

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

May 25, 2016

Dear friends,

Let's call this "minister's musings" because I'm thinking. A lot. But I don't yet have any conclusions. I'm hoping you'll help me come to some. The three questions we're considering during this transitional time are: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? (And, in light of the answers to the first two questions;) What is God calling us to do and be at this time?

"Who are we?" asks us to look at the church through a critical lens. Who we are today? What are our demographics, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, interests and abilities?

"Who is our neighbor?" We're asked to look (again, critically) at who literally surrounds the church building and what their needs may be. (If you've answered the question "who are we?", you'll note that we have a dozen active families from towns other than Lynnfield so part two of Question 2 might be, "Who are our neighbors--where we live--and what are their needs?")

"What is God calling us to do and be in this time and place?" is a more challenging question. Not only does it ask us to really be aware of what is happening around us, but it asks us to commit to responding to those needs. This question speaks to being relevant locally and it seems to me that it's really asking "What's your purpose?"

All of Jesus' ministry was in response to needs. What needs can we serve in a way that sets us apart? What can we rally congregational energy around? Is it

Dementia? Addiction/addiction in families? Autism? The environment? Stress?

If we are going to truly minister to those around us, we need to learn about the needs and to offer opportunities to be together in community in ways that engage people today. Not the way we did 30 years ago. Not even the way we did last year. This may mean stretching our comfort zones.

I am a minister because I'm passionate about the difference that faith can make in a life and I want to share that information! I recently became a member of the United Church of Christ Mass Conference Church Development Ministry Council, a board that supports vitality in faith communities.

Why are you part of Centre Church? What are your thoughts about the three questions? How about anything else I've posed? I invite you to email, Facebook, call, or meet with me. Let's continue the conversation!

You can reach me at:

(RevEstelle@Centre-Church.org,

Estelle Minister on Facebook

or 781-334-3050 at the office)

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle

In the Sanctuary

May 29, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship
Sermon by Guest Preacher, Jeff Langill
Nursery – Age 5 and Under
Older Children Plant Flowers on the Lawn

June 5, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion
Celebration through Song
Nursery – Age 3 and Under
Godly Play – PreK – Grade 4

June 12, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship – Celebration Sunday
Led by Children and Youth
Recognition of our High School Graduates
Nursery – Age 3 and Under

Sunday Morning with the Children

Nursery: Located in Room 11, our nursery is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. Pagets are available for parents.

PreK – 4th Grade:

May 29 – worship briefly with parents before leaving to plant flowers outside the front of the church.

June 5 – worship briefly with parents before leaving for Godly Play in Todd Hall

A Special Meeting of the Church will be held

on Sun., June 5, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

to discuss the following items:

1. Presentation and Approval of the 2016 to 2017 Temporary Operating Budget.
2. Term extension of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions until the Annual Meeting in September.

Bruce Weaver, Moderator



Congratulations and Welcome to the following people who joined Centre Church on May 15:

Jim Livingstone of Peabody
Laurel and Peter Caputo of Wakefield
Debra Lou Stevens of Salem
Raden Sorli Hawk of Lynnfield
Estelle Margarones of Newburyport

Young Families Group (YFG)

Saturday, June 4, 11am Playground Meet Up at Moulton Park in Wakefield (14 Harrington Ct)

Saturday, June 25, 10am Sensory/Autism Friendly Movie “Finding Dory” at Burlington AMC Theater

Contact Jill DiGiorgio at 781-504-5044 or

JillDiGiorgio@yahoo.com for more information

News From Around the Parish

We express our love and sympathy to Barbara Ericson and her family upon the death of her husband, Ed on May 18. His funeral will be held at West Church in Peabody, 27 Johnson St. on Thursday, May 26 at 12:00. Calling hours will be from 10-12. Burial will follow at Forest Hill and a reception afterward will be held at the Clubhouse at Essex Village.

Reminder: We are in the middle of graduation season. Please send us details of your favorite graduate!

We will be honoring our high school graduates during worship on June 12.

News From Our Military

Barbara Becker reports that her grandson, Captain Michael Bruce, USMC graduated from Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, VA. Michael and his wife, Vallerie will be re-locating to Camp Pendleton, CA where he will rejoin the 2nd Artillery Battalion in June.

Re-Cap of Recent Weekend Activities

On May 15, we had a very successful Flea Market on the lawn, netting \$1300 for the church. Thanks so much to all who donated a wide variety of items for us to sell, to those who shopped and to those who helped set up and staffed tables. Dotty Whittier

On May 21, we hosted Crafters on the Common which was a big success, raising over \$1100 for Centre Church. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped the crafters unload and set up early in the morning and then helped them pack up at the end of the day. All the crafters expressed their gratitude for the help and noted that they don't get that kind of help at other fairs. We had a wonderful group of artisans, and we were fortunate to have Countryside Deli selling sandwiches and pizza at lunch time. Also, thank you to all the folks who came to shop. When the day is profitable for the crafters, they want to participate again! Debbie Cotting & Margaret Waugh



Also on May 21, the church had locations at Geraniumfest and the Craft Fair where we were promoting ways to care for our planet as well as for our needy neighbors, by recycling plastic and collecting redeemables for Haven from Hunger in Peabody.

Thank you to our youth who helped collect and sort through bottles and cans: Daniel Miller and Johnny Stott, Raden Sorli Hawk and Marina McMahon,

Looking Ahead into June



10 a.m. Chapel Services will begin on June 19.

The Nursery will be open for children
Age 3 and under

Kids Summer Sunday Camp for older children
will be held in the Library from 10-11.

Care Team

The Biblical Book of Galatians invites us to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal 6:2) and to that end, Centre Church now has a Care Team. The Care Team will assist Rev. Estelle with pastoral care, particularly in visitation. The hope is that as Centre's Care Team grows, so too, will the range of possibilities including calls, cards, setting up meals during times of illness or crisis.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED and TRAINING IS PROVIDED. A simple commitment of one hour per month is all that is necessary. Do you drive? *You could visit someone.* Social media savvy? *Perhaps you can set up Meal Trains.* Homebound? *You can make calls and send cards to others?* Have room in your car? *You could bring someone to church.* Your presence will make a difference and you will find that you get back significantly more than you give.

The next Care Team meeting is Thursday, July 7 at 3:15 in the Pastor's outer office.

Heifer Display

You'll note that we have changed the Heifer International display to make it take up less room in the Narthex. The "goat tube" will still be very visible each Sunday morning, under a collage of pictures from our trip to the Heifer International Ranch in Arkansas

The tube is designed to hold \$120 which is the price to donate a goat. Filling the tube is a visible and fun project for our whole extended church family! For more child-friendly information about how a goat can help enhance the lives of those in need, please borrow the book "Beatrice's Goat" from our church library.
– Outreach Ministry Team

Stay Tuned.....

Concerts on the Common: In July Centre Church will be on site for these Concerts on Wednesdays July 6, 13, 20 and 27. This is a wonderful way to be where the people are, to put a 'face' on Centre Church and to share information about our fantastic faith community. If you want to join Rev. Estelle and help out on one of the Wednesday nights, please let us know.

Social Media 101: This fall Centre Church will offer a workshop for all ages. Come get an introduction to Facebook, Twitter and more.

Sunday "Lobsta" Roll Sale!

Sunday June 5, 2016 - \$12.00 Each.

Deadline for placing orders is noon on Monday, May 30

Please make checks payable to: Centre Congregational Church,

Mail to: 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940

Lobster Roll pick up will be after worship and a brief congregational meeting. (11:30)

Name: _____ Quantity: _____ **WITHOUT Mayo! YES** _____



Take Stock in our 2016 Mission Trip

This summer the High School Youth group will be traveling to Project HOME in Orland, ME. We invite you to "share" in this experience by purchasing stock in our Mission Trip. For just \$20.00 per share, you will be helping our youth give this community hope for a better future. All shareholders will receive a stock certificate and an invitation to a shareholder dinner in the fall where mission trip participants will give a presentation of their experience.

Shares will be on sale on Sundays, June 5 and 12 after worship or you may send in your order on the form below to the church office

Stock Order Form

Yes! I would like to "share" in the Mission Trip experience

Name _____

Address _____

Number of Shares _____ at \$20.00 a share Total enclosed _____

(checks may be made payable to Centre Congregational Church.)

Our Opportunities

Sun. May 29	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) – Room 11 Children Plant Flowers Outside
Mon. May 30	-----	Office Closed for Memorial Day
Wed. June 1	8:30 am	Bread and Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. June 2	7:00 am 7:30 pm	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow Senior Choir - Choir Room
Fri. June 3	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. June 4	11:00 am	Young Families Group (YFG) – Meetup at Moulton Park, Wakefield
Sun. June 5	10:00 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Nursery and Godly Play
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
Thurs. June 9	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. June 10	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. June 12	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Ice Cream Social – Front Lawn

**Chapel Worship Services begin
on Sunday, June 19 at 10:00 a.m.**

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.

We hold in prayer the following members and friends: Bev Pettit, the Ericson family, Barkey Gulezian, Bob Hanson, Edie Richard, Bob Shorey and Johnathan McCarthy (son of Mary McCarthy) deployed with the Marines.
