

# TOWER NOTES

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The Rev. Jamie R. Howard, Bridge Interim Pastor, PastorJamie@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*

**APRIL 10, 2017**

The path was dark –  
not more so than the pain in my heart.  
At the final turn I stopped,  
no thought prepared for approaching the soldiers.  
Peering around a thorn-bush  
(O awful memory!)  
I found desertion and disarray:  
the soldiers fled, the stone rolled...  
"Find the others!" my mind raced  
in time with my steps.  
Peter and John, believing my urgency  
if not my words, flew past me  
back down the path in early light.  
I hardly heeded them, their entry,  
and their words, their racing away.  
I knew what they had found:  
nothing.  
Not even my Lord's body was there  
for me to render some last kindness  
and honor.  
It was too much.  
At least I could weep freely  
in the deserted garden.  
But even that was thwarted:  
the gardener's interruption disconcerted me.  
One wild hope: "Where have you taken him?"  
met by silence. Then –  
through my falling tears  
came the word that raised my heart  
from death to life.  
He knew my name.

*jrh 1986*

### **In the Sanctuary**

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017  
7:30 p.m. Office of Tenebrae

Easter – April 16, 2017  
10:00 a.m. Festival Worship Service

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – April 23, 2017  
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
Sermon by the Rev. Jamie R. Howard  
John 20:19-31  
“Giving What is Needed”

### **More about Upcoming Worship Services**

**The Maundy Thursday Worship Service** is one of the most meaningful Christian services of the church year. In this Communion service, we remember the Last Supper as Jesus shared it with his disciples. We follow the ceremony of Tenebrae, by gradually extinguishing candles while reading Bible passages depicting the events which led to Jesus’ betrayal and crucifixion. Eventually we hear the story in music, as we remain in total darkness, before leaving in silence. This service highlights the emotional journey of Holy Week and paves the way for the joy of Easter.

**Easter Festival Worship** will include a brief message from Pastor Jamie Howard, "Raise Your Sights," and the presentation of "On a Hill Too Far Away," a dramatic musical presentation highlighting the powerful central message of the cross, offered by our choir directed by Doug Hodgkins. Pastor Jamie suggests the following readings if you would like to give yourself some background for her message: Acts 2:34-43, in which Peter describes his new-found understanding, Colossians 3:1-4, which speaks about a life raised with Christ, and John 20:1-18, John's vivid story of Mary Magdalene's experience in the garden where Jesus had been buried.

### **Heifer Muffins Report**

Heifer Muffins were again a success! Each class was responsible for baking and selling muffins for several Sundays during Lent. The total that we will be sending to Heifer International is \$418.00. Many thanks to everyone who supported this effort by purchasing muffins, making donations, leading the class and helping with clean up.



### **Our Nursery**

The Nursery will be closed on Easter Sunday. Children of all ages are welcome to worship with their families. There will be worship bags and quiet activities for children. The Fireside Room will be open with toys and books available for children. The worship service will be broadcast on the flat screen so parents can follow along.

Weekly nursery care will resume on Sunday, April 23. We have relocated to a light, bright airy space in the church library. The new space offers lots of safe, age-appropriate toys and play areas for infants and toddlers ages 0-3. As always, the nursery is staffed by caring professionals and volunteers. Parents are able to check out pagers so they can be alerted during worship if anything comes up with their little ones.

### **Open Mosque Day**

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> a group of us visited the Mosque in Lynn as part of Open Mosque Day in MA. We observed a prayer session, heard from members and leaders of the Mosque and spent time mingling while enjoying delicious snacks. Two young boys who are Lynnfield residents, recited some of the Quran for us and we came home with our own copy in English for the church library. We met and invited some Muslim women including one who converted to Islam, to speak to the ladies of our church about their religion and experiences in our community. Please look for information on that below.



### **Ladies Tea on April 23rd**

A Ladies Tea and discussion with Muslim women in our community, will be held in the Fireside Room on Sunday April 23rd at 3 pm. All ladies of the church and friends are invited. Please RSVP to Linda Ladd, [ladd@neb.com](mailto:ladd@neb.com) or 781-334-6170.

### **Easter Fun Day**

Thanks to Education Ministry and everyone who helped make Easter Fun Day a success. Children played games, made crafts, listened to the story “The Best Thing about Easter”, and had an exciting egg hunt on the front lawn of the church.

## **Mission and Outreach News**

**Mission Closet Collections:** We are no longer collecting bottles and cans as Haven from Hunger does not have the staff to sort and redeem them. Similarly, we are no longer in need of plastic bags to make “plarn”, as we are taking a break from making sleeping mats for now. ***We ARE collecting breakfast cereal and canned fruit*** which we will deliver to Haven From Hunger on Monday, April 24.

**Signup Sheets:** can be found on the M&O bulletin board for serving meals at Haven from Hunger and gathering people to do some local fundraising walks as a Centre Church Team.

**Walking Team:** We’re registered for the Great Strides against Cystic Fibrosis walk around Lake Quannapowitt at noon on Sunday May 7th. Please join our team or make donations to our team at: [fightcf.cff.org/goto/Centre\\_Church](http://fightcf.cff.org/goto/Centre_Church) and contact Linda Ladd if you need a Centre Church shirt to wear while walking. You can register for free and don’t need to raise any individual money although each walker who raises \$100 will receive a Great Strides T-shirt that day.

**The Postal Food Drive:** is on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. All you need to do is put canned goods in a bag and leave it by your mail box that Saturday morning. Your letter carrier will probably leave you a collection bag sometime during the week before. Please be generous. This is an easy way to help our hungry neighbors.

## **News From Around the Parish**

Our prayers are with the family of Helen Butcher who died in February. Her Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church on Friday, April 21 at 11:30 a.m. There will be a time to visit with the family following the service.

## **Crafters Wanted**

### **Help Us Spread the Word!**

We are looking for crafters to participate in “Crafters on the Common” on Saturday, May 13 from 10 AM to 3 PM. If you are a crafter, please join us. If you know a crafter we should contact, please let us know. Cost is \$35.00 for a 12 x 12 space. Crafters must provide their own tables. Contact Debbie Cotting or Margaret Waugh for more information. The event will be held outdoors, rain or shine.

## **Empty Bowls Project**

The Empty Bowls Project is an international grassroots effort to raise money and awareness in the fight to end hunger. It began in 1990 and has spread around the globe. The finished bowls are put on display at the Empty Bowls event which will be held on Thursday April 20, from 5 – 7 pm at the Williams Middle School in Chelsea. Admission (\$20 in advance or \$25 at the door) buys you the bowl of your choice. Fill it with fresh soup and bread.

Several youth (and adults) from the Giv2 ecumenical youth group got together in January to hand paint bowls, which were then sent out to be fired. These, along with contributions from several other groups will be available.

## **Stewardship: Go....and do the same**

Stewardship Ministries extends a BIG thank you to all who have submitted their pledges. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. We need accurate pledge data to develop the budget for the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1. If you have misplaced your pledge card, just call the church office and a new card will be mailed to you.

Our pledges reflect our support for the ministry of Centre Church. The work we do matters, and our pledges indicate that we value that work.

With appreciation for your generosity,  
Debbie Cotting, Stewardship Ministries

## **Save the Date:**

Centre Congregational Church will be holding our annual Flea Market on the front lawn on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. In case of rain, the Flea Market will be held indoors. Save your treasures for the big day, and we can sell them to raise funds for the church. We are looking for volunteers to help out setting up, staffing the church tables, and cleaning up. We will have some Scouts to help set up in the morning and carry stuff in that afternoon.

## **Bits ‘n Pieces**

We are returning to sending out Tower Notes every other week. If you do not currently receive your copy by email and would like to, please notify the church office at [office@centre-church.org](mailto:office@centre-church.org). You could help us save paper and preparation time by doing that.

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. April 16</b> 	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Easter Worship – Choir Cantata</b> No Nursery or Classes this morning. Children worship with their families <b>Easter</b>
Mon. April 17	-----	Church Office Closed Patriot's Day
Wed. April 19	7:00 pm	Search Committee – Pastor's Office
Thurs. April 20	-----	No Choir Rehearsal This Week
Fri. April 21	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
<b>Sun. April 23</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Godly Play/Brick by Brick Ladies Tea – Fireside Room
	3:00 pm	
Mon. April 24	3-6:30pm	Volunteers at Haven from Hunger
Tues. April 25	1:00 pm	Get Together Wheel – Fireside Room
Thurs. April 27	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. April 28	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
<b>Sun. April 30</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Godly Play & Brick by Brick Deacons Meeting – Pastor's Office
	11:15 am	

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara Ericson recuperating from a fall, with Jack Marino who has a surgical procedure on his back scheduled for April 12, and with Capt. Michael Bruce USMC currently deployed in Baghdad, Iraq.

**Church Office Hours from April 18-21 are 9-12.  
Regular Office Hours of 9-3 will resume on April 24.**

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 Services. Please feel free to contact the church office if you would like more information about any of these activities or groups.

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