

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, Pastor@Centre-Church.org

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

January 14, 2015

Patience

Do you have a hard time being patient? How do you feel when you are standing in line at the grocery store with 8 people in front of you with carriages full of groceries? How about the doctor's office, when the doctor is running at least 2 hours behind and you do not know when you will be seen? Does that bother you, not to mention that you are likely surrounded by a lot of people with colds and flu bugs?

Yes, it bothers me, also. I have tried to train myself to be more patient, not to worry about the time. Sometimes I have to let go of some of the things that I would like to be doing in order to focus on the things that are most important.

It is also important to learn patience in our relationship with God. God's timing is not our timing. We live in a world that wants instant gratification. We have phones that can give us answers to trivia questions, directions to the nearest pizza shop, gas station, restaurant, or grocery in 30 seconds or less. But, an answer to our prayers from God? An answer from God as to the purpose of our lives, the job we are searching for, and/or finding someone to share our life with? That takes a bit longer.

It takes longer because it is often the case, as God teaches us, that we must go through intermediate stages, through the unknown, through stages of instability, and that may take a very long time.

It often takes time for us to mature before we are ready to receive the answer that God seeks to give to us. Let us try not to force the answers that we seek from God, but rather, ask God to give us the patience and understanding that we need. Let us recognize how the instabilities we are experiencing are shaping us into something new, someone stronger, a person who will have greater and deeper faith that will help to sustain others who also go through difficult circumstances.

In the Sanctuary

January 18, 2015

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 5) in Room 11
Older Children and Youth in Church

January 25, 2015

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (up to age 3) in Room 11.
ARK Class (ages 3-6) – Room 14
SPARK Class (age 7 and older)

February 1, 2015

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Nursery (up to age 5)
Older Children & Youth Participate in the
Worship Service

God has promised to always be with us. Let us trust God to gradually form within us the tools that we need to see ourselves and others through our losses, our healings, our sufferings, and our new lives. Yes, there will continue to be anxieties in our lives. Accepting the call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ brings with it a lot of anxiety, difficult choices, and sacrifice. But, it also brings rewards greater than anyone on earth can give to us. It gives us imperishable gifts from God's heavenly kingdom.

It has been through the most challenging times in my life that I have come to have my most cherished friends; the ones who have been willing to stay with me, walk with me, watch my back, while I wondered if I could make it through the night. These friends are imperishable gifts from God's kingdom!

If not for patient trust, I would never have discovered the Spirit of God within them! Thank you God, for teaching me to wait and be patient!

Yours in Christ, Dennis

Please remember in your prayers:

Comfort for those who mourn: the family of Elizabeth Farley, sister to Mary Stewart, who died Dec. 30 and the family of Ann-Marie Burgess, sister to Joanne Popoloski, who also died December 30th.

Healing for: The great grandson of Jeff and Marcia Stevens, Liam Johnathan Mills, born to Brian and Nicole Mills on December 19th, with complications.

Joanne Popoloski's father, Tony, awaiting heart by-pass surgery.

Anthony Gelsomini, Diane Bjorkman's brother-in-law, awaiting a lung transplant at Mass General.

Roger Lauzon and Nancy Lauzon, both recovering from surgery; Tony Lucia, Lucille Dixon, Linda Ladd's aunt; Barbara Warburg, Edie Richard, Elaine Pyburn, Barkey Gulezian, Dan Hackworth, Bob MacKendrick, Gary Bayer, Susan Edgecomb.

Protection for those who are serving the cause of freedom, Johnathan McCarthy and Michael Bruce.

Sunday Morning with the Children

Nursery

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, 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.

ARK All Remarkable Kids

Children ages 3-6 are invited to join us in room 14. The class will begin each Sunday at 10 a.m. and will consist of play time (both indoor and, weather permitting, outdoor), a Bible story lesson and an activity.

- There is no class scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 18 due to the long weekend. Children may attend worship with their family or go to the nursery in room 11 for playtime.
- On Sunday, Jan. 25, the children will continue learning about Heifer animals and hear a Bible story about how God wants us to care for the Earth and everything that lives on it.

SPARK - For children and youth ages 7 and up.

On Sunday, Jan 18, there are no classes scheduled. Children are invited to attend worship with their families.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, the children will leave for class after Children's Time

Centre Church Shopping Card Program

Do you shop at Whole Foods? Dine at The Yard House, Legal Seafood, Panera, or the 99 Restaurant? Buy coffee at Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks? Perhaps you'd like to take advantage of post-Christmas sales at Macy's. You can purchase shopping cards for these establishments and many more through the Centre Church Shopping Card program. You earn money for Centre Church simply by doing your usual shopping. See John Sievers after worship on Sunday morning to place your order or learn more about the program. The full list of participating retailers is available at: www.glscrip.com

Trivia Night/Silent Auction
Saturday, February 7 – 6:00 p.m.

Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting
Team Limit – 6 people
Get Your Team Together Now
\$15.00 per player

Silent Auction with many wonderful items
available to bid on.
More donations to the auction are welcomed.

Donations of Hors d'oeuvres, Sandwiches,
Desserts are very welcome.

Contact Dotty Whittier – 781-635-6225 or
Chuck Cotting 781-593-3120 to sign up
or donate an item for the auction.

Recruiting for Outreach Ministries

Outreach Ministries is an exciting place to serve the ministry of Centre Church because you play a role in helping our congregation touch the lives of people near and far through our love and concern. I am recruiting members for Centre Church's Outreach Ministries Team. In the near future, I would like to convene a meeting of those who are interested in being part of Outreach Ministries.

The Team meets:

- to discuss and decide on the use of Outreach Ministries funds contributed by parishioners;
- to assist in raising funds for Outreach Ministries projects, i.e. Bread and Roses, Haven from Hunger, Heifer International, Mission trips, etc.
- to send one member to represent them and have a vote at the monthly Parish Council Meetings.

If you are interested, please contact Rev. Bailey, pastor@centre-church.org, or call the church office: 781-334-3050.

Youth Group

Sunday, Jan. 18 - No youth group scheduled

Sunday, Jan 25 - Regular Meeting for both Middle and High School Youth 6-7:30 pm

Save the Date: Saturday, May 16th

Crafters and Flea Market

at Centre Church and on the Town Common
Rev. Bailey is asking the Board of Selectmen to grant us the use of the Lynnfield Town Common for the day, on the occasion of the Town's Geraniumfest. While some of the events of that day will be held at the Lynnfield Middle School, we have the opportunity to host Crafters and a Flea Market.

On that day, The Friends of the Lynnfield Public Library are going to have a book sale on the Town Common and the Lynnfield Art Guild will have their art show and sale in the Meeting House.

If granted permission by the Board of Selectmen for the Town Common, then we will need volunteers to help with this special fundraising event. Please let us know if you are interested in helping. More information to follow.

In Gratitude

We are very grateful to Kamden Mauser of Boston Bean, for his generous donations of coffee for our Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings!

Bits 'n Pieces

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar on January 18 or on a Sunday in February, please let us know: 781-334-3050.

We are still missing a navy blazer. Please check your closet and make sure you took the right one home.

Lights Out beginning Jan 16: Steven Richard
Lights Out beginning Jan. 23: Phil Johnson

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan. 18	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) – Room 11 Older Children & Youth in Church
Mon. Jan. 19	----- 7:30 pm	<i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Jan. 21	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. Jan. 22	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Jan. 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Jan. 25	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6-7:30 pm	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery (up to age 3) – Rm 11 ARK & SPARK Classes Youth Group – Basement
Mon. Jan. 26	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Jan. 27	12:30 pm	Get-Together Wheel – Fireside
Wed. Jan. 28	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. Jan 29	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Jan 30	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Feb. 1	10:00 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary