

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

Larainne 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

October 16, 2018

Relying on the Word

Sometimes, I have nothing to say. Sometimes, nothing comes to mind that feels worth saying aloud to you, to the world, to myself.

Sometimes, that's a good thing, when I sit in silence and let the Spirit pray in me, purposely emptying my mind of all thought and words but my centering word. Sometimes, this lack of words makes me feel empty and alone.

Sometimes, it makes me feel inadequate or lazy or a bit crazy. Sometimes, it feels like freedom.

But what I hope to remember every time I'm at a loss for words is that there is a powerful Word for me, for us. Always. Forever. If I only **turn** my heart and mind and soul to the Word. If I only **tune** my heart and mind and soul to this Word. If I only listen to this Word, I can have life and have it abundantly. The Word came that **you** might have life and have it abundantly, too. The Word came for the sake of the whole world. Let the Word pray in You!

From The Prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-5)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Amen,

Rev. Nancy

In the Sanctuary

October 21, 2018

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Green Wagon Sunda
Nursery Care
Faith Formation

October 28, 2018

10:00 am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
Faith Formation

November 4, 2018

10 am Holy Communion- All Saints Day
Nursery Care
Faith Formation

Hike for Hope for Lazarus House Ministries

On Sunday, September 30th the Centre Church Walkers (for this event: Ann, Dwight, Katherine, and Andrew Decker, Perry and George Hayden, Mike Rottman, Larainne, Aiden, and Autumn Wilson, and Rev. Nancy) walked 5K. It was a gorgeous fall day to walk in support of our neighbors in Lawrence. Lazarus House has been opening doors out of poverty for 35 years. The need is greater than ever in the wake of the Gas Fire Tragedy in the Merrimack Valley. Thanks to your support, we raised \$1,365! Donations will continue to be accepted through October at <https://lazarushouse.akaraisin.com/HikeforHope/CentreChurchWalkers>

Metropolitan Boston Association Fall Gathering

Sunday, November 4th from 2:30 – 5:00 pm
Once again, we will be hosting the gathering here at Centre Church! This year's meeting will be focused on the wildly popular workshop led by Transitional Interim Conference Minister Rev. Don Remick.

Drawing on concepts in the book *WeirdChurch* we will look at insights and understandings of how churches may evolve and what new forms of faith communities are emerging around us today. An added twist will be a glimpse of the things emerging as a new Conference is created from CT, MA and RI.

Our time will be shared with our siblings in Christ from the Northeast Association.



Holiday Fair

**Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018 10AM – 3PM
Start Your Holiday Shopping Early!**

Our Centre Church Craft group has been very busy making some lovely items for our fair. What a talented group! In addition to the Centre Church craft table, we have 25 outside crafters who will offer an amazing variety of crafts, including jewelry, photography, greeting cards, quilted bags and much, much more. The church will also have a jewelry table, bake table, and a fair-trade coffee and chocolate table. We need volunteers to bake, staff tables, and help with set-up. Please look at the sign-up sheets in the Narthex to see how you can help or call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120. **Also, you can help by coming to the fair!** Our Fair Committee and all the crafters would love to see lots of people mingling about.

In addition to all the fair tables, there will be a Festival of Trees raffle located in the Narthex. You'll see beautifully decorated trees with lovely gifts on or under them. Take a chance and you could win the decorations and the gifts!



From the Mailbox

Gage and I just want to thank the members of our church family for volunteering with rides and food in our latest health challenge. It is appreciated more than you know.

Blessings
Dotty & Gage Whittier

Dear Centre Church Friends,

A knock at my door brought my friend Marcia Stevens delivering a beautiful vase of flowers from Centre Church. It was especially special since it was one year ago that Dana passed away. Many, many thanks for your caring & thoughtfulness.

Ginny Richardson.

Mission and Outreach News

Food of the month:



Donation for October is:
Canned or dried beans and peas
(i.e., black, pinto, lentils)
Collected in the Missions closet

Upcoming volunteer dates at Haven from Hunger are: 10/22 and 11/26. People 13 years and older can sign up to volunteer on the bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen. During the month of October, we are collecting canned or dried beans and peas.

Fair Trade coffee and chocolate:

Coming soon! For your Christmas shopping pleasure, the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team will sponsor an Equal Exchange fundraising sale of Fair Trade goods including coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolates. Please see the Missions and Outreach bulletin board or visit our table at the church fair on Nov 3rd for more information.



Faith Formation

Church School Programming: Footprints, Godly Play and Brick By Brick Church School classes will be held on 10/14, 10/21, 10/28. 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. Church School pick up time is 11:15 a.m.

Green Wagon Sundays: On the Sunday before Mission and Outreach serves at Haven From Hunger, the children will bring the Green Wagon forward during the mini-message time so that we can bless the food before sending it off. We will also have a representation from the food item of the month on our communion table to remind ourselves that we are fed at the table of God's love so that we can feed others. Green Wagon Sunday for October is Sunday, October 21st.

Church School Parent/Family Orientation: We have offered two opportunities for families to experience a Church School Orientation with the Faith Formation Ministry Team. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend, we would still love to talk with you at any time!

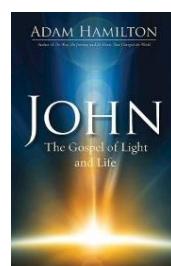
Blessing of the Backpacks and School Supply Drive- Deadline has been extended to **October 28th!** We are working with Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) to provide supplies for the Madison Park School in Roxbury. This is a high school, so please keep the needs of these older students in mind! Needed items: filler paper, notebooks, binders, hand sanitizer, tissues, pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, highlighters, sharpies etc....

Safe Church Training: We have offered two different times for Safe Church Training. However, if you weren't able to make it and you are a teacher, an assistant, a volunteer or hope to be, please email Larainne at lwilson@centrechurch.org to sign up for a time.

Giv2 Service Event: On Saturday October 20th, a group of youth from Lynnfield's churches (St. Pauls, Centre Church, SMG, OLA and Lynnfield-Wakefield United Methodist) will go "gleaning" with the Boston Area Gleaners. Gleaning is harvesting surplus farm crops, preventing waste and nourishing local families. This food rescue effort gets fresh food into the hands and homes of families who need it.

Young Families Group: "Pizza and Pumpkin Party" On Sunday, October 21st, after church in Todd Hall, we will gather for fun, friends and fellowship. Come enjoy the pizza and pumpkin party -- it was such a hit last year! Children of all ages are invited to enjoy pizza and decorate a small pumpkin. We will also have some music and games.

College Care Packages: We are assembling college care packages for Caitlyn Timmons, Maggie Weaver, Raden Sorli Hawk and Andrew Seelig on Sunday, October 21st. Please let Larainne know if you are interested in helping or would like to include a message or item in the packages.



Weekly Adult Bible Study

During October and into November, at Adult Bible Study, which meets in the Library on Thursdays at 1pm (no meeting on October 25th), we are reading *John: The Gospel of Light and Life* by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome to join us. If you are unable to be with us on Thursday, you are always encouraged to read along on your own. In Hamilton's book you will discover more about the deep layers of meaning running through the beauty of the fourth gospel.



MA DUKE'S TWELFTH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

"Ma Duke & Friends" provides a Thanksgiving dinner for individuals who otherwise would not have one. Last Thanksgiving they served over 2,500 homemade dinners of turkey, baked ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes and various casseroles. This year their goal is 3,000!! The event will be held at the American Legion Post 227, 69 River Street, Middleton, MA 01949. To help in this effort, we are collecting appropriate non-perishables until Sunday, November 18th.

Items such as boxed stuffing, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, beverages and paper products can be left in the box labeled "Ma Duke's & Friends Thanksgiving Dinner", located in the Missions Pantry. Monetary donations can be made online at <https://www.gofundme.com/madukes2018>. To volunteer your time to this wonderful cause, please contact Annmarie Pendola (617) 549-9164



APPLE Pie Sale – Fund Raiser
Apple, Apple Crumb and Apple Cranberry
Still **ONLY \$15.00**
Sunday November 18, 2018

A team of Centre Church bakers will be making pies on **Thurs.** Nov. 15, **Friday** Nov. 16, and **Sat.** Nov. 17 for sale on **Sunday, November 18th.**

Please Get Your Orders in by Sunday, November 11th

Please send your order and your check to the Church office! [781-334-3050]

To volunteer to help peel and core apples, make crusts or assemble pies;
please contact Chuck Cotting [781-593-3120] and we will have sign-up
sheets in the Narthex after Sunday services.

Centre Church Pie Sale Order Form

Unbaked [\$15]: Apple: ____ Apple Crumb: ____ Apple-Cranberry: ____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Our Opportunities

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| Thurs. Oct. 18 | 1:00pm 7:30pm | Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-choir room |
| Sun. Oct.21 | 10:00am 11:15am | Sunday Worship-Sanctuary Green Wagon Sunday Nursery – Library/Nursery Church School Pizza & Pumpkins - Todd Hall |
| Mon. Oct. 22 | 3 pm | Haven From Hunger - Peabody |
| Thurs. Oct. 25 | 7:30 pm | Choir Rehearsal-choir room |
| Sat. Oct. 27 | 4 pm | Trunk or Treat- parking lot (Rain date, Sunday, Oct. 28) |
| Sun. Oct. 28 | 10:00am | Sunday Worship-Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Church School |
| Mon. Oct. 29 | 7:00pm | Parish Council- Pastor's outer office |
| Thurs. Nov. 1 | 1:00 pm 7:30pm | Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-choir room |
| Sat. Nov 3 and set clocks back 1 hour | 9am-3pm | Holiday Craft Fair & Festival of Trees |
| Sun. Nov. 4  | 10:00am | Holy Communion-Sanctuary All Saints Day Nursery – Library/Nursery Church School |

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 October 29
