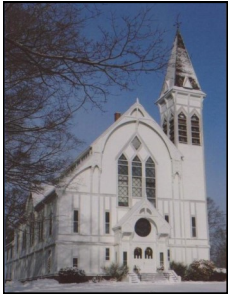


# From the Hill



## First Congregational Church of Georgetown

7 Andover Street  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
Telephone: 978-352-8443  
churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org  
www.fccgeorgetownma.org



Lent is almost here.

This year, Lent begins on February 14<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday. We will gather the night before on February 13<sup>th</sup>, as we have done for several years, for **Shrove Tuesday**. After a sweet, indulgent pancake supper, we will pause with a brief service to remember our own humanity, the fragility of life marked by the imposition of ashes. Here's a bit of a refresher about Lent.

*Lent is a season of 40 days.* The time between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday is actually 46 days, but we don't count Sundays because they are considered "mini Easters." In fact, liturgically, every Sunday in church is a "mini Easter" when we remember God's love that overpowers death, shown to us in Jesus.

The word Lent comes from ancient Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, or "lengthen" or the lengthening of days of spring. And 40 days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of evil and preparing for his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, turning from the normal day to day of things, fasting from something and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection.

In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as people of faith and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something like chocolate or wine or to volunteer or give of ourselves for others.



This is a good time of the year to think of cleaning out our closets of clothes that might serve someone else better; stuff we have not worn for a while, for whatever reason.

This is a good time of year to reassess after the Christmas rush, to get rid of things that no longer serve us, purge the clutter and clear the shelves of extra junk. And in the practice of this cleansing, we just may find more space for God in our lives.

In this practice of cleansing, and reassessing we make space in our souls for wondrous encounters of the world God has made and continues to make around us.

During Lent, we will have a 4-week Lenten Study using the book, *Wondrous Encounters* by Richard Rohr.

We will meet on **Feb 25, March 3, 10 and 17<sup>th</sup>**, *hybrid*, in the Guild room and on ZOOM at 11:45 AM.

There are copies of the book at church if you wish, call Rev. Holly for your copy.

Let us all take time this Lenten season to give room for God in our lives.

We find in the gospel of Luke a reminder of what God has in store for us –

*“Full measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over will be poured into your lap, because the measure you measure out with will be measured back to you.”* (Luke 6:38)

In faith, Rev. Holly



**February 28th : HORSE: A novel by Geraldine Brooks**

Zoom link: 863 8107 4235 <https://fccgeorgetownma.org/ministries/>

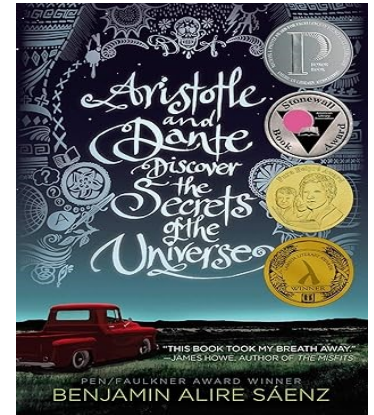
Select: *Book Club, What We are Reading*

**Looking ahead Social Justice Book Club**

Georgetown Public Library, March 12th, 2024—7:00 pm

*Aristotle and Dante discover the Secrets of the Universe*

By Benjamin Alire Saenz



Shirley Powell  
Gayle Fehlmann  
Carol Kalfin

George Tobin  
Roberta Tobin



**Storm Cancellations**

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm, check Channel 7 or Channel 56 (CW) for storm closings. If you want to know if church is cancelled tune to the TV listings on these channels. There is also a mobile app that you can download for free by searching WHDH in the app store and view storm status anywhere, anytime. We will also update our church Facebook page.

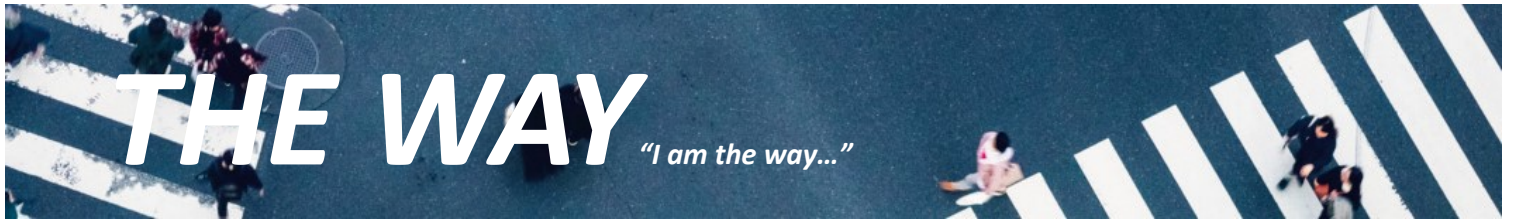


**MEN'S GROUP**

**Men's Group**

Men's Group will meet on the **second** Saturday of the month at Café Sarina 8:00 AM.

Next meet is Saturday, February 10th.



Dear Members & Friends,

We have just completed our Stewardship Drive for 2024 coming year. Thank you to all who have made their pledge to contribute financially to this church.

As you may have seen and heard, we moved this to January, to be a part of Epiphany which the season of 'a-ha' moments in Christian life. It is the season when all becomes more clear, following the Magi who follow the star to the manger to find Jesus, who shows us the way to God's holy love.

Thank you for your commitment through your pledge for the coming year. Your gift is an example that Christ's love is alive in the world today. Your generosity has empowered the mission and ministry that we do together and is an example of Christ's love alive in the world today.

We are grateful for the care that we have seen as the congregation reaches out to care for one another and the community. This ministry continues because of your gift. As we make our way through the coming year, let us remember that we are not alone. We are a community of faith, in ministry together.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge to the church, please do so as soon as you are able.

If you would like to speak with someone from the Stewardship team or other leadership about giving, please reach out to George Comiskey at 978-352-7364.

The activities of this congregation depend on consistent pledges and giving from this faith community.

Blessings from the Stewardship Team, *Toni Cassidy, George Comiskey & Sylvia Johnston*



### **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 Bob Knapp at 978-352-7489.



# 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Jan 28</b> 10:30 AM Worship	<b>29</b>  Bells 6:30 Band 7:30	<b>30</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>31</b> 7-8 PM Evening Bible Study ZOOM 7PM Boy	<b>Feb 1</b>  6 PM GTW	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:30 Woodwinds and Guitar 10:30 AM	<b>5</b> 6 PM GTW	<b>6</b> 10 AM Bible Study Bells 6:30 Band 7:30	<b>7</b> 7PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Missions	<b>8</b>  7 PM Diaconate 6 PM GTW	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Men's Group 8:00 A.M. Café Sarina
<b>11</b> 9:30 Bells 10:30 AM worship Super Sub	<b>12</b>  6 PM GTW	<b>13</b> 10 AM Bible Study 2:45 –Girls Scouts 6 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancakes	<b>14</b> 7PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Council	<b>15</b> 6:00 PM Christian Development 6 PM GTW	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 Band 10:30 AM worship 6 pm GTW	<b>19</b>  6 PM GTW	<b>20</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>21</b> 7 PM Book Club 7PM Boy Scouts	<b>22</b>  6 PM GTW	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:30 AM Worship 6 pm GTW	<b>26</b>  6 pm GTW	<b>27</b> 10 AM Bible Study Bells 6:30 Band 7:30	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  6 PM GTW		

## Greetings From The Diaconate

The Diaconate team continues to support the spiritual life of this church. With calls, flowers, cards and supporting Rev. Holly in the day to day running of this church, we seek to support you all. If you would like to take part in any of the activities of the Diaconate, please say so! Many hands and hearts make things all the merrier!

One of the tasks of Diaconate is helping with our monthly celebration of *Holy Communion*, or *The Lord's Supper*, on the first Sunday of each month.

If you would like to provide the elements (juice and bread) one Sunday please reach out to Toni Cassidy through her [toni\\_c1@comcast.net](mailto:toni_c1@comcast.net). Thank you!

## Missions

A bit thank you to the **Men's Group** for organizing and hosting a **Pasta Supper on January 27th!**

We were able to raise over \$800 for **Fostering Hope New England**.

As we are learning together,

**Fostering Hope** is a congregation-led effort to support children and families in the foster care system in New England.



## Women's Guild

We meet again on March 5th, looking forward to seeing everyone then! Together we will hear stories of world travelers right in our midst!

Come find out where they've been and what they have seen.

*Jean, Joan, Judy, & Nancy, The Guild's Steering Committee*

## Our Church Leadership

At our recent Annual meeting we voted in a new list of lay leaders to various positions.

Thank you all who volunteered and said yes to this good work!

Moderator .....	<b>vacant</b>
Clerk .....	Toni Cassidy
Finance .....	Kristen Arsenault, ..... George Comiskey & Bob Knapp
Diaconate .....	Toni Cassidy ..... Bob Knapp
Property .....	JoAnne Kelly ..... Tom Johnson
Christian Development.....	Marie Birdsall-Chaffee ..... Rich Brock
Missions.....	Rachel Angerhofer, Ruth Soper, Nancy Aberman ..... Alecia Balduf, JoAnne Kelly
Collector .....	Robert Knapp
Member-at-Large.....	Susan Stead

There are openings to fill in our leadership structure. If you feel like you want to get more involved, we can find a place for you! Reach out to Rev. Holly and you will be connected to a task or a team.

**SUPER SUB DAY! FEBRUARY 11, 2014**  
**The Christian Development Team is taking orders!**

Complete all sections of the Sub Order Form

Circle or Check selections below for each sandwich (each column = a single sandwich)

Return Sign-Up sheets to the Church Office by Friday, **February 9, 2024.**

Checks Payable to:

**First Congregational Church or Pay Online by scanning the below QR Code**



Online orders by February 10, 2024 @[fccgeorgetownma.org/supersubs](https://fccgeorgetownma.org/supersubs)

Subs will be available for Pickup/Delivery on February 11, 2024

<u>Name</u>		<u># of Sandwiches</u>	<u>Amount Due: (\$10.00/Sandwich)</u>	<u>Paid</u>
<u>Pickup / Delivery</u>	<u>Address &amp; Phone</u>			

<b>p</b>	<b>Sandwich 1</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Sandwich 2</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Sandwich 3</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>Sandwich 4</b>
	Salami		Salami		Salami		Salami
	Ham		Ham		Ham		Ham
	Turkey		Turkey		Turkey		Turkey
	American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese		American Cheese
	Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese		Provolone Cheese
	Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce		Lettuce
	Tomato		Tomato		Tomato		Tomato
	Pickles		Pickles		Pickles		Pickles
	Onion		Onion		Onion		Onion
	Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing		Italian Dressing
	Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise		Mayonnaise
	Mustard		Mustard		Mustard		Mustard
	On the Side		On the Side		On the Side		On the Side

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#### Our 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.