

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

January 22, 2019

In Memorium

Mary Oliver

(September 10, 1935 – January 17, 2019)

The only thing that feels fit to fill this space is the poetry of Mary Oliver. In this moment of sorrow over her death, the only thing that seems right is to remember her life with her words which have blessed so many. Her poetry is music my soul has sung both in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Her words are strung together in such particular ways that they demonstrate understanding of the things my heart cannot express out loud. She has left so much of herself here, I wonder about those of us who did not know her in person. Will we notice she is gone? While nothing new will flow from her observing eyes through her heart, mind and soul, onto the paper in one of her little notebooks, I can feel myself longing for more. What if I am to honor her memory by not only dwelling in her poetry, but also by staying more present to the created world and pouring out what it shows me, in prayer. In poetry. Aren't they the same thing?

Out of all the poems she has written, this one seems the most fitting to share as we celebrate the life of Mary Oliver and contemplate our own.

Thirst

Another morning and I wake with thirst for the goodness I do not have. I walk out to the pond and all the way God has given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord, I was never a quick scholar but sulked and hunched over my books past the hour and the bell; grant me, in your mercy, a little more time. Love for the earth and love for you are having such a long conversation in my heart. Who knows what will finally happen or where I will be sent, yet already I have given such a great many things away, expecting to be told to pack nothing, except the prayers which, with this thirst, I am slowly learning.

— Mary Oliver

In the Sanctuary

January 27, 2019

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Favorite Hymn Sunday

Nursery (ages 0-4)

Faith Formation Classes (Pre-K – Gr. 6))

Green Wagon Sunday -

Bring your food items for Haven from Hunger

February 3, 2019

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Nursery (ages 0-4)

Faith Formation Classes (Pre-K – Gr. 6)

Stewardship Campaign 2019

Our annual Stewardship Campaign will begin on February 3 and end on March 3. Our theme this year is **“What Shall We Bring?”** During the campaign, we’ll talk about how we might answer that question. We’ll focus on:

- Gifts of Love
- Gifts of Word and Deed
- Gifts of Presence
- Gifts of Faithfulness

As I read through the Stewardship materials, I read the following: “The question of what to bring is answered when hearts are committed to a life of generosity that spans from our actions and gestures to our very personality and lifestyle.” We hope that you will hold these words in your heart as you prayerfully consider what you will commit to bringing to enable the ministries of Centre Church. Reflecting with gratitude on what we have allows us to respond generously. Our collective generosity allows us to continue to be a witness to God’s love and justice right here in the center of Lynnfield and funds the ministries of this church which touch so many lives locally, regionally, and beyond. Stewardship packets will be available on Sunday, February 3. Packets not distributed that day, will be mailed. If you are interested in online giving, visit our website, www.Centre-Church.org and click on ‘Online Giving’ on the bottom left of the home page.

The Great Pie Challenge **Sunday, January 27th**



Love to make pies? Have you been told you make the best pies ever? Bring your pie/pies and your appetite to The Great Pie Challenge on Sunday, January 27th after the Service. Pies can be dropped off that morning. Signup sheets will be in the Narthex starting on January 6th. (If you bring a pie, please include a recipe card to display with it without your name.)

Faith Formation

January Church School Dates: The nursery is open EVERY week for children ages 0-4. There will be Footprints, Godly Play and Brick by Brick on 1/27 for PreK-Middle School.

Joyful Noise: Rehearsals on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 11:30 a.m. and on Feb.10 at 9:30 a.m. Sharing of the song will be during the mini message on 2/10. See you there!

Giv2 Meeting is on 1/29 at 6:00 p.m.

Parents of 7th-12th Graders: We are planning a local mini Mission Trip (with Giv2, the ecumenical group we belong to) into Boston for City Reach in March. If your child is interested, please see Linda Ladd or Larainne Wilson.

Next Faith Formation Team Meeting is on Tuesday 2/12 at 6:30 p.m.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Grayce Kushmerek who died on January 15. A celebration of her life was held at Centre Church on January 19.

Our congratulations to Adam and Courtney Kushmerek upon the birth of their daughter, Harleigh Gray Kushmerek on January 17.



Deacons’ Breakfast **Sunday, February 10, 2019**

Join us for bacon, eggs, French toast, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before church on Sunday, February 10, 2019 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.

Mission and Outreach

Haven From Hunger

Our current food donation is Canned and Boxed meals. These will be blessed in worship and taken to HFH when we serve there on Monday, **January 28. Volunteers are needed for that meal preparation serving date.** The gig involves showing up at 71 Wallis Street in Peabody at 3pm, and following direction as we chop veggies and fruit for salads and work on other meal and dessert prep before plating and delivering plates to about 45 patrons. Please contact Linda Ladd or events@centre-church.org for more information or to volunteer. You can also sign up on the bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen. Thank you!



Mission of Deeds COAT Collection

Winter can be tough to handle around here. Especially if you don't have a decent winter coat! Nineteen coats collected in our Missions Closet, located off of the church front entry way, were delivered to the Mission of Deeds organization in Reading last week. Thank you! We'll continue collecting gently-used clean coats of any size, as well as gloves, scarves and (only NEW) hats until Feb 15th. Please clean out those closets and share the warmth with others who will really appreciate it at this time of year. Please check out all that MOD does at: <http://www.missionofdeeds.org/>

Mission and Outreach Team

The next Mission and Outreach Team meeting will be on Jan 27th, after church. We'll meet for discussion of activities as we enjoy pie at the Great Pie Challenge! Please see Linda Ladd for more information about M&O events and how you can be involved.



Trivia Night, Raffles, and Silent Auction

Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 5:30 PM

Tickets are just \$15.00 each

Mardi Gras Theme

**Appetizers, Beverage, Pizza,
Finger Foods, Desserts, and Coffee**

Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting

Prizes!!!

Team limit: eight people – get your team together now - plan ahead

Please contact Chuck Cotting @ 781-593-3120

Donations of Appetizers and Finger Desserts are very welcome.

This is our biggest fund raiser and we are looking for donations of Raffle and Silent Auction Items!

Want to donate something? Please fill out the enclosed form and contact Chuck Cutting at chuck@thecottings.com Thank you!

Trivia Night, Silent Auction & Raffles Margi Gras Theme
Saturday MARCH 2, 2019 @ 5:30 PM \$15 each
Donation Form

Donor: _____

Donation Description: _____

Approximate Value: _____

Thank You! From Centre Church

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan 27 <i>Green Wagon and Favorite Hymns Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:15 am	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation Classes The Great Pie Challenge - Richards
Mon. Jan. 28	3-6 pm 7:00 pm	Volunteer at Haven from Hunger Council – Pastor’s Outer Office
Thurs. Jan. 31	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study- Library Choir Rehearsal- Choir Room
Sun. Feb. 3	10:00 am 11:30 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation Classes Joyful Noise Practice - Sanctuary
Wed. Feb. 6	8:30 am	Bread & Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. Feb. 7	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study- Library Choir Rehearsal- Choir Room
Sun. Feb. 10	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am	Deacons Breakfast – Richards Hall Joyful Noise Practice - Sanctuary Sunday Worship- Sanctuary Nursery- Nursery/Library Faith Formation Classes

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 for more information about any of these groups. (781-334-3050)

Church Office Hours – 9 am-3 pm Mon.-Fri.
The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of February 4, 2019