

First Congregational Church of Georgetown



June 22, 2025

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 Congregation
of the United Church of
Christ.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MUSIC

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Clara H. Scott

O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth you
O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth you
O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth
have for me place in my hands the won - der - ful key
send so clear; and while the mes - sage sounds in my ear,
ev' - ry - where; o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare
that shall un - clasp and set me free. Si - lent - ly now I
ev' - ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I
love with your chil - dren thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I
wait for thee, read - y, my God thy will to see;
wait for thee, read - y, my God thy will to see;
wait for thee, read - y, my God thy will to see;
o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
o - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

Words & Music 1897

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 148)

One: O Lord, mercifully receive our prayers!

All: **We are your people, who call upon you.**

One: Grant that we may know and understand.

All: How can we live in the fullness of your love.

One: Give us grace and strength, not for our own sake,

All: But to faithfully reflect your love to our world.

A READING FROM DEUTERONOMY: 30: 9-14

Moses said to the people of Israel, "The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe."

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Conclude with prayer, then...

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE


OFFERTORY

MESSAGE Side Effects, Based on Matthew 12.1-9, 18-23, parable of the sower)

***CLOSING HYMN**

Unknown George J. Elvey

Jesus, the Lord of Life



Je - sus, the Lord of life, re - veal your-self a -
Je - sus, the Lord of love, come teach us how to
Je - sus, the Lord of Peace, speak to our troub-led
Je - sus, the Lord of Hope, de - scend up - on our

new. Re - move our doubt, in - crease our faith, give
live. Break down our walls, re - move our masks, and
earth. Strike down our pride, build up our trust, give
way. Shut off the past, make plain the now, point

us a wi - der view. That we might see your hand in
make us free to give; That we your spir - it show in
us a sec-ond birth; That we be re - con-ciled and
to a bet-ter day; That in your com-pa - ny, and

face and field and sky, and so with thank - ful
acts and words and thoughts, and with your chil-dren
cease to war and kill, thus learn to see the
charged with zeal and will, we strive to meet the

hearts and minds, up - on your grace re - ly.
ev' - ry - where, be joined in minds and hearts.
good all 'round, and so our Sav - ior's will.
com - ing age with ev' - ry prom - ise filled.

Music 1868

***FINAL BLESSING**



Strawberry Social & Band Concert

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 PM

**First Congregational Church
7 Andover Street, Georgetown, MA**

**Come celebrate the beginning of summer
on our church lawn with strawberry
shortcake or strawberries and ice
cream. Sugar free ice cream and
berries will be available too!**

Cost is \$6.00 including a beverage.

Don't forget to buy a raffle ticket!

**In case of rain the Social will be held
in our church hall.**

The Band Concert will be on ZOOM
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85222710378>

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor..... Rev. Doug Brendel
Director of Music.....Robert Knapp
SoloistRobert Knapp
Reader Kristen Arsenault

CHURCH OFFICE

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

Office Phone: (978) 352-8443

Office Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org

Website: www.fccgeorgetownma.org

TO MAKE AN ELECTRONIC DONATION



UPCOMING MEETINGS & SERVICES

Monday, June 23

7:00 PM, Band

Tuesday, June 24

6:00 PM Strawberry Social

For virtual Strawberry Social Concert:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85222710378>

Wednesday, June 25

7:00 PM Book Club

Thursday, June 26

7:00 PM, Knitting

Wednesday, July 2

7 PM – Worship Service

(Come early for a light Supper)

For those wishing to join us virtually:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84545128875>

CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Ministers	The Congregation
Interim Pastor.....	Rev. Marie Lucca
Director of Music	Robert Knapp
Organist.....	Emily Knapp
Office Administrator	Julie Bernier
Sexton.....	Kimberlee Knapp
Moderator.....	Rich Brock
Clerk.....	Toni Cassidy
Finance.....	Robert Knapp
Diaconate.....	Rachel Angerhofer
Property.....	JoAnne Kelly and Tom Johnson
Missions.....	Rachel Angerhofer
Bookkeeper.....	Rich Brock
Collector.....	Robert Knapp
Member-at-Large.....	Alecia Balduf

Rev. Doug Brendal



Doug Brendel has been ministering in various capacities for Most of his life. He has pastored in Massachusetts and Arizona, and he and his wife Kristina have led [NewThing.net](#), a volunteer humanitarian charity in the former USSR, for nearly 25 years.

Doug makes his living as a writer for an array of non-profits dedicated to good causes. For fun, he writes humorous commentary on life in small-town New England from the perspective of a big city guy (he's a recovering Chicagoan).

You can find Doug online at [DougBrendel.com](#).

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!

WELCOME

If you are a visitor from “near or far” and would like to learn more about our congregation and its ministries, please speak with an usher or greeter. You may also sign the visitor card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate. Please also indicate whether you would like a call or visit from the pastor.

A COMMUNITY THAT AIMS FOR HOSPITALITY

We are delighted you have come to join us this Sunday. First Congregational Church is an “Open and Affirming” congregation of the United Church of Christ, which means that wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! We have large print bulletins, hearing assistance devices, wheelchair and elevator accessibility, and all-gender restrooms. We also serve gluten-free bread and grape juice during our communion services. While we strive to anticipate needs, please share any ideas you have for ways to expand our hospitality for all!

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We believe that children help complete our worship experience. We encourage children to be an active part of worship; this is where they learn the most about the Christian family — by experiencing it! Encourage your child to sing along, clap, wiggle, offer prayer requests, and join in communion.

FLOWERS & STEEPLE LIGHTING

If you would like to contribute or make a monetary donation for altar flowers to commemorate an anniversary, birthday, or special occasion, please contact Nancy Aberman at 978-457-5924.

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

MEMORIAL FUND

A gift to the Church's Memorial Fund is a wonderful and meaningful way to pay tribute to family or friends who have gone before us. Gifts can be mailed or placed in the offering. Please be sure to note who is being honored.