

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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

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 17, 2018

Kicking Off Year Two (Year Two Hundred Ninety-Nine)

While we are beginning my second year of ministry with you, we are truly beginning our two hundred and ninety-ninth year as a church here in what was back then known as Lynn End. Rev. Nathaniel Sparhawk was ordained here on August 17, 1720. I hope you are looking forward as much as I am to our Three Hundredth Anniversary year and all the discoveries and celebration it will hold. Stay tuned for a call to participate in the planning, which will begin this year. But in the meantime, we are off to a great start of our new program year. On Sunday we gathered again as a whole church in our beautiful sanctuary. We blessed backpacks and work bags. We reminded our children and ourselves of our identity as bearers of the good news. We sent the children off to three different, age-specific programs to meet their teachers and get acclimated (or re-acclimated) to their classroom environment and to each other. And of course, we shared a time of fellowship with one another.

This fall, as we continue to explore and imagine the ways that Centre Church is called to serve in Lynnfield and beyond, we will be highlighting more of the ongoing ministries that Centre Church has been involved with year in and year out. And our children will be spending time on the first Sunday of each month learning about worship and sacraments. We hope as we live and learn about our worship and our service together as the Body of Christ you will reflect, discern, and grow in your own faith and service. Perhaps you've been coming here your whole life and

you've done the same thing(s) for a long time. Maybe it's time to try something new! If you're new to Centre Church, we hope that you will discover ways in which your gifts and your time can be shared. What I know for sure it that each and every single one of us, from the most mature to the littlest among us, has been given gifts to share toward the building of God's kin-dom here on earth. And not one of us is ever called to take it all upon ourselves! You are not God, and neither am I! But together we can live God's love out loud for each other and for those we meet within our walls and outside in the world. If you're looking for a way to be involved, please reach out. Email, call, or speak to me, or get in touch with any of our lay leaders/committee chairs via the church office. pastor@centre-church.org, office@centre-church.org, 781-334-3050.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Nancy

In the Sanctuary

September 23, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship

Nursery Care

Church School

Annual Meeting

September 30, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship

Nursery Care

Church School



YANKEE
CANDLE®
FUNDRAISING

It's time for our annual Yankee Candle fundraiser. As you know by now, fundraisers have become an important line item in our operating budget. We've come to rely on these fundraisers to support all of our ministries at Centre Church; **we will earn 40% of all Yankee Candle sales.**

You can pick up a Yankee Candle catalogue in the narthex after church or in the church office during the week. When you look through it, you'll see that it contains some wonderful candles, great gift ideas, and a lovely selection of wrapping paper. There is something for everyone...whether you are a candle lover or not. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, you'll want to check out the Kindle Candles. They are a safe and neat way to start a fire – no more messy newspaper! So please pick up your catalog after church and be sure to share it with family and friends. You and your friends can view the catalog and order on line by going to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and entering our group number: **990016890**. The last day to place an order is Sunday, October 14. We will receive the orders before Thanksgiving. For more information, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

Audio-Visual Help Needed

If you have an interest in all things (or even some things) AV, we are in need of more help in recording our Sunday service. If you know of anyone, church member or not, who would be interested in getting some recording, editing, and video sharing experience, let us know. Roy Sorli and Dom Donadio will be glad to get someone up to speed on our equipment and greatly appreciate more participation in this important ministry. Contact us at office@centre-church.org or speak to Roy or Dom on Sunday morning. You can find them in the balcony AV Booth.

Mission and Outreach News



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., and the walk starts at 1 p.m. at The Park on Bartlet Street in Andover. Rev. Nancy and Mike are captaining a team of Centre Church Walkers and you are invited to sign up to walk with our team or to support the team with a donation. **Lazarus House is already actively supporting those affected by the gas fire tragedy so supporting this walk is one way that you can offer immediate and lasting aid to those in need. Join or support the team via this link:**

<https://lazarushouse.akaraisin.com/HikeforHope/CentreChurchWalkers>

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.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation is a Lifelong Journey

Here at Centre Church, we not only offer Church School for our children and youth, we have opportunities beyond worship and service for you to enrich your faith journey as well.

Bible Study – On Thursday afternoons at 1:00 pm in the library, an adult Bible Study is held. EVERYONE is welcome and aside from our consistent core group, we had several people join us for a session or two. Together we decide our next focus of study. For the month of September we are reading the Book of Proverbs, one chapter per day. In October we will begin a study of the Gospel of John. All are welcome!

Faith Formation Certification Course – On the morning of Saturday, October 6, Rev. Dr. Mary Luti will be here at Centre Church teaching a class on worship and sacraments. This course is open to all but must be registered for in advance through the MACUCC. It will be offered again in January in Northampton and have a video-conferencing option. If you are interested in learning more about why we “do what we do” in worship, including the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, you cannot learn from a more qualified or engaging teacher than Rev. Dr. Luti. Contact Rev. Nancy or Laraine for more information.

Stay tuned – for more adult faith formation opportunities through the year.

Church School Programming: Footprints, Godly Play, and Brick By Brick classes will be held on 9/23. After mini-message, children will go to their classrooms, and engage in a story and an activity. Our teachers are Nursery: Alicia Dwyer; Footprints: Allison Barbieri; Godly Play: Lisa Gerbick; and Brick by Brick: Jackie Roussin. We are so happy to have this teaching team returning! Church School pick up time is 11:15 a.m.

Service Sunday is September 30th! "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.

Church School Parent/Family Orientation

We will have additional opportunities for Church School Orientation on September 23rd at 9:15 (this is a change to before the service since Annual Meeting is after the service) and also on September 30th at 8:30am. We will meet in the kitchen at for a brief overview of church school, safe church practices, curriculum etc. The Faith Formation Ministry Team would like one adult from each family to attend a Church School Orientation session. We would like to provide childcare during this time, so please RSVP to Laraine, so that we can plan ahead.

School Supply Drive – The deadline has been extended to **October 28th!** Children brought their backpacks to be blessed during the mini-message on Welcome Back Sunday. We also invited adults to join us and bring their laptop, messenger bags, backpacks or work bags of any sort! We had two backpacks for parents and children to fill with items for families in need. We are working with Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) to provide supplies for the Madison Park School in Roxbury. This is a high school, so please keep the needs of these older students in mind! Needed items: filler paper, notebooks, binders, hand sanitizer, tissues, pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, highlighters, sharpies, etc.

Safe Church Training: Our next opportunity for teachers, assistants, volunteers to be "Safe Church" trained is September 30th at 11:15. If you are a teacher, an assistant, a volunteer or hope to be, please email Laraine at lwilson@centre-church.org to sign up.

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.



Centre Church Holiday Fair
Saturday, November 3, 10am to 3pm

Holiday Fair Volunteer Opportunities

We will have about 25 outside crafters as well as 3 Centre Church tables – crafts, jewelry, and baked goods. We will also have a raffle for gifts displayed beneath beautifully decorated Christmas trees. We need volunteers to help our crafters with set-up on Friday, Nov. 2 from 5PM to 8PM and on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 8AM. We also need folks to staff the Centre Church tables, sell coffee and pastries in the morning, luncheon items mid-day, and raffle tickets from 10-3. If you can help, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday morning or call the church office. November 3 will be a very festive and busy day!



Looking for Artificial Christmas Trees

A Festival of Trees will join the Craft Fair this year on Sat. Nov. 3. We are looking for people who would be willing to donate or let us borrow your 5-6 Ft.

lighted, artificial Christmas Tree to display our themed trees for raffle opportunities. Each tree will have a theme, decorated with items that will be raffled at the end of the day of the Fair. Themed trees that we have thus far are: Cooking tree and Heifer Tree. We have others that have not decided on their theme. If you would be willing to donate or let us borrow your tree for our display or sponsor and decorate a themed tree, please contact Margaret Waugh, 781-334-4031 or email mcwaugh@aol.com.



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

Our Opportunities

Thurs. Sept 20	1:00pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-choir room
Sun. Sept. 23	9:15am 10:00am 11:00am 5:30pm	Church School Orientation Sunday Worship-Sanctuary, Nursery, Church School Annual Meeting Giv ² Kickoff BBQ-UMC Wakefield
Mon. Sept 24	3:00pm	Haven From Hunger-Peabody
Tues. Sept. 25	7:00pm	Parish Council
Wed. Sept. 26	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal- choir room
Thurs. Sept 27	1:00pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room
Sun. Sept 30	8:30am 8:30am 10:00am 11:15am 1:00pm	Church School Orientation Deacon's Breakfast Sunday Worship-Sanctuary, Nursery, Church School Safe Church Training Hike for Hope-Andover
Wed. Oct. 3	8:30am	Bread & Roses-kitchen
Thurs. Oct.4	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 for 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 October