

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

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

November 26, 2018

Blue Christmas

On Sunday, December 16th at 5pm in the Chapel we will gather for Blue Christmas. Blue Christmas is a worship service during which we remember that for many, this is a season of sadness and longing, loneliness and mourning. The service offers peaceful music, sacred story, heartfelt prayer, and communion. Know that it is never necessary to share why you might need to be there. It is enough to simply come and seek comfort.

Come,

Rev. Nancy



Deacons' Breakfast December 9, 2018

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before church on Sunday, December 9, 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.

MA DUKE'S AND FRIENDS



Thank you to everyone who volunteered, brought in canned goods, paper products or made donations to help support Ma Duke's & Friends Twelfth Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Advent

December 2, 2018-10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Nursery Care

Faith Formation

December 9, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Worship

Nursery Care

Faith Formation

December 16, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Worship

Nursery Care

Older Children – Pageant Rehearsal

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy (Dotty) Whittier who died on November 19. A Celebration of her Life was held at Centre Church on November 25.

Congratulations to Roger & Nancy Lauzon who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 23.

Mission and Outreach News



Angel Tree A Christmas tree in the narthex is covered with Angels displaying the most-needed gift items for City Mission's Christmas Shop. Please take one or more Angels and return with the UNWRAPPED gift by **December 16**. Gifts will be blessed in our worship service that day and delivered to City Mission Society for distribution before Christmas. Thank you!



Fair Trade Shopping

Orders placed for Equal Exchange fairly traded goods are in! Orders can still be placed but aren't guaranteed for delivery before Christmas. However, some candy bars and mini-bars are still available for cash and carry sales. These can be purchased in the narthex on December 1st, during the gingerbread house display, or on Sundays after worship. Please see the Mission and Outreach bulletin board for more information about Fair Trade chocolates, coffees and teas.



Heifer Living Market

Our "alternative gift" animal sale will be happening on December 2nd and 9th. Members of our Missions Ministry Team will be in the narthex on both Sundays with Heifer animal information and order sheets. It's the gift that keeps on giving!!

Haven From Hunger Frank Scott, Phil Fisher, David and Diane Bjorkman and Doreen DiFillippo worked to prepare and serve dinner at Haven From Hunger on Monday, November 26. Our next "4th Monday of the month" opportunity is on January 28. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen.



Sunday, December 9, 2018

Sunrise of Lynnfield
55 Salem Street
2:00 p.m.

Giv2 and Young Families Group are co-sponsoring an **ALL** ages caroling event at **Sunrise on Sunday December 9th!** We are asking folks to gather at the church for a **pizza at 12:30, rehearsal at 1** and we will head over to Sunrise around **1:45 for a 2:00 p.m. caroling session with the seniors.** Sunrise has invited us to stay for cookies and hot chocolate as well! **If you can't make the pizza and rehearsal and would like to meet us there at 2, that is fine as well!**

Faith Formation

12/2: Worship and Sacraments Class

12/9: Church School

Caroling at Sunrise

12/16: Pageant Practice

12/22: Pageant Practice (9-10:30 a.m.)

12/23: Christmas Pageant during Sunday's service, participants should arrive at 9.

Worship And Sacraments Class This class is for children of all ages and will be held throughout the year on the 1st Sunday of the Month during Worship. We will use the themes of "gathering", "praying", "singing", "reading", "listening", "speaking" and "sending" to understand more about the different parts of worship and the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. We will share our learnings during Celebration Sunday on June 9th! Our Director of Faith Formation, Larainne Wilson, will be teaching the class, but we also need adult volunteers to assist with this class! You can volunteer just one Sunday or multiple Sundays.



Christmas Pageant: The Christmas Pageant will take place on December 23rd! Thank you to all families who participated in the poll and gave their feedback. It was helpful to us! Therefore, we will have practice during Sunday School on December 16th and a morning practice on December 22nd from 9 - 10:30. We will be in touch about roles. We need a volunteer pageant "angel" someone who will help us with costumes and props etc... Please speak to Larainne or Jill!



Christmas Concert - December 23

The Centre Church Choir will present its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 23rd at 6:30 p.m. They will perform a festive selection of Christmas music, organ prelude and postlude. During the concert, the congregation will have an opportunity to join the choirs in singing Christmas hymns.

No admission will be charged for the event, but a freewill offering will be taken. The concert will be held in the sanctuary and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the concert.



POINSETTIA ORDER

I would like to order: _____ red poinsettia(s) **\$9.00 each**

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

These flowers have been given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

___ I will take my plant(s) home after one of the services on Christmas Eve.

___ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

***Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 16.
A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.***

Thursday, December 6 is the deadline for placing orders.

Our Opportunities

Sat. Dec 1	10-5 10-5	Gingerbread House Contest- Narthex Craft Table/Fair Trade
Sun. Dec 2 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am	Holy Communion-Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Worship & Sacrament Class
Wed. Dec. 5	8:30 am 7pm	Bread and Roses- Kitchen Bible Study-Pastor’s Outer Office
Thurs. Dec 6	1pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Library Rehearsal-choir room
Sun. Dec. 9 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30-9:45 10:00am	Deacon’s Breakfast- Kitchen Sunday Worship-Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Church School
Tues. Dec. 11	6:30pm	Faith Formation –Library/Nursery
Wed. Dec. 12	7pm	Bible Study-Pastor’s Outer Office
Thurs. Dec. 13	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Library Rehearsal-choir room
Sun. Dec. 16 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am 5:00pm	Sunday Worship- Sanctuary Nursery- Nursery/Library Pageant Rehearsal Blue Christmas-Chapel

In addition to our scheduled church activities, Centre Church hosts Boy Scout Troop #48, Cub Pack #48, Girl Scouts, Alanon, Alateen, Women’s AA, and the Essex Society of Genealogists. 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 December 10
