

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

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

March 30, 2016

A Different Kind of "20 Questions"...

*The purpose of the game is to guess the answer
by asking up to 20 questions.*

I need your help to illustrate a point. If you wear glasses, please take them off for a moment and look around, noticing what you see, then put them back on. If you don't wear glasses, look at something in the distance, then walk over to it and look at it up close. Was there a difference in your perspective? Did things that were unclear come into focus? Did you see the same object in a different way? In many instances in the Bible, Jesus invites a new perspective and I'm going to do so today, as it applies to this beautiful and beloved church.

The next time you come to church, please pretend it's your first time here. Take the time to look closely, with a new perspective. What do you see today? Who do you see today? Are we meeting the needs of those who are here? Who isn't here? Who are our neighbors? What is God calling us to do in this time and place?

If you always use the parking lot entrance, why not try coming in the front doors to see what that experience is like? If you aren't able to come to worship, how does the church serve your needs and how might you be able to be involved with this church community?

How often do you participate in the offerings in the narthex (foyer)? Is the worship experience meaningful for you? If you've been here a while, do you have questions about anything we do at Centre Church? If you're new, what questions do you have? Where might you like to get more involved?

What can Centre Church do to offer a safe and sacred space in which people can learn and share and grow in faith? While Sunday worship is the pinnacle of our week together, church has never really been a 'one day a week activity'. Since it's unlikely that our weekends will get any less busy or that sporting events will cease to be held on Sundays, in addition to worship, what can we do to reach people? What would you invite a friend to? Do you talk about your faith?

Centre Church does so much good in the world and we have so much to offer! We have excellent engagement in volunteer work, phenomenal children's programming, an outstanding choir, diverse faith and fellowship activities, and truly dedicated people in our midst. How can we share this good news and continue the upward trajectory of all of our offerings?

I lift up these questions now as we formally begin the transition work that will lead you to your next settled pastor. Part of my role as your Interim Pastor is to be reflecting back to the church what I observe. This is your church and your voices matter so I invite and encourage your engagement in the transition process.

All of the questions lead to the overarching 'answer' to the issues of this world: vital and vibrant church community! Please join us for the congregational meeting on April 3rd and please save the date of May 1 for the next congregational meeting with Associate Conference Minister Wendy Vander Hart.

Blessings!

Rev. Estelle

In the Sanctuary

April 3, 2016 10:00 A.M.

Holy Communion
Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery and Godly Play

April 10, 2016 10:00 A.M.

Morning Worship
Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery, Godly Play and Breakfast Club

April 17, 2016 10:00 A.M.

Morning Worship & Sacrament of Baptism
Nursery (up to age 5)

Special Congregational Meeting/Lunch

We will gather downstairs for a meeting and lunch on April 3 following worship. At this meeting we begin a discussion about building a wish list of things we want a Search Committee to use as their focus guidelines.

Lunch will be catered by Countryside Deli. It is very important to get a head count to ensure having enough food, so please call or email the church office to let us know if you can come. (781-334-3050 or office@centre-church.org.) We would also appreciate offers of desserts to share. We hope to see you all there.
- Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Centre Church Lights it Up Blue

April is Autism Awareness Month, and April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day. Thousands of iconic landmarks, skyscrapers, schools, businesses and homes across the globe will be shining bright blue lights in honor of the millions of individuals and families affected by Autism. We hope that you feel a sense of pride seeing our church lit up with blue lights and are reminded of our dedicated, accepting and compassionate church community.

On Saturday, April 2, Centre Church will be hosting an Autism Awareness Family Fun Event from 2-4pm. Families attending will have an opportunity to create crafts, play games, and participate in Autism Awareness experiences. Wiggles & Giggles, a well-known local children's entertainer, will be performing at the event. Admission price is \$5 per family. Please join us in spreading the word about this exciting event! Contact Jill DiGiorgio for more information

Sunday Morning with the Children

Nursery

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each week for infants through age 3.

Godly Play

Sundays, April 3 & 10, children in PreK- 4th Grade will worship briefly with their parents before leaving for Godly Play.

Youth Activities

Sunday Morning Breakfast Club

Sunday, April 3 Communion Sunday. Youth are invited to attend the worship service with their families.

Sunday, April 10, The Breakfast Club will meet in the kitchen.

Sunday Evening Youth Group

Sunday, April 3 No evening youth group meeting.

Sunday, April 10 Youth in grades 5- 12 are invited to join us for food, fun, faith and fellowship in the downstairs kitchen from 6-7:30pm.

Coming Soon! An Evening of Entertainment

On Sunday evening, April 3, at 7:00 p.m., Judie Potter's Boston Marathon Fundraiser will be held in Todd Hall. There will be musical performances by church members and Lynnfield High School students. Tickets for this evening of music and light refreshments will be on sale for \$10.00. This money will help Judie reach her goal for this marathon run which will benefit Tufts Medical Center and is in memory of her father. All are welcome!! (Anyone wishing to help out by performing, please contact Judie Potter or Denise Weaver.)

Impossible Eggs

One Sunday during Lent, youth passed out "Impossible Eggs" at the end of worship. Inside each egg was a scripture verse, referencing how God can do impossible things if we put our trust in him. The instructions that came with the egg suggested that you open the eggs, read the scripture verse, turn over the paper and write on the back your sincere desire, your seemingly impossible dream. The paper was to be put back in the egg, and allowed to "incubate", not to be opened until Easter. If you have a story you would be willing to share about your experience with your Impossible Egg, we would love to hear it.

You may email Barbara Langill at Christianed@centre-church.org with your story.

Pastor's Office Hours:

Rev. Estelle is available to meet with you Sunday-Thursday, by appointment. If you'd like to get together, please call 781-334-3050 or email RevEstelle@Centre-Church.org.



Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!

We are so happy to be offering a music program for the children of Centre Congregational Church. Joyful Noise is open to ages 3-9 and explores different ways to worship through music and movement. We will be presenting a fun song during church service on April 3rd and welcome all interested children to join us that morning before service (starting at 9:30 am) for a quick rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

We will resume regular rehearsals on April 10th at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary after the children have had a chance to get a quick snack following Godly Play in the morning.

All are welcome!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lauren Donadio or Jill DiGiorgio.

Parish News

Friends, in order to more efficiently share community happenings with the congregation, Parish News is moving from verbal announcements in worship to printed announcements in the weekly bulletin.

This way, people will be able to see the events and all of the details in one place. They can read the bulletin prior to worship and they can take the information home. I will invite people's attention to the printed announcements and draw attention to timely and relevant events.

If you have an announcement for publication, please email it to Susan Spear in the church office Office@Centre-Church.org by Wednesday for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. Please include your contact information or "call to action" (ie: sign up after worship in the narthex) so that we may print it in the bulletin. Susan is also the go-to for your *Tower Notes* articles.

Thank You!

The flower committee is grateful to so many for making the Sanctuary come alive with color on Easter Sunday morning. Thank you to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Designs for supplying all of the beautiful plants. Thanks also to those who donated the plants. We are especially grateful to our team of volunteers who made the deliveries to our shut-ins and bereaved.

With much appreciation, The Flower Committee

Spring Musical Interlude

April 10th at 2:00 p.m.

Lynnfield Community Church, 735 Salem St. in Lynnfield is offering an afternoon of music performed by Pianist Anahit Truzyan and Harpist Carol McIntyre on April 10. Anahit has an active teaching practice in the Boston area and is also the Church Musician at Lynnfield Community Church. Carol will play traditional and contemporary music on her folk harp.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert. Admission is free, however, a free-will offering to the church would be very much appreciated.

Facebook

Did you know that Facebook is a proven way to share information and inspiration? And did you know that you can help share the good news?! Please 'like' and 'share' posts from Centre Congregational Church.

Facebook uses an algorithm to decide what posts to show to people. (It's true! Not everything everyone posts gets seen by everyone.) The more 'likes' and 'shares' we get, the more our posts will show up. When you 'like' something, we see a number count of thumbs up on the Centre Church post, but when you 'share' it, it goes on your wall so that your Facebook friends can see it in their newsfeeds.

Reviews are a wonderful way to let others know about Centre Church. Feel free to give us a review on our Facebook page so that people will know why Centre Church is important to you.

Maundy Thursday Service Recap



This year, we held the Holy Thursday service in Todd Hall and fifty-six people attended. This truly collaborative service featured many speakers and readers from the congregation. The choir sang two beautiful anthems and Doug Hodgkins played keyboard and sang a solo. Participants all wore black.

The scene was reminiscent of the Last Supper, complete with ancient foods that may have graced that very table: figs, apricots, unleavened bread, olives, and more. We gathered as friends would have to a meal, then heard the sacred scene unfold through Scripture readings. Over the course of the time, candles were extinguished, lights were dimmed, and a haunting a cappella version of “Were You There” filled the air as the room entered complete darkness. We departed in silence.

Do This in Remembrance of Me

Sacred Storytelling Workshop

On Sunday, April 17th, join Linda Ladd and Rev. Estelle Margarones from 11:15-12:45 for a sacred storytelling workshop.

Come and learn dramatic reading techniques so you can bring the Bible to life! Participants will see and hear demonstrations, learn tips, and gain tools for reading and sharing Biblical material. There will be opportunities to practice in small groups and in the church sanctuary. This free workshop will help you to deepen your understanding of the sacred text. Snacks will be provided. Feel free to invite friends! (Location: Lower Level Kitchen)

Easter Worship Exceeds Expectations!

This year, approximately 220 people graced our sanctuary for Easter Sunday worship. We prayed and praised God together. Rev. Estelle shared the message that nothing is impossible for God and the choir sang joyously to the accompaniment of piano, drums, bass, and guitar. Rev. Estelle and Linda Ladd’s dramatic narration of the cantata helped those gathered to be in the time and place of the Easter story. After many of the songs, a little child’s voice could be heard, enthusiastically exclaiming “yay!”

A very special thank you to Doug Hodgkins, the choir, Linda Ladd, deacons, ushers, greeters, Dottie and Gage Whittier and the membership team as well as the Flower Committee for a truly exceptional day.



Our Opportunities

Sat., April 2	2-4 pm	Autism Awareness Event – Downstairs
Sun. April 3	9:30 am	Joyful Noise Rehearsal – Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary
	11:30 am	Nursery and Godly Play Luncheon Meeting – Downstairs
Wed. April 6	8:30 am	Bread and Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. April 7	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. April 8	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. April 10	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary
		Nursery, Godly Play Breakfast Club
	11:30 am 6:00 pm	Joyful Noise Rehearsal – Sanctuary Youth Group - Downstairs
Mon. April 11	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. April 14	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. April 15	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. April 17	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary
		Nursery (up to age 5)
	11:15 am 11:30 am	Sacred Storytelling Workshop - Downstairs Joyful Noise Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Please be in touch with the church office if you would like more information about any of these activities. (781-334-3050 or office@centre-church.org)

In addition to our scheduled church activities, Centre Church hosts Boy Scout Troop #48, Cub Pack #48, Girl Scouts, Alanon, Alateen, Women’s AA, BKP Book Packing Group, Essex Society of Genealogists and the New England Pastoral Institute counseling center.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ed Ericson, Bob Hanson, Ginny Daniels, Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Barkey Gulezian, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard, and Bob Shorey.

We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.
