Dear Ones,

As we gear up for the coming of one of the biggest commercial holidays of the year, our lives often speed up to a point of confusion and frenzy. The Christian notion of preparing the way for Peace, for the Prince of Peace to come on earth gets lost in the busy-ness of preparing for the Yule-tide traditions with friends and family.

I love this time of year, and Bill and I are already busy getting ready for Ali and Curt, two grown offspring to be home for a few days. Together we will cook up a storm, create new memories, take silly photos, and relax together by the fire.

And this year I am especially mindful of this first Advent with you, my new faith community. I am grateful for you all and feeling blessed to be on this journey with you as we come together each Sunday and all week long to learn about God’s love, our Creator’s intension for the world, and how we might best prepare to be peacemakers, heading Jesus’s call to follow.

Advent marks the beginning of the church year, even as we end our calendar year. We begin again to remember that Jesus came as an infant; that the Prince of Peace showed up helpless to a willing, innocent young woman who said yes to God. Mary became a vessel the Holy, God’s love in the flesh, ushering in a new day and a new way.

During Advent, we are invited to hear these words shouted by John the Baptist, words written in the book of Isaiah and then echoed in Luke’s gospel:

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

If you listen to Handel’s Messiah at all, either at this time of year or even at Easter (yes, Easter too!) then these words may be familiar.

What do you read in these words?

I read and imagine a time to come when all will be on even ground, and as Isaiah prophesies, all of us will see the coming of Peace, Perfect Peace, we will see it together.

In this faith community we are invited to imagine how we might be vessels ushering in God’s love, making crooked paths straight for our neighbors in need, and helping to make rough patches a bit smoother for the next ones who come after us.

With Christmas blessings of hope, peace, joy and love,

Pastor Holly
Stewardship

Thank you for pledging to support 1st Congregational Church in Georgetown. Your financial pledge makes our ministry possible. There is still time to return your pledge card to the church either during worship or by mailing it. Thank you for the gifts you bring to this community of faith.

Missions

The H.O.M.E. Christmas Tree is adorned with angel tags, and each tag represents a child’s wish for Christmas. The children are from the greater Orland, Maine community, and H.O.M.E. represents a haven for them and their families by providing help with food, housing, daycare, GED programs, the building of affordable housing, and cottage industries. The poverty in this area is likened to that of the Ozarks in the South. Our gifts will be given to the parents of these children, so that they will have presents for their children Christmas morning. Please take a tag or two; note the coded number on the tag, and write your name on the chart, by the tree, next to the corresponding coded number. Wrap and return your gift/gifts, with tags securely taped to the gifts, by Sunday, December 12th.

Annual Meeting January 2021

It will be here before you know it!

Please prepare your team’s Annual Report and send to: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org by Friday, January 7th. Teams are asked to get their 2021 Budget to the Finance team ASAP so they can prepare a report for the January Finance Meeting.
Diaconate

Christmas waves a magic wand over the world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

Christmas is coming! Time to celebrate! We wish each of you perfect moments during this special time of joy. Those special moments could be the simple aroma of freshly baked sugar cookies, a pine bough laden with “remember those” ornaments…sigh….and what would these Christmas moments be without the love of our Church Family. We share the lighting of the advent candles,signifying the coming of the “celebration of the birth of Christ.” Add to that the beautiful sounds of Christmas carols being sung, our very own bell choir and the sweet voices of all who share their talent and love of our church. The gathering together on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service is one of those beloved traditions. I always remember Haleigh Harris stewardship talk a few years ago when she declared it was her most favorite service…! Unpack those hand made mittens that were given to you in love, open your back door for a moment for a ‘smell’ our New England winter, and what in the world is better than a sugar cookie and a cup of hot chocolate, perhaps topped with marshmallow!!!!

Please read all the information here in the December newsletter. Why not make that phone call, snail mail a pretty Christmas card and still uncover those special Christmas mementos that make your heart smile when you unpack them! As we shared in November over Thanksgiving, our blessings abound.

Please be assured your Diaconate Team of Antoinette, Emily, Pam, Rachel and Gladie are always available for you, our Church Family.

We wish you: “May the light of the Star in the East cast Christmas magic over each of you and may your hearts smile this glorious Christmas season.”

Gladie Kneeland, Chair of Diaconate.

Christian Development

The Christian Development Team would like the ladies of the church to save the date!

Mark your calendars for May 6-8, 2022 for a Women’s Retreat getaway.

Toni Cassidy is providing a wonderful location and Holly will facilitate this opportunity for us to grow in our faith and fellowship. More information will follow.
Have You Started Christmas Shopping?

The FCC Georgetown is set up to receive a percentage of your purchases when you shop AmazonSmile! [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) - sign in or sign up - find the dropdown for your account - find Your AmazonSmile on the list & click on it - select a charity—First Congregational Church of Georgetown

When you shop, be sure to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for the church to receive credit - not the regular Amazon account (this won't give us credit).

Light The Church Fund

*Our steeple is lit in December to celebrate the baptisms of Charlotte Rose & Sofia Rose by Richard and Nancy Aberman.*

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.

Marie Birdsall       Evelyn Hills       Michael Tardy
Brigit Bratland     Michael Lee       Charlotte Winter
Toni Cassidy        Emily Moore       Joycelyn Wormell
Donna DeSisto       Jody Moore
Holly Harris        Tracy Southwick
**Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 a.m.**
Join us for this fun, intergenerational, participatory pageant!

**Christmas Eve Service Friday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.**
Bell choir will bring us beautiful holiday music on this holy night.

**Hymn sing Sunday, December 26 at 10:30 a.m.**
Join us this Sunday morning to celebrate Jesus’s birth and sing carols closest to your heart.

---

**STORM CANCELATIONS**

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm, check Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings. There is also a mobile app you can download for free by searching WHDH in the app store to view storm status anywhere.

We will also update our website & Facebook page.

---

The front of our sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers on Christmas Sunday morning. The Diaconate welcomes your contributions in memory of beloved friends and family. Donations can be made payable to FCC Georgetown and mailed to the church PO Box 200, Georgetown.

The deadline for your contribution will be Sunday, December 12. 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.

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

IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF (please print)

From:
Looking back:

60 Years ago:
Christmas Fair chaired by Wilhelmina (Mina) Marble

40 years ago:
Bellringers of Beverly played during worship service soon followed by The debut of our Bell Choir at the Christmas concert and town wide pageant presented by the Theater Workshop

30 years ago:
"Hallo! God Bless" a musical version of 'A Christmas Carol" created by Charles Naylor and performed by members of our congregation.

20 years ago:
The Wizard of OZ presented by the Royal Stage Ensemble

10 years ago:
Lorraine Edwards called to be our settled pastor.
## December 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|     |     |     | 7 PM Book Club via ZOOM  
Redeeming Love  
7 PM Boy Scouts | 6:30 P.M. Bunco Night |     |     |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 10:30 AM Worship  
Advent WK 2  
12:30 PM Diaconate | 10 AM Bible Study  
1 PM Women’s Guild Holiday Party  
4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts  
6:30 PM Bells  
7:30 PM Band | 7 PM Missions Meeting  
7 PM Boy Scouts |     |     |     | 8:00 A.M. Café Sarina |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 9:30 Bells  
10:30 AM Worship  
Advent WK 3  
Poinsettia Deadline | 10 AM Bible Study  
4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts  
6 PM Finance  
6:30 PM Bells  
7:30 PM Band | 6:30 PM Council  
7 PM Boy Scouts | 6:00 PM Christian Development |     |     |     |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 9:30 Band  
10:30 AM Worship  
Advent WK 4  
Christmas Pageant | 10 AM Bible Study  
4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts  
6:30 PM Bells  
7:30 PM Band | 7 PM Boy Scouts |     |     | 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service—Bells  
Christmas Day observed—office closed |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |
| 10:30 AM Worship | 10 AM Bible Study  
4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts | 7 PM Boy Scouts |     |     | New Year’s Day observed—office closed |
First Congregational Church of Georgetown
PO Box 200
7 Andover Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
www.fccgeorgetownma.org
(978) 352-8443

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.

Inside This Issue

Holiday Services Schedule ........................................................................................................... 4
Calendar ........................................................................................................................................ 7
Christmas Mission ......................................................................................................................... 2
Diaconate ......................................................................................................................................... 3
December Birthdays ...................................................................................................................... 4
Pastor’s Message ............................................................................................................................ 1
Storm Cancellations ....................................................................................................................... 5
Memorial Poinsettias ..................................................................................................................... 5
Stewardship News .......................................................................................................................... 2
Looking Back .................................................................................................................................... 6