

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Estelle Margarones, Interim Pastor, RevEstelle@centre-church.org

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Barbara Langill, Interim Director of Faith Formation

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

February 3, 2016

We Welcome Our Interim Pastor, Rev. Estelle Margarones

Rev. Estelle Margarones is an open-hearted and open-minded minister. She comes to Centre Church after a bridge pastorate in Scituate. Prior to that, she spent 3 years as pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church in Weymouth. Additionally, she has pastored churches in Braintree and San Dimas (California). She frequently writes emergency preparedness blogs for the UCC Mass Conference Disaster Resource Team. Her passions include inventive cooking, spending time at the beach (especially off-season), and heading out to Brimfield for the antique shows.

Dear Members and Friends of Centre Church,

It is an honor to be serving you in this time of transition. Please know that I understand that change isn't always easy. It can be disconcerting. Change shakes us out of our routines. We may not know quite what to expect. We might feel a little bit discombobulated. When change comes, things may be different but God is the same.

When you're grounded in God, change can range from being tolerable to being exciting. Change can often bring with it rich and rewarding experiences. Change offers new perspectives and wonderful new opportunities.

God is with us throughout all of the times of our lives, those times of transition included. The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible speaks of God's *hesed*, or 'steadfast love'. Knowing that we're loved—and not just loved, but *constantly, abidingly, and faithfully loved*—can give us strength. God's steadfast love lets us know that we're not alone. God's steadfast love can give us the courage to

try new things, to act in new ways, and to step outside of our comfort zones.

As the winds of the Holy Spirit filter through Centre Church, may they bring gratitude for what was and hope for what will be. I am tremendously grateful to the Parish Council for their trust in me and to Rev. Bailey for the meetings, calls, and emails we exchanged prior to his retirement.

I truly look forward to getting to know you and to growing together. I'll be working Sunday through Thursday and I expect to be in the office most middays, so please feel free to call me at 781-334-3050. My email address is RevEstelle@Centre-Church.org and I'll be checking email until 7PM. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the office, at your residence, at a coffee shop, or out for a walk.

Blessings, Rev. Estelle

Rev. Estelle Margarones, Interim Pastor

In the Sanctuary

February 7, 2016

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones,
Interim Pastor
Nursery & Godly Play Class
Older Children & Youth in Church

February 14, 2016

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery (up to age 5)
Older Children & Youth in Church

February 21, 2016

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery, Godly Play and Breakfast Club

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday February 7th, 160 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 7. This year, our donations will be going to Bread and Roses and Haven from Hunger.

Youth Group

There are no youth group meetings scheduled for Sunday, February 7. We would like all youth group members (5th-12th grades) to come to the Pancake Supper/Bingo Night on Tuesday, February 9. Your help is needed to set up, cook, and serve pancakes. Please plan to arrive at 4:45 pm. Come and enjoy a fun evening - invite your friends and family!

Nine youth and 3 adults had a great night for snow tubing on Sunday, January 24 at Nashoba Valley. Many thanks to John and Heather Sievers and Joyce Stott for chaperoning the trip.

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.

Godly Play

Sunday, February 7- children in PreK- 4th grade will worship briefly with their parents before leaving for Godly Play. Children and youth 5th grade and up will remain in worship.

Sunday, February 14 - No Godly Play classes. Children 5 years and under may go to the nursery.

Breakfast Club

Sunday, February 7 - Communion Sunday. Youth in grades 5 and up will remain in worship. After worship we will be collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring. Please meet Mrs. Langill in the Narthex during the last hymn.

Sunday, February 14 - youth are invited to attend worship with their families.



Pancake Supper

Join us Tuesday, February 9 at 5:30 pm for a church-wide Pancake Supper. In addition to a delicious Pancake Supper, we will be playing Bingo with caller Chris Lambe. There will be awesome prizes! Come join in the fun. All proceeds will go toward this year's trip to the UCC National Youth Event.

Giv2 Group Events

The Giv2 youth group met at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Sunday January 31 to paint ceramic bowls to be used for the Empty Bowl Project, an international grassroots effort to raise money and awareness in the fight to end hunger. The fifth annual Chelsea MA Empty Bowls event will be held on **THURSDAY APRIL 21ST FROM 5-7PM** at the Williams Middle School in Chelsea.

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Irene Allyn who died on January 25. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on January 30.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Karen Harrington upon the death of her father, Don Blanchard of North Weymouth, MA. His funeral was held on January 30.

Congratulations to Earl Richard who will turn 95 on February 8.

Congratulations to Our Confirmands

We congratulate the following young people who were confirmed and received into the membership of Centre Church on January 24:

Madeleine Law – Mentor, Lauren Donadio

Marina McMahon – Mentor, Denise Weaver

Daniel Miller – Mentor, Debbie Cotting

Harlee Priestley – Mentor, Ariel Priestley

Julia Seelig – Mentor, Annmarie Pendola

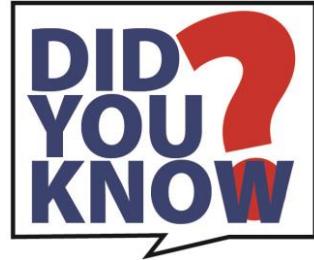
“SAVE THE DATE” for an Important Meeting on March 6th!

There are lots of decisions to make as we age. You (or a loved one) may want to remain in the home you love but your needs are changing. What adjustments can be made to your home so it fits your needs? Is it safe? Where can you find help? Does it make sense economically? How can you protect your home legally?

Please join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, March 6th in Richards Hall at 11:30 am, following the church service. Several speakers will provide useful information you should consider as you think about what's best for you or a loved one, now or in the future.

Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Hosted by Judy Johnson, Debbie Miller, Penny McKenzie & Patti Nardone of RE/MAX Leading Edge in Lynnfield.



Join us for Centre Church’s 4th Annual Trivia/Silent Auction on Saturday, February 27!

We are revving up for our annual Trivia/Silent Auction on Saturday, February 27 at 6:30 pm. Get your team together! Jason Cotting will be our trivia master.

We will be serving hors d'oeuvres, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages. There will be great items to bid on! In fact, we are looking for items/services to bid on!

Questions? Call Dotty Whittier at 781-635-6225 or the church office @ 781-334-3050.

Bits ‘n Pieces

If you ordered a lobster roll, you may pick it up after worship on February 7.

The children and youth will begin baking muffins to benefit Heifer International on Sunday, February 21.

Thank You!

It takes many hands to make sure that *Tower Notes* is printed, sent out, and posted on the web. Thanks to Marjorie Potter, Liz Baud, Nancy Loyd, Marcia Stevens, Grayce Kushmerek, Lola Leggett and Linda Ladd for being part of the crew.

It also takes many hands to deliver altar flowers after church to those who are shut-in or bereaved. Thank you to: Laurel Caputo, Marian Orfeo, Scott and Liz DeSantis, Chuck Cotting, Judith Doe, Randy Russell, David and Diane Bjorkman and George and Perry Hayden.

City Reach Overnight, March 4-5



Our youth will be heading into Boston to participate in City Reach, a program offered through Ecclesia Ministries. This is an opportunity for youth to learn about homelessness in Boston and to offer their assistance distributing food and clothing to those in need. We will meet with other Giv2 youth at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Lynnfield for dinner together and to organize donations. We will be holding a church-wide collection during the month of February for the following items:

- ◆ *All kinds of carrying cases such as backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels (used and in good condition)*
- ◆ *Travel-size toiletries such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, Chapstick, toothpaste, and shaving cream in small sizes, as well as tooth brushes and disposable razors, and tampons (no aftershave or mouthwash containing alcohol).*
- ◆ *New white socks (there can never be too many of these)*
- ◆ *New underwear (80% should be underwear for men)*
- ◆ *Sleeping bags & blankets (clean and in good condition)*

- ◆ *USED CLOTHING, including:*
 - Nylon jackets and pants, ponchos, raincoats, and warm coats
 - Sweat shirts and sweat pants (especially hooded sweatshirts)
 - Sweaters, T-shirts, Long-sleeve shirts
 - Jeans, khakis and other casual pants (80% for men)
 - Waterproof boots, comfortable shoes, and sneakers
 - Hats, waterproof gloves, belts

- ◆ *Please no children's clothes, dress clothes, slippers, bathrobes, pajamas or out-of-season clothing. Think about what you would wear camping or hiking. Such comfortable, rugged clothing is just what is needed. There are about 4 times the number of male guests as female guests, so about 80% of our donations should be for men or unisex. Large sizes (XL, XXL, and XXXL) are very much in demand. Hooded sweatshirts and sweat pants are much appreciated.*



Our Opportunities

Sun. Feb. 7	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery (up through age 3) Godly Play (age 4 – grade 4) Grades 5-12 in Church
Mon. Feb. 8	7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Feb. 9	5:30 pm	Pancake Supper & Bingo – R. Hall
Wed. Feb. 10	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs. Feb. 11	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Feb. 12	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Feb. 14 1st Sunday In Lent	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) Older children & youth in Church
Mon. Feb. 15	----- ----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed No Boy Scouts This Week Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Feb. 17	7:00 pm	Women's 12 Step Mtg. – Fireside
Thurs. Feb. 18	-----	No Choir Rehearsal This Week
Fri. Feb. 19	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. Feb. 21 2nd Sunday In Lent	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery, Godly Play Breakfast Club

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bruce Gist at Lahey Clinic, Burlington, Paula Fowlie (Carmine and Phyllis Ciampa's daughter), Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Bob Hanson, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard, and Bob Shorey. We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.

The Church Office will be Closed on February 15.

Office Hours will be 9-12 Tuesday through Friday that week
