name is Cathryn Capra, and I am the new office manager at the church. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in the FCC community — feel free to stop by and say hi during office hours (it's a good idea to call first)

Please let me know if there's anything I can do to assist you. I appreciate everyone's patience as I learn the ropes!



## WOMEN'S GUILD

*September 12th at the Council on Aging, Georgetown*

*WOMEN'S GUILD SEPTEMBER KICKOFF PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE GEORGETOWN COA*

**(Take Note: change of date, time & place!)**

The women of our Guild will meet on the second Tuesday (the 12th) of September (instead of our usual meeting day of the first Tuesday) for a program presented by Georgetown's COA, that will take place in their meeting room, located in Perley School on North Street. Members have already been contacted and have seats reserved for the Delvena Theater performance that day beginning at 1:00 p.m. Their play is a comedy, "Nun of This and Nun of That", concerning a 50th anniversary celebration of the class of 1957 being organized by two nuns!

If you are a newcomer to the Guild and would like to join us, please call the COA at (978) 352-5726 to find out if there are still openings for making a reservation.

To those, who have indicated that they are attending, please go directly to the COA in time for the performance at 1:00 p.m. The group will not meet at the church that day, except for carpooling. If you are unsure of the COA location, please meet Joan (at the church) by the Clark Street door for carpooling at 12:40 p.m. If for any reason, you find that you cannot attend, call the COA (number listed above) to have your name removed from the reservations.

We're looking forward to another year of service to our church and renewing our friendships!

The Steering Committee,  
Jean, Joan, Judy & Nancy



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](mailto: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	Title	Author	Zoom Information
2023 September 27	<i>Marmee</i> ©2022	Sarah Miller	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b> Select link for current month's book
October 25	<i>Downeast: Five Maine Girls and the Unseen Story of Rural America</i> ©2021	Gigi Georges	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>
December 6 (combined Nov/Dec)	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> ©2022	Bonnie Garmus	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>
<b>2024</b>			
January 31	<i>The Maid</i> ©2022	Nita Prose	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>
February 28	<i>Horse</i> ©2022	Geraldine Brooks	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>
March 27	<i>We All Want Impossible Things</i> ©2022	Catherine Newman	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>
April 24	<i>Agent Josephine: American Beauty, French Hero, British Spy</i> ©2022	Damien Lewis	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>
May 29	<i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i> ©2022	Shelby VanPelt	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>
Tuesday, June 25 (NOTE: Tuesday date)	<i>Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters Separated by China's Civil War</i> ©2022	Zhuqing Li	<b>Zoom</b> 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select <b>Book Club, What We are Reading</b>



## Social Justice Book Club!

Justice happens when we live love out loud, in public, with all our neighbors. Together we can learn how to best share and spread God's love and justice.

You are invited to a new book club at the Georgetown Library, open to the whole town, hosted and organized by your very own pastor, Rev. Holly.

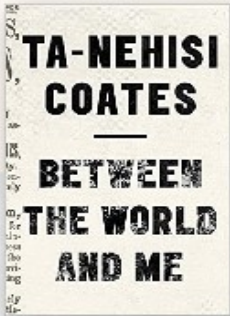
Together we will read good, challenging works focused on justice for various areas of life: human history and our relationships, cultural differences (and similarities), and climate change to name a few. There are copies of each book at the library to borrow.

We will meet every other month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7pm. See below for the schedule.

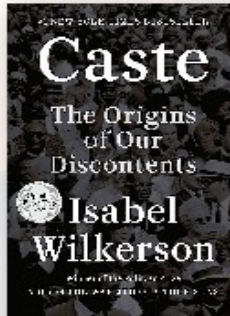
***Join us for the new . . .***

# **Social Justice Book Club**

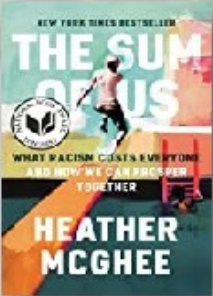
**at Georgetown Public Library**  
**2nd Tuesdays *every other month* at 7 pm**



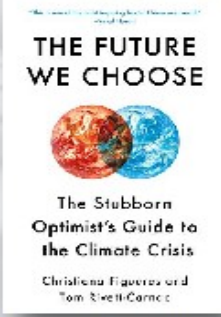
**September 12th 2023**



**November 14th 2023**



**January 9th, 2024**



**March 12th, 2024**

Questions? Reach out to Holly Brauner at [pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org](mailto:pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org);



# **RUMMAGE SALE!**



***The First Congregational Church  
7 Andover St. Georgetown Mass***

**Annual Fall Fair Friday October 20th 11am—7pm  
Saturday October 21st 9am—2pm**

## ***GOT STUFF?***

***Need to do some spring cleaning early this  
Year? The Church is accepting donations for  
The White Elephant rummage sale!  
Contact the Church office for details.***

***978-352-8443***

***[churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org](mailto:churchoffice@georgetowncongregational.org)***



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN

7 ANDOVER STREET GEORGETOWN MA. 01833



## 2023 FALL HARVEST FAIR

**FRIDAY OCT. 20TH 11AM—7PM SATURDAY OCT. 21ST 9AM—2PM**



**Lobster Roll & Chicken Salad Roll**

**Friday 11:30am - 1:00pm**

**ORDER 4 or more and get free delivery!**

**CALL 978-352-8443**



**Chili & chowder!**



**TAG SALE- Rummage Sale!**

**Doors open promptly at 11 AM on Friday!**

**Don't miss out on all the great deals!**



**Looking for that special outfit?**

**Stop by our Boutique we have beautiful gently used clothing for women, and children!**



**Jump start the Holiday Season and start shopping this weekend! Featuring unique creations & products from over 20 vendors!**

**Delicious Turkey Dinner with all the fixings!**

**Saturday night 5:00pm**

**TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FAIR & AT THE DINNER**



**RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

**TAKE A CHANCE ON SOME FANTASTIC ITEMS!**

**\$1.00 EACH**



**Home made PIES!**

**SATURDAY BREAKFAST SANDWICHES ARE BACK! DOORS OPEN AT 9AM!**

## Other news...



### *Fall Fair Food Table*

Pam, Emily and their amazing crew will once again be making pies for our annual Fall Fair. Dates for pie-making will be forthcoming so stay turned!

In addition to pies, we will have soups, quiche, baked beans, pumpkin whoopie pies and other assorted food items. If you have a special dish; casserole, lasagna, scones, or other fun food item you'd like to cook up, we would welcome any and all! We can provide containers if needed and if you make up something for the freezer, we will have some space available in one of our church freezers.



### **Sign Up for Greeters & Offering Collectors**

We are looking for individuals, friends and families to serve as greeters on Sunday morning (you will never have to do it alone).

If you would like to sign up please see an usher, use the sign-up sheet on the table near the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 978-352-8443.

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> 10am - 5pm  
Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 8am - 3pm



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



# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Note:</i>  <i>Purple type=team mtgs</i>  <i>Blue type=outside group mtgs</i></p>					1	2
<p>3  Gtown Wkshop 5:30-8 PM</p>	<p>4  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM  Office Closed</p>	<p>5  10 AM Bible Study  6:30 PM Bells  7:30 PM Band</p>	<p>6  <b>Last Wednesday worship</b>  6:30 PM Supper  7 PM Worship</p>	<p>7  <b>7 PM Diaconate Meeting</b>  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM</p>	8	9
<p>10  <b>Rally Day!</b>  <b>First Sunday Worship</b>  <b>10:30 AM</b>  Gtown Wkshop 5:30-8</p>	<p>11  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM</p>	<p>12  10 AM Bible Study  12 PM Women's Guild  <b>6 PM Finance Meeting</b>  6:30 PM Bells  7 PM Social Justice Book Club  7:30 PM Band</p>	<p>13  <b>7 PM Missions Meeting</b></p>	<p>14  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM</p>	15	16
<p>17  <b>10:30 AM Worship</b>  Gtown Wkshop 5:30-8 PM</p>	<p>18  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM  Newsletter Deadline!</p>	<p>19  10 AM Bible Study  6:30 PM Bells  7:30 PM Band</p>	<p>20  <b>6:30 PM Council</b>  7PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM</p>	22	23
<p>24  <b>10:30 AM Worship</b>  Gtown Wkshop 5:30-8 PM</p>	<p>25  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM</p>	<p>26  10 AM Bible Study  6:30 PM Bells  7:30 PM Band</p>	<p>27  <b>7 PM Book Club</b>  7PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28  <b>6:00 PM Christian Development</b>  Gtown WkShop 7-10 PM</p>	29	30

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

Inside This Issue

Pastor’s Message ..... 1,3  
Music Ministry ..... 2  
Birthdays ..... 2  
Church News..... 4,10  
Women’s Guild ..... 5  
Book Clubs .....6, 7  
Fall Fair Flyers .....8, 9  
Calendar ..... 11

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.