

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 & Barbara Langill, Secretaries

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

September 4 , 2018

Milestones

We've moved! For those of you that I haven't seen over the summer, Mike and I are now residents of Andover and I am, as you all are probably sick of hearing, enjoying my shorter commute immensely! We are still up to our eyeballs, at least in the garage, in boxes, and only time and effort will get us through all of them and get things truly settled. In our last Tower Notes, I wrote about holding on and letting go and all of the purging of stuff that happened with our move. Well, that continues as we think about what fits where, what else we need to let go of, and what new things we might need to make our new spaces work for us. While we were rushed to accomplish much in order to sell our house, now we can take our time and really reflect and be patient, so that we can make good choices that support our life now.

Some of you have heard me share that we sold our Nashua house to a young man who grew up in the house and whose father actually built it. While we had been communicating with him since May, it was lovely to finally meet him in person as we closed on the house last Friday. I have to admit I was a little bit worried for him. I wanted to make sure that amidst all the nostalgia and memories, he was prepared to live his life forward in the house while honoring its whole history, including the two other families who have called it home. I am now confident

that he is and he will! I believe that honoring our past is important and that we can learn from our own and others' stories. I also believe that we need to do so in the spirit of living fully today and tomorrow.

Fall is a time of milestones. The new school year is beginning and parents are taking "First Day of ___ Grade" photos of their kids. New backpacks, new supplies, new expectations. College students are off to learn and live, taking solid steps into adulthood. And here at Centre Church, our new program year is about to start while Laraine and I both celebrate our first anniversary with you. During September, we'll welcome everyone back on Sunday, the 16th. Then, on Sunday, September 23rd we'll have our Annual Meeting when we'll review the milestones of the last year and share our hopes for the new year. I am excited as we continue to live out our covenantal relationships with God, with each other, with the wider Church, and with the communities around us. What might God be calling us to this year? How might God use you for spreading the good news? Let's find out together!

In hope,

Rev. Nancy

In the Chapel

September 2, 2018

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Holy Communion
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

September 9, 2018

10:00 am Morning Worship
Jeff Langill, Guest Preacher
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

In the Sanctuary

September 16, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

September 23, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School
Annual Meeting

September 30, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

Deacons' Breakfast September 30, 2018



Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before

church on Sunday, September 30, 2018 from 8:30-9:45 am. We will be serving up our delicious breakfast to raise money for the Organ Maintenance Fund. The suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family.



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

betsytbrown@hotmail.com



**YANKEE
CANDLE®**
FUNDRAISING

Our Yankee Candle fundraiser begins September 16th and runs until October 14th. Catalogs and order forms will be available in the Narthex on Sunday mornings and in the church office during the week. Treat yourself to some of the Yankee Candle fall scents like Autumn Wreath or Apple Pumpkin. Stock up on holiday scents like Christmas Cookie or Sparkling Cinnamon. The Yankee Candle catalog contains some great gift ideas as well as a lovely selection of gift wrap. Please support Centre Church by placing an order and be sure to share the catalog with family and friends.

You can order on line by going to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and entering our group number: 990016890. We will receive all orders before Thanksgiving. For more information, contact Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.



We will meeting on **Monday, September 17** at 7 pm in the library to continue preparing for 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.

Mission and Outreach News

Food of the month:

 **Haven**
FROM HUNGER

Donation for September is:

Cereal and canned fruit
(back-to-school breakfasts)
Collected in the Missions closet

Haven From Hunger

On Monday August 27th, Rev. Nancy, Debbie Cotting, Annmarie Pendola and Linda Ladd served a meal of fruit salad (with a fig on top!), Moussaka Shepherd's Pie (made and donated by the Greek church), Greek salad and chocolate bread pudding a la mode. Delicious! Our upcoming volunteer dates are: 9/24, 10/22, 11/26. Anyone 13 years and over is encouraged to be involved in food preparation and serving on each 4th Monday of the month, 3-6pm. Please check your calendars and sign up on the M&O bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen.

Lazarus House Walk on 9/30/18

Lazarus House, located in Lawrence MA, provides food, clothing, shelter and work preparation for people dealing with poverty and homelessness in the Merrimack Valley. They are sponsoring a 5K fundraising walk called the "Hike for Hope" on Sunday, Sept. 30, starting at 1pm (after church!). Funds raised will provide life-saving basic services to people in crisis as well as life-changing transitional housing, education and vocational training to help people build more stable lives for themselves and their families. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., walk starts at 1 p.m. at The Park on Bartlet Street in Andover. More information is available at: www.lazarushouse.org or 978 269 5222.



Faith Formation

Welcome Back Sunday is on September 16th! Church School will begin on that day with Footprints, Godly

Play and Brick By Brick children able to meet their teacher and see their classroom space. Parents will meet in the kitchen at 11:15 a.m. for a brief overview of church school, safe church practices, curriculum etc... We would like to provide childcare during this time, so please RSVP to Larainne.

Blessing of the Backpacks and School Supply

Drive: Children will bring their backpacks to be blessed during the mini-message on Welcome Back Sunday (9/16). We will also have an open backpack for parents and children to fill. These items will be donated to families in need. While you are school supply shopping, please pick up an extra item or two if you are able!

Safe Church Training: We will offer several opportunities for teachers, assistants, volunteers to be "Safe Church" trained: September 9th at 8:30 or 11:15 and September 30th at 8:30 or 11:15 are times that are open. If you are a teacher, an assistant, a volunteer or hope to be, please email Larainne at lwilson@centre-church.org to sign up for a time.

Church School September Dates: Church School will be held on September 2, 9, 16 and 23rd during the service.

Service Sundays: Service Sundays occur four times per calendar year. We spend this "extra" Sunday in service to the church and others. Our Church School Children (and their families) help supply and prepare coffee hour. We would love for families to contribute fruit, baked goods or drinks for that day. Please drop them off in the kitchen by 9:45 a.m.

Faith Formation Ministry Team Meeting: September 11th at 7 p.m. Focus: "Welcome Back Sunday" See Jill Digiorgio (Chair) with questions!

Giv2 Planning Meeting: September 12 at 6 p.m. Focus: Giv2 is an ecumenical service group for the older youth at St. Pauls, Wakefield Lynnfield United Methodist, Centre Congregational Church, St. Maria Goretti and Our Lady of The Assumption.

Giv2 Kickoff and BBQ: Our Kickoff BBQ and Campfire (with Smores) for youth in grades 7-12, is at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 23rd at Wakefield Lynnfield United Methodist Church 273 Vernon Street Wakefield.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Sept.2	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Chapel Holy Communion
Mon. Sept 3	----	Church office closed
Tues. Sept. 4	7:00pm	Parish Council-Pastor's outer office
Wed. Sept. 5	8:30 am	Bread & Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. Sept 6	1:00pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-choir room
Sun. Sept 9	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Chapel Nursery – Library/Nursery Summer Church School
Thurs. Sept 13	1:00pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-choir room
Sun. Sept 16 	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary Blessing of Back Packs Nursery – Library/Nursery Church School
Mon. Sept 17	7:00pm	Craft Night- Library
Thurs. Sept. 20	1:00pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-choir room

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.

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

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of Sept. 17
