

## FROM PASTOR HOLLY

As we approach Advent, we come to a time of waiting. We read in the New Testament that the people were waiting for a messiah to come and save them. And my guess is that they weren't all that thankful as they waited for this savior they had read about in their ancient text, the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament. As they lived under oppressive Roman rule, the regular folks were working the hardest just to get by, with all sorts of laws that benefited the wealthy. My guess is that it was a tough time to feel thankful, and that they needed a savior, or at least someone to give them hope for tomorrow; hope for a better day.

Advent comes to New England during the physically darkest time of the year, shortest days and longest nights. Many find this a hard time of year. On these short days, it is hard to (literally) see what is in front of you. But maybe this is a good time to stop and pray and look for a light that you might not yet have noticed. Maybe this is a good time to sit in silence, ponder God's place in your life, and invite the Holy Spirit in a bit closer. It is in the darkness that we see the brightest light, even if it seems far away.

During Advent, we remember and read about this Savior who came to free the people. And we consider where we fit into the story, and what we need saving from. What holds us back, either within us or from elsewhere – laws or simply norms of what society says we “should” do or be. Advent is a good time to name these things and sometimes that can feel hard and deep, so we look elsewhere for someone else or something else to save us.

On Christmas morning we will stop and celebrate the birth of this new thing God gave us, a new way of being, a freedom to be our best, to find our own Christ within.

In the meantime, I pray for you that you can see the light of love this Advent season. That you are able to witness love in your midst, or even be the light for someone who shows up in your circle.

Beloved, Christ is already here. The spirit of love is already near you, within you, freeing you when you let it.

So, take a deep breath, close your eyes and find Christ's light, just ahead, leading you onward, in hope, peace, joy and love.

In Faith,  
Pastor Holly

## **GUILD - CHRISTMAS ADVENT DESSERT SOCIAL**

**Tuesday, December 3, at 1:00 o'clock (Note change of Time!)**

Church Fair Pies and Ice Cream will be served at 1:00 o'clock followed by Advent entertainment by our own talented musicians, Mary Ann Nelson, and Richard Aberman, and an additional talented musician, Pat Sorenson! It is always such a pleasure to begin Advent celebrations with our Church FAIR PIES and music of the season!

**Jean (978) 352-6197**

**Joan (978) 352-8033**

**Judy (978) 948-2007**

**Nancy (978) 457-5924**



## **MEN'S GROUP**

Men's Group will meet on Saturday,  
December 14th, 8am, Cafe Sarina

## **CALLING ALL MUSICIANS**

Rehearsals for our Bell Choir and  
The World's Most Dangerous Church Band  
will be on Tuesdays.

6:30 for Bells - 7:30 for Band.

Please contact Bob Knapp if you have any questions  
or would like to join.



## BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

12/4: West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

1/29: I'll Push You: A Journey of 500 Miles, Two Best Friends, and One Wheelchair by Patrick Gray

2/26: The Witching Hour by Margaret Meyer

3/26: American Jezebel by Eva LaPlante

4/30: The Collected Regrets of Clover by Mikki Brammer

5/28: The Lioness of Boston by Emily Franklin

6/25: The Museum of Failures by Thrity Umrigar



**As always, check the website for the Zoom link, under 'Ministries'**

## SENIOR CITIZENS' FREE LUNCHEONS

All seniors are invited to join us for our 2024-2025 Senior Citizens' Luncheon gatherings at Byfield Parish Church in Georgetown.

These luncheons help provide an opportunity for seniors to gather in community over a hot meal and devotional time.

Luncheons are FREE to ALL attendees. Come as you are and join us! All luncheons begin promptly at 11:30am and hot lunch is served at 12:00pm.

Please RSVP by calling our church office at least 2 days prior to each luncheon, 978-352-2022.

First Congregational Church

## A Christmas Carol

*A Christmas Theatrical Event*

Performed by JT Turner

Witness the classic tale of A Christmas Carol come beautifully to life as actor J.T. Turner portrays Charles Dickens and every single character from the story in this one-man show. Charles Dickens was famous for bringing his A Christmas Carol to life for audiences every year, and this version brings all the drama, comedy and redemption Dickens intended. The performance is recommended for ages eight through adult.

Sunday  
**Dec 15**

**First Congregational Church**  
7 Andover St., Georgetown MA  
The Play starts at: 7pm - Tickets: \$20 - Adult  
\$10 - Kids - Free Parking

Tickets available online @ [www.fccgeorgetownma.org](http://www.fccgeorgetownma.org) or at the door.  
Please call (978) 352-8448 for more information

[www.fccgeorgetownma.org](http://www.fccgeorgetownma.org)

**Advent Offering – Fostering Hope**

We are specifically requesting gift cards for restaurants for meals for children waiting for placement.

Fostering Hope empowers churches and individuals to care for children and families impacted by foster care, which can be accomplished in many ways.

Fostering Hope of the Merrimack Valley is a collaboration of churches dedicated to supporting children and families in Georgetown and surrounding communities.

The front of our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful Poinsettias for the Christmas season. The Diaconate welcomes your contributions in memory or in honor of beloved family members and friends. Donations, accompanied by the form below, may be left in the collection plate or mailed to the church. Please make checks out to the First Congregational Church. Alternatively, you may scan the QR code to donate on line.

The deadline for your contribution will be Sunday, Dec. 15th. A listing of those honored or remembered as well as those who've contributed will be printed in the Christmas Sunday & Christmas Eve bulletin.

Flowers will be delivered to parishioners who are homebound or recently lost a family member.

**POINSETTIA CONTRIBUTION FORM**

Donation (any amount) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline is Dec 15th  
IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

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



Scan this QR code to donate on line

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

The First Congregational Church of Georgetown  
Invites You to Celebrate

## THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH'S DEDICATION

LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW.

RING THE PAUL REVERE BELL!

Sunday  
*December 8, 2024*  
at 10:30am  
7 Andover St, Georgetown, Ma

## Basket Raffle Central Congregational Church



Newburyport



**Southern New England Conference**

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

### Lunch & Learn:

## How can WISE transform your church?

### Dec. 5, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM • Online

The Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged (WISE) process equips congregations to reduce stigma around mental illness and better support people within the church and wider community experiencing mental health challenges. In this Lunch & Learn, hear from leaders of SNEUCC congregations that have become WISE -- they will reflect on their journeys and share stories of how becoming more aware of mental health is transforming their church.

***Registration deadline is Dec. 5***

Link to Register: <https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/18718005?month=12&year=2024&day=1&display=m>



I hope everyone is looking forward to our special 150th anniversary celebration service on December 8th! In keeping with the 1874 theme, we are inviting everyone to wear their fanciest hats or fascinators.

While women kept their hats on in church, men removed them upon entering the church.

However, it is 2024, so we want the men to have fun, too. So go ahead, guys, dig out your top hats, bowlers, fedoras, or any other dressy hat.



**CALLING ALL BAKERS!**

WE'RE HOPING TO SERVE REFRESHMENTS DURING THE INTERMISSION FOR J.T. TURNER'S "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" ON DECEMBER 15TH.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP US OUT BY MAKING SOME CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR THE OCCASION.

MANY THANKS!

THE CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
(RICH BROCK, KAREN HARRIS, AND MARIE BIRDSALL-CHAFFEE)

**CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
**12/15 @ 2PM**

## COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

**Click Below**



**988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**

If you or somebody you know is in distress, call **988**

To Text a Crisis Counselor, text **988**



# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Bells 10:30 AM Worship 6 PM Diaconate	2	3 10 AM Bible Study 1 PM Guild 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Band	4 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Book Club 7 PM Boy Scouts	5	6	7
8 9:30 AM Bells 9:30 AM Band 10:30 AM Worship 150th Anniversary	9	10 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Finance 7 PM Band	11 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Missions 7 PM Boy Scouts	12 7 PM Knitting	13	14 8 AM Men's Group Café Serina
15 9:30 AM Brass 10:30 AM Worship 1 PM Caroling 2 PM Christmas Carol	16	17 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir 7 PM Band	18 3 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Council 7 PM Boy Scouts	19 6 PM Christian Dev 7 PM Knitting 	20	21
22 9:30 AM Band 10:30 AM Worship	23	24 7 PM Worship	25  Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28
29 10:30 AM Worship	30	31 10 AM Bible Study				

**Note**  
 Red=Church Service  
 Black=Church Group  
 Purple=Team Meeting  
 Blue=Outside Group

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Rev. Holly's Office Hours:

Tuesdays 10AM to 1PM & Thu 9AM to 12PM

and by appointment (781) 632-8964

Pastor Email: [pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org](mailto:pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org)

Office Phone: (978) 352-8443

Office Email: [churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org)

Website: [www.fccgeorgetownma.org](http://www.fccgeorgetownma.org)