



# First Congregational Church of Georgetown

December, 2023

## *From The Hill*

*“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.  
For you have looked with favor  
upon your lowly servant,  
and from this day forward  
all generations will call me blessed.  
For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,  
and holy is your Name.  
Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.  
You have shown strength with your arm;  
you have scattered the proud in their conceit;  
you have deposed the mighty  
from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.  
You have filled the hungry with good things,  
while you have sent the rich away empty.  
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,  
mindful of your mercy—  
the promise you made to our ancestors—  
to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.”  
(Luke 1:46-55)*

Dear Church,

Is this reading/poem above familiar to you?

The Magnificat - this is Mary's (mother of Jesus) song rejoicing as she joyfully proclaims her role in the future of humanity, bringing to humankind God, in the flesh.

No slouch, this young Mary. And for sure no wall flower. For she sings:

*and from this day forward, all generations shall call me blessed. . .*

What is it about Mary, this mother of Jesus? What do you understand about Mary? Her life? Her childhood? Her role in the coming of Christianity? What about her role in the Church worldwide today? We, in the UCC, don't spend much time talking or thinking about Mary. But as the world continues to face ever-widening economic and political gaps and divides, and war seems to continue, I wonder if it's time we turned and looked deeper. Perhaps it is time to better understand this bearer of the Prince of Peace.

Biblical scholars don't all agree on her exact age or details of her life before she was tapped on the shoulder by that angel Gabriel. Remember, the story is that soon after she is confronted with this holy assignment, Mary set off to the hill country to find her much older cousin Elizabeth. And Elizabeth is also pregnant, miraculously. The pure Mary and the ancient Elizabeth both unlikely bearers of the next generation, and both biblical game changers for humanity. And as Mary approaches, Elizabeth's womb leaps with joy.

For who is Elizabeth carrying in her womb, but none other than Jesus's (distant) cousin, John – the Baptist! The one we meet in the opening lines of the Gospel of Mark who announces the coming of the Messiah. John and Jesus were a team from birth it seems.

Is this just a family business venture? Or is it something more?

We will spend some time this Advent season with Mary's Magnificat. Some say it is a song of revolutionary love. *What do you say?*

I invite you to read this again, and take a moment –

- What visions come to you as you read this line by line?
- Where do you find hope, peace, joy and love in this poem?
- What else do you find here?

As we enter the season of Advent (which means “coming”) may we each pause to seek out ways of bearing God's love and light into the dark spots of our world.

May we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace to reign in our hearts always, so that others who we meet can't help but to join us in ushering in a new world without war or hate or violence.

In faith,

Rev. Holly

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The front of our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers on Christmas morning. The Diaconate welcomes your contributions in memory of beloved friends and family. Donations can be made payable to FCC Georgetown & mailed to the church.

The deadline for your contribution will be Sunday, December 10th. A listing of those who have contributed will be printed in the Christmas Sunday bulletin.

Flowers will be delivered to members who are homebound or those who have recently lost a family member.

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**POINTSETTIA CONTRIBUTION FORM**

Yes, I would like to make a donation (in any amount) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: FCC Georgetown  
& mail to:  
First Congregational Church of Georgetown  
7 Andover Street  
Georgetown, MA 01833

The deadline is December 10, 2023

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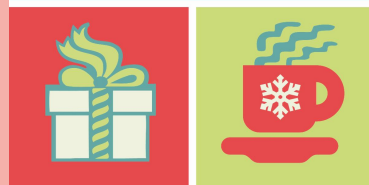
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**SCHEDULE:**

*HOLIDAY DESSERT SOCIAL  
this Tuesday, December 5 at 1:00  
O'Clock CELEBRATE! Church  
Fair Pies & Ice Cream will be  
served at 1:00 o'clock followed by  
Advent entertainment.*

*\*\*Christmas Story by Gladie  
Kneeland \*\*Strumming & Songs  
by Richard Aberman \*\*Carol Sing  
with Mary Ann Nelson*

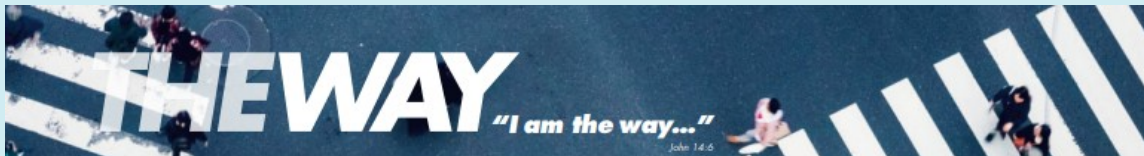
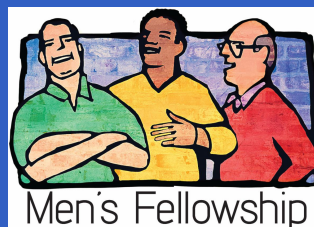
WOMEN'S GUILD  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**



*Please plan to bring "Socks for  
Ruth's House" (children's, men's,  
Women's) to this holiday event  
and help kick-off an all-church  
collection for this mission's  
Christmas giving!*

**Come join us at 8 a.m. on the  
second Saturday of the month at  
Cafe Serena in Georgetown for  
fellowship and delicious food!**

**This month's meeting is  
December 9th**



The Stewardship Team has decided on a new schedule for the stewardship campaign for 2024. The pledge materials will be sent out in late December and the campaign will begin early in January. We feel this will enable the congregation to focus more on "giving" after the rush of the holidays. Please maintain your current pledges through January. Thank you!



*Merry Christmas to All!*  
*Services will be held at 10:30 & 5 PM on*  
*Christmas Eve (Sunday the 24th)*



*Fall Fair Co-Chair*



*Fall Fair Food Table*

## *Thank you*

We want to thank our Fall Fair Team of Table Chairs for working together so well and creating an absolutely wonderful two days at the annual Fall Fair. The friendship, commerarderie and outreach to our community and to the community at large was beautiful to watch and see.

Special thanks to the Scout Troops who helped with set up, take down, served dessert and beverages at the turkey dinner – they were amazing!

Our church is truly a beacon of light in the community and we are grateful for all your support and encouragement in the days leading up to the fair.

Rich and Emily

To those who coordinated picking, sorting and freezing blueberries, peeled and sliced apples, fluffed, rolled, filled and crimped all the pies

THANK YOU!

To those who made soups, chili, chowder, casseroles, apple crisp, apple sauce, turnovers, granola & whoopie pies

THANK YOU!

To those who helped set up the table, bagged pies, made signs and stood behind the table to greet people

THANK YOU!

To those who came and bought all our goodies and treats

THANK YOU!

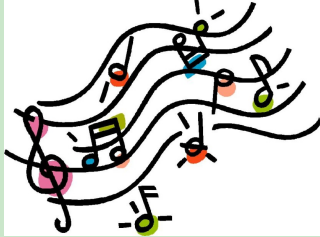
Pam and Emily

Bible Study is Tuesdays at 10:00 AM. Join Rev. Holly via Zoom & in person at the church -- check the church website for details.



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.

*The World's Most Dangerous Church Band has begun rehearsals, too! Ability to play an instrument preferred but there are other options. Please join us Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. Any questions please speak to Emily or Bob Knapp.*



*Bell choir and has begun rehearsals! All are welcome, though ability to read music is required. Join us Tuesdays at 6:30 PM.*



### *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



*Whether you're a beginner or know your way around the needles, this group is for you! Everyone's welcome, and Ruth will give lessons to those who are interested in learning. Needles and yarn are provided. For more information call Ruth Soper at 978-273-3459  
This month we'll be meeting Dec 6th and 20th*



## **Opportunities for Service here at FCC**

Our leadership teams are busy keeping the church running so all can worship, sing and pray together.

Have you ever wondered about serving the church in this way? Here is your chance!

**It is nominating time!** Our Church Council would like you to know that the following positions are available: Diaconate, Property, Christian Development and Moderator. Please let us know if Spirit is calling you to step up for any of these roles.

**The Finance team** is looking for someone from our church members who would be willing to work on an audit of the church's finances. This is a one and done task that has a short time commitment. Please talk with a Finance team member for more information.

**Hospitality on Sundays** - Thank you to all who have signed up lately! Muffins, cookies, cheese, crackers and the fruit - all so good as we chat in our second hour of church after worship. If you would like to bake or just bring goodies for us to much after worship. See Sylvia Johnston to sign up

**ZOOM Team on Sundays** - would you like to help host worship? Join the ZOOM Team, we are looking for a couple more folks to take turns hosting ZOOM during worship Sunday mornings. The view from the balcony is amazing! Reach out to Rich Brock, or the church office if you can help.

**Hospitality on Sundays - Thank you to all** who have signed up to bake, buy or otherwise supply a munchie for our second hour of church just after worship. We are all set through mid-December. See Sylvia Johnston to sign up today!

**Property upkeep** - Do you like to work with your hands? To fix things? or figure out how to make basic repairs. FCC needs you! Call the church office and we'll connect you with JoAnne Kelly and Tom Johnson, the Property team.

**Landscaping! Winter is soon upon us!** Leaves are getting mysteriously raked (thank you to that angel) and soon snow will fall. If you love the power and noise of moving snow with a snow blower, sign up today to help when next the snow falls. The old-fashioned shovel works as well, but not with the same instant gratification. Reach out to JoAnne Kelly or Tom Johnson (or the church office) if you want to get on the list for this really fun job!

There are lots of short term projects to keep you busy if you find you have time on your hands.

Some of us get into trouble when we have too much time on our hands. . . *just sayin'* it's best to keep busy and stay out of trouble.





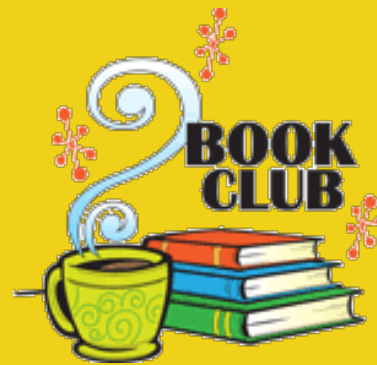
Send in your prayers to Rev. Holly by email Pastor; or phone at 781-632-8964. And, as you go about your days, in the struggles and in the joy, know God goes with you, holding you closely always.

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.

[Click Here for Rev. Holly's Email](#)



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			
December 6 (combined Nov/Dec)	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> ©2022	Bonnie Garmus	Zoom 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select Book Club, What We are Reading
2024			
January 31	<i>The Maid</i> ©2022	Nita Prose	Zoom 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select Book Club, What We are Reading
February 28	<i>Horse</i> ©2022	Geraldine Brooks	Zoom 857 9842 9936 <a href="https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/">https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/</a> Select Book Club, What We are Reading

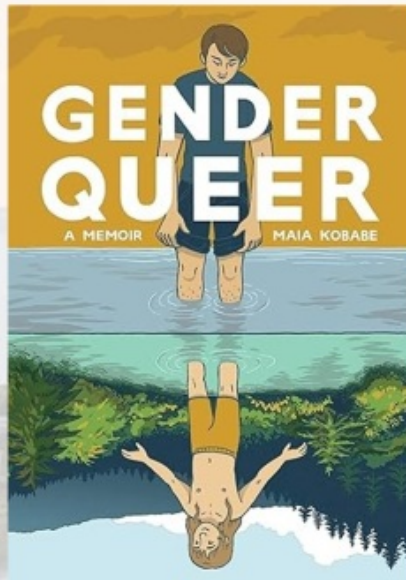
**Join us for the new . . .**

# **Social Justice**

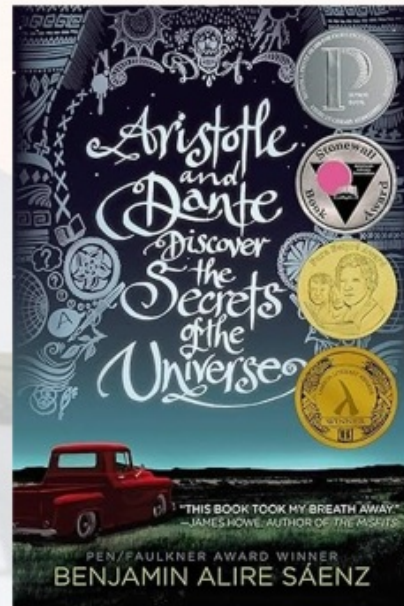
## **Book Club**

**at Georgetown Public Library\*\***

**2nd Tuesdays *every other month* at 7 pm**



**January 16th, 2024**



**March 12th, 2024**

**\*\*Books will be reserved and available at the Georgetown Public Library**

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

**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 resume meeting on Tuesday January 16th**



*Wishing a Very Happy  
December Birthday to:  
Marie Birdsall, Michael Lee,  
Toni Cassidy, Jody Moore,  
Donna DeSisto, Tracy  
Southwick*



Eric Clemenzi presents

# Clemenzi's Rock Stars!!

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 9, 2023  
at 11 am and 1 pm**



**Admission Fee:**  
One pair of *new*  
children's pajamas  
for Ruth's House in  
Haverhill

**There will be *two concerts*  
Come to one or both!**

**Location:**  
**First Congregational Church**  
7 Andover St. in Georgetown  
978-362-8443

**More Information :**  
978-352-0526 or  
[www.ericClemenzi.com](http://www.ericClemenzi.com)





# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Red = church Service</i> <i>Green = church group</i> <i>Purple = team mtg</i> <i>Blue = outside group</i>					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 Band 10:30 Worship	4	5 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Women's Guild Holiday Dessert Social 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	6 7:00 Book Club 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Knitting	7 7 Diaconate	8	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast Café Sarina 11 & 1 — concerts by Clemezi 's Rock Stars
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 Band 10:30 Worship	11	12 10:00 Bible Study 2:45 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 Finance 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	13 7:00 Missions 7:00 Boy Scouts	14	15 Jan. Newsletter Submissions Due!	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 Bells 10:30 Worship	18	19 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	20 6:30 Council 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Knitting	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 Band 10:30 Worship 4:00 Bells 5:00 Christmas Eve Svc	25  Office Closed	26 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Bells 7:30 Band	27 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 6:00 Christian Development	29	30 31 New Year's Eve 10:30 Worship

[Church website link here](https://www.fccgeorgetownma.org)

First Congregational Church of Georgetown UCC | 7 Andover Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

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