

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**April 13, 2011**

## Resurrections

It is easier for me to believe in resurrections when spring begins to reveal buds, crocus, garden supplies, plants and seedlings for sale, the snow has receded, and the grass is starting to green.

It is easier for me to believe in resurrections when my life is happy, when work is going well, when people are having good luck at things.

It was more difficult, however, to believe in resurrections when the snow took half of the church parking lot, when I could not see in either direction at the end of my driveway because the snow piles were so high, when snow storm after snow storm meant more stresses on our church's already overspent snowplow budget, and when storms kept people away from attending Sunday church.

What makes believing in resurrections even more difficult, even much more difficult, is when a chronic illness or disease keeps having its way with someone I love, someone we love. It is much more difficult when a disaster like an earthquake and tsunami cause so much death and destruction in Japan, and when so much still grieves and begs for healing in Haiti. It is so difficult when war and conflict continue to be the way of life for so many in our world.

On the way to church yesterday I stopped at the grocery store and met someone who tries to keep a resurrection attitude even when challenge after challenge comes his way. He has overcome and seen himself through so many challenges, countless challenges, and yet, it is so unfair that more keep coming his way. Most, if not all, of you reading this can relate to that.

In church, yesterday, my resurrection hopes were renewed as I listened to Brittany DeSantis talk about the 30-hour famine, how we can make such a difference, through what we do, what we share, and what we believe in extending the lives of those who hunger.

In church, yesterday, I witnessed resurrection action through the baking and selling of Heifer muffins, hearing Sandi Watson testify to how much money we

raised through our recent Overboard Concert, saving lives, giving hope, and making concrete resurrections possible for others just as concrete as Mary who heard the resurrected Jesus call her name, just as concrete as Mary recognizing the resurrected Jesus on Easter morning.

Hope seemed so far away for Mary that morning, and yet, because she went to the tomb, she saw first-hand the face of the risen Lord.

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Palm Sunday**

**April 17, 2011 10:00 a.m.**

*Matthew 21:1-11*

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Christ is King"

Children may worship with their families for the entire service. Nursery open in Room 14.

### **Maundy Thursday**

**April 21, 2011 7:30 p.m.**

*John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

The Office of Tenebrae with Holy Communion

Meditation: "Love in Action"

### **Easter Sunrise Service**

**April 24, 2011 5:30 a.m.**

Newhall Park, Lynnfield

### **Easter Service of Morning Worship**

**April 24, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Matthew 28:1-10*

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

"Obeying is Believing, Is Seeing"

Children's Message: "The Colors of Easter"

All children may worship with their families for the entire service.

Easter announces to us that Jesus calls your name. He is alive! He has overcome death. God's reign has begun. It comes to us in the midst of challenge, in the midst of death, and, in the midst of blessing.

This new life is possible and because it is possible we dare to act based on it. This new life is possible because Jesus is risen. Sometimes it comes quietly and other times it comes like a fireworks display.

Come to Easter to remember. Come to Easter as an act of faith. Come to Easter in need of hope. Come to Easter in need of healing. Come to Easter to say goodbye to the way life used to be. Come to Easter to hear the voice of Jesus behind you, calling your name. Prepare because you might just see the face of the risen Lord! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ, Dennis

### **Sunday Mornings with the Children**

**Our Nursery**, located in Room 14, is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. Pagers are available for all parents.

### **Rotation Sensation**

Children and youth will worship with their families for the Palm Sunday Service April 17 and also on Easter Sunday, April 24.

### **Spring Afternoon Tea**



The Young Adults of Centre Church will be hosting a Tea on Saturday, April 23 from 2 to 4 pm at the Meeting House. The cost will be \$10 per person in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets will be sold after worship on Sunday April 17 or you may call the church office. Join us for this fun, relaxing event. All proceeds will help fund the group's mission trip in May.

### **Easter Breakfast – April 24**

Please join us for breakfast on Easter! The Deacons will be serving breakfast in Richards Hall between the 2 Easter Services. Please come directly from the early service or stop in anytime before 10am. We'll serve an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet. Enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage, all kinds of pancakes, fresh fruit salad and your favorite breakfast beverages.

Hop on down for a delicious and sociable start to Easter Sunday with your Centre Church friends! We expect one of those friends will be the EASTER BUNNY!! Tickets are on sale now for \$10/person or \$25/family. Please sign up in the Narthex after church. All proceeds benefit the repair and maintenance of our church organ.  
- Your Faithful Diaconate

### **Youth Group News**

There will be no youth groups meeting on Sunday, April 17, the beginning of Spring vacation. We will also not be meeting April 24, Easter Sunday.

**Middle School Youth Group Lock In:** 15 middle school youth participated in an evening of fun, fellowship, and games. They also managed to fit in a service project while spending the night here at the church. Please note the freshly cleaned pews in the sanctuary. It took a lot of elbow grease and 8 Mr. Clean Magic erasers to remove pencil marks, crayons, and scuff marks from the pews. Their hard work is very much appreciated. Many thanks to Diana Gerbick for her leadership during the event and to Kathy Delaney for chaperoning.

**Middle School Retreat, May 6-7:** White Water Rafting on the Deerfield River in Charlemont, MA. Please send in your permission slip and payment by Sunday, April 17 if you plan to attend.

Barbara Langill

### **30 Hour Famine**

The High School Youth Group will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine April 29-30. During the 30 Hour Famine, our youth group will actually NOT EAT for 30 hours. Why? Because nearly 8,000 children under age 5 die every day due to hunger-related causes—that's one child every 10 seconds. And we are NOT okay with that, we will NOT stand by while children die from lack of food. The Famine is our chance to make a difference, our chance to make hunger part of our history not our present, and our chance to actually do something about hunger. Our youth have come together and set a group goal of \$1,500.00. Each \$30 we raise will help feed and care for a child for a month. If you would like to make an online donation or find out more information please visit [http://twv.convio.net/site/TR/30HourFamine/30HourFamine?team\\_id=11747&pg=team&fr\\_id=1310](http://twv.convio.net/site/TR/30HourFamine/30HourFamine?team_id=11747&pg=team&fr_id=1310).

The youth will be holding a bake sale after worship on Sunday, April 17 to raise funds for the Famine.

### **Heifer Update**

I have the pleasure of announcing that we have successfully reached our \$5,000 goal and will be receiving our 11th ark for Heifer. However, this year will be both different and exciting. Since only ten arks have been currently created, Carol MacKendrick and I have the pleasure to announce that we will be designing our own eleventh ark for the church. I truly appreciate everyone's hard work and am proud of our growing ark collection located in the Narthex. Keep in mind, one easy way to contribute to Heifer is by emptying quarters into the quarter tube located in the Narthex. I have recently emptied and rolled the quarters in the tube, reaching a total of \$130.  
- Allie Parker



### **Easter Sunrise Service**

All are invited to an Easter Sunrise Service at Newhall Park at Suntaug, Oak Street, off Moulton Drive, behind the Bali Hai Restaurant in Lynnfield on Easter, April 24 from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. We will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. (Rain location will be the Meeting House.)

### **News From Around the Parish**

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Priscilla Brown who died on April 1. Her Memorial Service was held at Centre Church on April 6.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Robert Skelley who died on April 6. His Memorial Service was held at Centre Church on April 9.

### **From the Mailbox**

To my friends at Centre Church,  
Thank you for the kind notes of sympathy following my dad's death. A special thanks to Dennis for his call and visit.  
Love, Marcia Imbrescia

To my Centre Church Family,  
Many thanks for cards and prayers. Also, many thanks for friendship soup, cookies and flowers which I received during my recent illness. Al Farnsworth

Dear Friends,  
I would like to express my appreciation for the flowers delivered to me on Sunday. They were absolutely beautiful! It is so nice of people to think of me.  
Priscilla Hahn

### **Engraved Brick Patio**

Many people have asked if there is still an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick for the patio at the rear of the church. I am taking orders now through May 1st. The small bricks are \$50 and the large bricks are \$100. The small bricks hold up to 3 lines of 20 characters each (including spaces and punctuation). The large bricks hold up to 6 lines. Checks should be made payable to Centre Congregational Church and can be mailed to the church office. This is a great way to memorialize someone you know or a family member. Or you can use the brick to thank someone special or record an important date. You may have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote. Or you may just want to put your name on the brick. Anything works! If you have any questions you can get in touch with me at [pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu](mailto:pcjohnson@meei.harvard.edu) or 781-598-5678.  
- Phil Johnson

### **Pennies for Peace**

Be sure to bring your Pennies for Peace banks back to church on April 17 or Easter Sunday. We will add up our contributions and send in our donation to help build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Pennies for Peace is a program of the Central Asia Institute (CAI) founded by Greg Mortenson- author of the #1 New York Times best seller Three Cups of Tea and Stones into Schools. Greg will be speaking at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30pm. Find out more at <http://www.macucc.org/events/detail/111>.

In the church library we have copies of Listen to the Wind, a children's story book with beautiful illustrations and Three Cups of Tea, the Young Readers Edition both by Greg Mortenson.

### **Get-Togethers**

The Get-Together Wheel members held a Green Auction during their meeting last month. Items to be auctioned were wrapped in green paper. Jo Farnsworth acted as auctioneer and the bidding began. Many surprises were discovered as the green packages were opened. It was a fun meeting, enjoyed by all. Later, the Easter Bunny belonging to Centre Church made a brief surprise visit!

The Get Together Wheel meets every fourth Tuesday. Our next meeting will be on April 26. Chair Yoga with Jo will be featured.

### **Thanks to Our Volunteers**

Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011. Head Usher: Deacon. Lay Reader: Sue Johnson. Provide Altar Flowers: Gage and Dotty Whittier. Coffee Hour: Nancy Lauzon and Gage and Dotty Whittier. Lights Out beginning April 15: Drew Taylor.

Maundy Thursday, April 21, 2011. Head Usher: Linda Ladd.

Easter, April 24, 2011. Head Usher: Linda Ladd. Coffee Hour: Meg and Barkey Gulezian. Lights Out beginning April 22: Scott DeSantis.

### **Cable Coverage of Worship Services**

If you missed the Cantata last Sunday, you might want to tune in to your local access channel.

In Lynnfield, our services are broadcast on Channel 10 (Comcast) or Channel 28 (Verizon) 7 days a week at 10a.m. and 6 p.m.

In Peabody, they are on Channel 10 at 7 pm on Thursday.

In North Reading, they are on Channel 10 (Comcast) at 9 am on Saturday and Sunday and on Channel 26 (Verizon) at 9 am and 3 pm on Sunday.

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Palm Sunday</b> Sun. April 17	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 14 Older Children in Church Confirmation Class - Library
Mon. April 18	----- 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Women’s Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Alanon & Alateen – FR & Library
Wed April 20	6:30 pm	Prayer Service - Chapel
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 21	5:45 pm 7:30 pm 8:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Room Tenebrae Service - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
<b>Good Friday</b> April 22	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sat., Apr. 23	2-4:00 pm	Tea – Meeting House
<b>Easter</b> Sun., April 24	5:30 am 7-9:45 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Sunrise Service – Newhall Park Easter Breakfast – Richards Hall Easter Worship - Sanctuary Children in Church
Mon. April 25	7:30 pm	Alanon/Alateen – FR & Library
Tues. April 26	12:30 pm	Get-Together Wheel – Fireside Rm
Wed. April 27	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Thur. April 28	5:45 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Room Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri., April 29	10:30 am 7:00 am- Sat. noon	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office High School Youth 30 Hour Famine

Our prayers are with Art Foulds at Essex Park Rehab and Nursing, 265 Essex Street, Beverly 01915; Tracey Marino; Amy Allen at Mass. General; Olive Wood at Woodbriar, Room 204B, 90 West St., Wilmington 01887 – 978-658-5393; Barbara Bean at Daniels House, 59 Middlesex Avenue, Reading, 01867; Marion Edkins, Denis Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Art Pyburn at home; Louise Allen, Marion Barnes, Glady Davis, Carolyn Furey, and Hal Holappa.

**Office Closed April 18. Open 9-12 April 19-22.  
9-3 Hours Resume on April 25.**

**The next *Tower Notes* is the week of April 25**

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