

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2025



From Woody: Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson's wonderful program celebrating Black History Month, focused on the Spirituals which enabled the enslaved African Americans to find hope and faith, as well as coded messages to escape the South via the Underground Railroad. Thank you Carolyn.

Yesterday, I found a Meet the Press Interview with Amanda Gorman on Feb. 9. She is the young woman who delivered her poem, THE HILL WE CLIMB at President Biden's inauguration in January of 2021. At a time when thousands of government workers are losing their jobs, and immigrants are afraid of being picked up in the middle of the night, it brought me hope. She completed the poem on Jan. 6, 2021 after watching the invasion of the Capital building. The interview was done by Kristen Welker and is wonderful. I will just share a few lines with you and encourage you to read the whole poem. She is an amazing young black woman who dreams of running for President. She, like Joe Biden, has also overcome a speech impediment. Here is a small part of her poem:

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming President only to find herself reciting for one. And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect, we are striving to forge a union with purpose, to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man. So we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.. We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another, we seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true: that even as we grieved, we grew, even as we hurt, we hoped, that even as we tired, we tried, that we'll forever be tied together victorious, not because we will never again know defeat but because we will never again sow division.

Words of hope from a most inspiring Youth Poet Laureate. Interesting note....there have been efforts in Florida to ban her poems in school libraries.



Celebration of the life of Frances Towne. We will gather on Friday morning at 10 to celebrate the wonderful 97 years of life of Frances Towne. There will be a reception following the service in the Dignard Room. Frances was a member of this church for over 60 years, and contributed a lot to the church and the community.



🌿 Thanks to our wonderful choir for their dedicated service. It has been especially challenging this year with the snow, ice and cold! It is a wonderful labor of love they do for the community!

🌿 Thanks to Rob and Heather Trzepacz for their marathon labor of love making those delicious chocolates!

🌿 Thanks to Carolyn Ferguson Wilson and the DAR for a wonderful program on Saturday!



The Phantom of the Opera is being performed by the GHS Performing Arts this Friday (2/21) at 7 pm and Saturday (2/22) at 2 pm and 7 pm. The Opera is a tragic love story set in the grand Paris Opera House. It revolves around the intense obsession of the mysterious masked man known as the Phantom with the young and talented soprano, Christine Daaé. Based on the novel by Gaston Leroux, the narrative explores themes of love, jealousy, and tragedy. Go to

<https://goffstownhs.booktix.com/> to purchase tickets.



. **Dress A Girl Around the World:** Kristi Citak is again spearheading a project as part of an effort to provide one-of-a kind dresses to girls from infancy to teens, who are living in orphanages in the US and around the world—“Dress A Girl Around the World”. Kristi will be hosting an event each third Saturday from March-September, 2025 The first one will be March 15 from 9:00-12:00 in the Dignard Room at the church. If you can sew and want to participate—great!

Bring your sewing machine to the church or you can sew at home. If you do not sew, there are other ways you can help: cutting patterns, ironing, sorting fabric, bringing a snack, or donating money for shirts, shorts, and shipping costs. Any questions or if you would like to participate, contact Kristi at 603-486-9910 or email at kris_Kreations@comcast.net.



Flowers for Sanctuary: A new sign-up sheet for flowers for our worship service, is posted on the bulletin board by the office. If you want to give them in memory of someone or some event, just let Ellen know. Thanks in advance for your contribution. Ellen Anderson cell 973-747-2321; email andersel@njms.rutges.edu



QR Code: You can use the QR code below to pay your pledge or other contribution.



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Peace Quote: We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools.....*Dr. Martin Luther King, 1964*