

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Laraine Wilson, 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*

**June 4, 2018**

## More On Sabbath

In yesterday's sermon, we contemplated Sabbath and our need for life-giving REST! Not only did God rest on the seventh day, God made our hearts to rest between beats and our lungs to pause between in breath and out breath. God created an earth that offers us abundance, but only if it is able to rest! And so observing Sabbath for us is not an optional activity. Sabbath is life orienting and life giving. Among the "Thou Shalt Nots" of God's commandments, Sabbath is a "Thou Shall." So many of us are mired in the cult of busyness and bogged down in the quest for more which can only be obtained with more work. This is not an accusation, this is merely your pastor identifying a challenge that I face, too, every day. It is hard to do something about a problem that we don't name. So, now that we've done that, we can move on to thinking through how to incorporate Sabbath into our daily lives. I believe that the slower pace of summer is the perfect time to do this. We have several months to try new things, a few months for them to "stick." The book that I referenced yesterday, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*, by Wayne Muller is chock full of reflection on Sabbath and Sabbath practices inspired by a variety of religious traditions. There truly is something for everyone.

The three that I suggested yesterday are just a beginning. Here is a recap on what those were.

1) Take an Appliance Sabbath. "Choose at least

one heavily used appliance or device – the telephone, television, computer, washer, dryer – and let them rest for a Sabbath period, which can be a morning, an afternoon, an entire day." It is not as much about the length of time but rather about being intentional about the Sabbath rest and then reflecting on how you felt about it afterwards. I also mentioned that a couple I know who are grandparents declare their home to be a phone free zone – a Sabbath from handheld devices, every time their grandchildren are with them. They collect the phones in a basket and return them when the children leave. In between they have plenty of face-to-face time in conversation, play, and rest. 2) Another practice involves taking time at the beginning of the day to embrace the new beginning. Rather than racing through your breakfast, or grabbing a bite on the run, take them time to prepare, sit, and take notice. This is a practice that can infuse other moments of your day. Tiny Sabbath moments! 3) Bless your children/grandchildren/all children. Place your hands upon their heads, your fingers in their hair, and bless them out loud! Rest with them, play with them. Take a family walk. Listen to their stories. Hear their worries. Absorb their laughter until it mingles with your own. Help them remember to whom they belong and in that Sabbath moment, you will remember who you belong to as well. We belong in and to God, our Creator, whose creation was not complete without Sabbath.

And so, beloved of Centre Church, I hope that you will find Sabbath moments this summer and immerse yourself in them. And I hope you will share with me what you find!

In hope,

Rev. Nancy

### In the Sanctuary

**June 10, 2018**

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
Nursery  
Faith Formation for Children  
11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting

**June 17, 2018**

**Celebration Sunday**

10:00 am Morning Worship  
Nursery

### In the Chapel

**June 24, 2018**

10:00am Morning Worship  
Nursery  
All Ages Church School

### **Our New YouTube Channel**

Thanks to the efforts of Raden Sorli-Hawk and Roy Sorli, we have a new YouTube Channel and several videos posted already. You can follow this link to our new Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5KOMI3mi8KLFddpMzfDmTg>

The first time you go to our Channel, click the RED subscribe button. Then you will receive notifications when a new video is posted. We will also be posting video links to the Centre Church Facebook page so if you are not following our Facebook page, it's time to do that now.



**Clean out your jewelry boxes!**

Jewelry needed for the Church

Fair Nov. 3rd. There will be a box

in the Church office for drop off or you can call Betsy Brown at 781-307-3904 or email

[betsybrown@hotmail.com](mailto:betsybrown@hotmail.com).

**Celebration Sunday, June 17** Our children and youth will be participating in the worship service on Sunday, June 17 as we celebrate a wonderful year together. Joyful Noise, our children's choir, will give a special presentation. There will be a recognition of our leaders, teachers, and volunteers. After worship, everyone is invited to join us for "Make Your Own Sundaes".

### Missions Update

**Haven From Hunger:** Annmarie Pendola, her friend Laurie, Frank Scott and Linda Ladd prepped and served a Memorial Day meal of cheeseburgers, corn on the cob, peas, macaroni and green salads. We were testing out the new workflow in their renovated kitchen. It's beautiful! Our next opportunity to serve at HFH is on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the M&O bulletin board across from the Fireside Kitchen.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** We've committed for a group to do farm work with The Food Project in Lincoln MA, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12:30. This is for ages 14 and up, so is a great opportunity for teens to earn community service hours or for parent/teenager bonding! We'll carpool from church. Please email [events@centre-church.org](mailto:events@centre-church.org) for more information. Workers must register with The Food Project prior to the date so please sign up now.

**Calling all CCCyclers:** It's time to register for Reid's Ride. Please join us on this 28 mile bike ride from Lynnfield to Gloucester which raises funds to WIPE OUT cancers affecting Adolescents and Young Adults. The ride is on July 15<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in riding with members and friends of Centre Church, please join our team at <https://www.firstgiving.com/team/368938>.

### **Donation of the Month:**





You're invited to our Summer Kickoff BBQ/Potluck Supper on **Saturday, June 16 at 4:00 PM.** Bring your beach/lawn chairs, favorite pasta salads, potato salads or sandwiches and enjoy some heavenly food and fellowship. Tables and chairs will be available. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Signup sheets are in the Narthex.

### **News From Around the Parish**

Judith Vasilia Johnson was born to Mariah Russell and Joseph Johnson of Somerville MA on Friday May 18, 2018. Proud grandparents are Judith Doe and Randall Russell.

Congratulations to Captain Michael Bruce USMC recently promoted to Commanding Officer, Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines. Michael is stationed at Camp Pendleton, San Diego and will be leaving for Japan in November. Michael is the grandson of Barbara Becker.

### **From the Mailbox:**

To Our Centre Church Family,  
Thank you for your support and comfort during this difficult time.  
Bless you,  
Cheryl & Phil Fisher



We will have a special craft night on Tuesday, June 12 at 7pm. at the home of Lisa Gerbick We will be making Christmas ornaments. All materials will be provided. The crafts are to sell at the upcoming Holiday Fair in November. Come join the fun and fellowship. Call Barbara Langill at the church office (781 334 3050) for more information



Please join us on Sunday, July 8th for our Christmas in July Service –Pajama/Toy Drive. This is your chance to not only sing your favorite Christmas carols but to also help the Cradles to Crayons Foundation. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or pajamas that Sunday to put under the tree. Hope you can all join us.

### **Why Celebrate Christmas in July?**

Some questions to ponder:

- Do I reflect on the birth of Christ only in December?
- How might my life change if I celebrated the birth of Christ year round?

Read [Luke 1](#). Consider how you can celebrate Christmas throughout the year.

### **CENTRE CONGRGATIONAL CHURCH** **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE** **CONGREGATION**

The Special Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Presentation and Approval of the 2018 to 2019 Temporary Operating Budget
2. Term extension of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions until the Annual Meeting in September

Bruce Weaver,  
Moderator

## **Faith Formation:**

### **Something for EVERYONE on June 9th!**

**CPR:** We will be hosting a CPR Class for Parents and Caregivers with the Lynnfield Moms Group on June 9th from 11:30 - 2:30. Please let us know if you are interested in this important class! See Lauren Donadio with questions.

**Boston Pride Parade and Festival:** June 9th. The festival starts at 11 on City Hall Plaza. Streets are closed, so plan ahead and get into the city early for parking. See Larainne if you are interested in going. She's happy to pick up folks from the church on her way or meet you there. Wear your Centre Church shirt!

**Giv2 & Mission and Outreach:** Volunteering on June 9th at The Food Project's Farm in Lincoln 9-12, meet at the church at 8. Ages 14 and up are welcome (including adults!), as this is an intergenerational event. We'd love to see some of our graduates/college-aged young adults join us if they are home. See Linda Ladd with questions.

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### **Church School:**

Last Official Day for Church School Classes is Sunday, June 10, 2018.

**Church School Celebration** Sunday is June 17th. The Faith Formation Team will be in touch with parents regarding roles. We need ushers (bulletins/offering), readers and singers, as Joyful Noise will share a song!

**Joyful Noise Practices** are 6/10 @ 9:45 and 6/17 @ 9:30

### **All Ages Church School for the summer:**

June 24, 2018 - September 9, 2018. We will have programming ALL summer for PreK-Grade 5 and the nursery is open every week! We are using the Whole People of God Curriculum and the theme of our unit is "Recognizing and Responding".

**Save-The-Date:** "Welcome Back Sunday" is September 16, 2018.

### **Faith Formation Ministry Team Membership:**

If you are interested in joining our team for the fall, let us know. This year we've met once a month (usually on the 2nd Tuesday) at 7 p.m. We are exploring meeting by Skype/Facetime when folks aren't able to make it in person.

### **Safety at Centre Church:**

We have been practicing evacuating the building with our Church School Classes. It has been going well and we are learning a lot in the process! Please see the email from Larainne with the plans and the socialstory we are using with the children. Godly Play will have a practice drill on 6/10.



## **MACUCC Faith Formation:**

*Save the Date for Super Saturday –  
October 20, 2018 in Framingham.*

Faith Formation Classes and Christian Education Certification is available through the UCC! (<https://www.macucc.org/certification>)

The Christian Educators Certification Program is for church leaders and local church educators who wish to develop skills for creating and/or leading a progressive, comprehensive, and exceptional faith formation ministry in their local churches. Church educators are persons who may serve in the role of church school superintendent, director/coordinator of Christian education, pastor, other authorized minister, and/or church school teacher, for instance. The Certification Certificate, presented at the completion of the program (see Frequently Asked Questions below for details) will indicate that the educator has achieved a certain level of proficiency as a church educator that is recognized by the Massachusetts Conference UCC. Lisa Gerbick is enrolled in the program and Laraine Wilson has completed it -- see them with questions!

Faith Formation Classes for All: These are the classes that comprise the Christian Educator Certification Program and are offered to anyone from a local congregation who is interested in furthering his/her knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the work of the Church. If the student is not interested in Christian Educator Certification, he/she need only to choose one of the classes or as many as desired. No certificate is granted; however, the student may request official documentation of his/her participation in a class or classes.



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Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your generosity in supporting Heifer International once again during this recent fiscal year. Together, we donated \$3269.50 to Heifer by filling the goat tube (four times!), baking and buying muffins during Lent, encouraging our children to donate change when thinking about our wealth compared to those who go without in other parts of the world, and gifting live animals in honor of our loved ones at Christmas. We recently sent our collected donation to Heifer International and it broke down like this:

\$2,293.00	Heifer Living Gift Market during Advent
\$300.50	Muffins during Lent
\$196.00	Coin Boxes for families during our Stewardship Campaign
\$480.00	4 x filling the goat tube!
<b>\$3,269.50</b>	<b>total donation to Heifer International in FY2018</b>

Thank you all for thinking of and supporting ways to help those who are struggling to feed their families in areas very far away from Lynnfield Massachusetts.

Sincerely, The Missions and Outreach Team of Centre Church

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. June 10</b>	<b>10:00am</b>  11:00am	<b>Sunday Worship-Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Footsteps- Room 11 Godly Play- Todd Hall Stage Brick by Brick- Room 21 Special Meeting of the Congregation
Tues. June 12	7 pm	Craft Night
Thurs. June 14	1-2pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room
Sat. June 16	9am 4pm	BKP Book Packing – Todd Hall Church wide BBQ/Potluck
<b>Sun. June 17</b>	<b>10:00am</b>  11:00am	<b>Celebration Sunday –Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Make your Own Ice Cream Sundaes
Thurs. June 21	1-2pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room
<b>Sun. June 24</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship- Chapel</b> Nursery-Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Thurs. June 28	1-2pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room

Please call the church office if you would like more information about any of these groups. (781-334-3050)

*Church Office Hours – 9am-3pm Mon-Fri*

*Summer Hours 9am-12pm begin June 18*

*The next issue of Tower Notes will be July 2*

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