

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 9, 2019

Welcome/Welcome Back

I love fall! Well, to be clear I love fall, except that each year it seems to get here before I'm ready. A few more beach days would be nice. But, here we are! So, let's embrace the present moment and also look forward to what's coming up in the months ahead.

We have great plans shaping up for worship, faith formation, and mission as we enter our 300th year. We'll begin on Welcome/Welcome Back Sunday, September 15th and bless all of our backpacks, work bags, hiking packs, etc. as we all celebrate new beginnings. Our Church School program year begins and we welcome/welcome back our teachers, assistants, and volunteers who shepherd, teach, and care for our children.



This fall we will explore what happens when our world falls apart through a worship series titled: *Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart*. We'll explore what becomes of us when our identity – or the path we've been on – comes undone or takes an unexpected detour. We'll wonder what blessings the process of unraveling holds for us individually and communally. Where does God meet us in the spiraling? How is God unraveling our plans, and us, into something new?

On the first Sundays of each month this year our children's all ages curriculum will be focusing on Creation Justice. They'll be learning about God's call to humanity to care for all of creation. We'll include adults in the learning as well. Stay tuned for details

about a "Centre Church Reads" book discussion on Rev. Jim Antal's *Climate Church, Climate World*.

We'll also be active in our community through a variety of events. On September 11, we'll be present at First Responders Day activities on the Common. On September 22, we'll gather for the first Deacon's Breakfast of the year before worship. After worship we'll convene our Annual Meeting to conduct the business of the church. And then in the evening, we'll join with others from Lynnfield for a Night of Hope, shining a light of hope for those recovering from substance use. In October, Laraine and I will attend Mental Health First Aid Training with clergy and laity from our wider faith community. We will once again host the Lynnfield Moms Group for their Trunk or Treat event in our parking lot on Saturday, October 26. On Saturday, November 2, we'll welcome the community into Centre Church for our Holiday Fair and Festival of Trees. And on Sunday, November 24 we'll host an Interfaith Thanksgiving worship service.

This fall also finds us creating a new Middle School Youth Group. The first meeting will be Sunday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m. Laraine has reached out to our ecumenical partners as we seek to engage children in grade 5 and above with opportunities for service, fellowship, and learning. See the FFMT notes in this edition of Tower Notes for more information.

Throughout the season, our choir will be making a joyful noise. If you like to sing, I hope you will consider adding your voice and finding the blessings of fun and fellowship with the choir. Also, our long-standing ministries to Bread and Roses and Haven from Hunger will continue feeding the hungry. Our

building will continue to host many groups. The NEPI counseling office will continue blossoming as a blessed resource to those in need from our community. And Tower Day School will keep our building full of life and joy!

Welcome/Welcome Back! It is good to be church together!

Fall blessings, *Rev. Nancy*

In the Sanctuary

September 15, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship –Sanctuary
Welcome Back Sunday
Blessing of the Backpacks
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children

September 22, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship –Sanctuary
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children

September 29, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship –Sanctuary
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children

Welcome to Room 10

Over the summer, our former Library/Nursery received a significant facelift as it was readied for new purposes this fall. This shared space, which has now been officially christened “ROOM 10,” serves as a new classroom for Tower Day School on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. With thanks to Ann and Katherine Decker this space will also house our Centre Church Children’s Library, which will be available to all of our children and their parents every Sunday. It will continue to serve as our Nursery/Toddler Sunday School Room each Sunday. And finally, with a quick presto/change-o of tables, it will continue to serve as an adult meeting space for Bible Study on Thursday and for the groups that use our building on weeknights and Saturdays such as Al Anon and the Boy Scouts.

A big thank you to the Centre Church Finance, Faith Formation, and Library volunteers and the Tower Day staff for all the time and effort that have gone into the planning and execution of this transformation.

Special thanks to Chuck Cotting and Scott DeSantis for their many, many hours of work to make this beautiful and functional space possible. And we thank Patrick Curley, now a former Tower Day parent, owner of Lechmere Rug Company in Cambridge, who installed our beautiful new floor. Everyone is invited to stop by and check out Room 10.

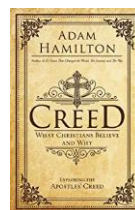


**YANKEE
CANDLE®**
FUNDRAISING

Our annual Yankee Candle Fundraiser begins September 15th and runs until October 13th. This is a great fundraiser for our church because we earn 40% of all orders. Catalogues and order forms will be available on Sunday mornings and in the church office during the week. You can browse the catalogue and place orders on line by going to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and entering our group number: **990016890**.

In addition to a variety of candles, the catalogue contains some great gift ideas as well as a lovely selection of gift wrap. If you have a wood-burning fireplace or stove, be sure to check out the Kindle Candles – a clean, easy way to start the fire. For more information, contact Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

Adult Bible Study



Beginning on Thursday, September 12 we will be studying Adam Hamilton’s book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why*. As we look at Christian belief over the centuries as shaped by the Apostle’s Creed, we’ll also reflect on the UCC Statement of Faith, the difference between the two, and how our personal faith is shaped. We meet at 1 pm in Room 10 and all are invited to join us. There will be no class on Thursday, September 26.

If you have questions or need more information, speak to Rev. Nancy or contact her by calling the office or emailing pastor@centre-church.org.



Deacons' Breakfast
Sunday, September 22nd

Please join us on Sunday, September 22nd (8:30-9:45) for our Back To School Breakfast. We will be collecting school supplies for Cradles To Crayons and are hoping to collect 300 pieces in honor of our church's 300th anniversary. We will be serving our delicious French toast, pancakes, fruit salad, bacon and eggs. The suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family. These donations will be put towards the Organ Maintenance Fund.

Mental Health Referral Service

INTERFACE, a confidential mental health referral service, is now available free of charge to any Lynnfield resident in need. The INTERFACE helpline run by Williams James College helps you find a mental health provider near you that matches your health insurance, your schedule, is available for services within a reasonable time frame, and specializes in the area you need: anxiety, depression, family problems, isolation, behavior management issues with your child, and more. Reading and Wakefield residents can also take advantage of this free service. interface.williamjames.edu
Call 1-888-244-6843.

Volunteers Needed:

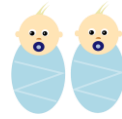
Deacons, Ushers and Greeters

The Diaconate is looking for volunteers to serve as Sunday Greeters, Ushers or Deacons. No experience needed. Please think about joining our team – either permanently or once-in-awhile. We'd love to have you. Please contact Annmarie Pendola (617-549-9164) if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

Donation of the Month



News from Around the Parish



Jacqueline Popoloski Carroll and Casey Carroll announce the arrival of Finley Joseph "Finn" Carroll and Rory Stephen Carroll born on August 27, 2019.

Their proud grandparents are Joanne and Joseph Popoloski and Maryann and Stephen Carroll of Salem NH. Our family has been blessed and is overjoyed with love and happiness at the arrival of our new identical twin baby boys!!

Coffee Hour
Volunteers Needed



Each Sunday after worship we offer a time for fellowship in the Fireside Room. We are hoping to expand the

pool of volunteers who sponsor coffee hour. We are willing to provide training for those who have never used our coffee makers before. This is an easy way to participate in our life together and get to know someone or two you haven't met yet. If you'd be willing to volunteer (singles, couples, friends, families, etc.) won't you contact the office (781-334-3050) to let us know. We'll make sure someone with experience is available to guide you through your first time. As always, many hands make light work!

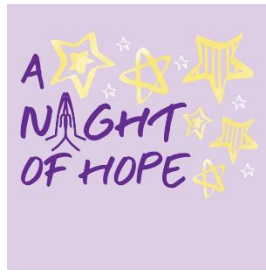
Holiday Fair

November 2 – 10am-3pm

Planning for our Holiday Fair is well underway. We have over 20 outside crafters joining us and Centre Church will have a craft table, a vintage jewelry table and a bake sale. We will also host a morning coffee and lunch. Please contact Debbie Cotting 781-593-3120 if you can volunteer to help

One of the most popular parts of our fair is the **Festival of Trees**. The narthex will be filled with beautifully decorated trees, each with a theme. The tree raffle generated over \$1000 for the church last year!

We need people to sponsor our trees. Even a small donation will enable us to purchase decorations and supplies to make our trees beautiful and provide gift baskets under the trees. If you would like to make a monetary donation, Please mark it specifically for the Festival of Trees. If you have ideas for the theme of a tree, please let us know. If you would like to help make decorations, gift baskets or volunteer on Nov. 2nd, please contact Margaret Waugh at mcwaugh@aol.com or 781-334-4031.



A Night of Hope is a Community Gathering to show support for those impacted by substance use. Lynnfield will walk together, listen together, and participate in a lighting ceremony together to share hope and strength as a community.

Sunday, September 22

6:00 pm **Event Kickoff: Gather at LMS and Walk to Common**
6:30 pm **Event Introductions**
7:00 pm **Guest Speaker: Alex Costa, Director of Marketing, Allure Detox**
7:20 pm **Lighting Ceremony and Blessing: Lynnfield Faith Community**

- **Help is needed to put candles in our windows on Thursday afternoon, September 19.**
- **Help is needed to decorate the Common on Saturday, September 21 at 9:00 am.**
- **We're gathering a Centre Church group to walk. We'll gather at 5:45 in front of church and walk down to LMS together.**

Sign up to participate in any or all three: on the sign-up sheet in the narthex after worship, by emailing Rev. Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org, or by calling the Church office at 781-334-3050.

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held
on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

to discuss the following items:

1. Reports of Officers and Ministry Teams
2. Introduction of the PPRC Team
3. Presentation and Approval of the 2019 to 2020 Budget
4. Election of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions
5. Remembrance of Deceased Members

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Faith Formation Ministry Team News

Church School 2019 – 2020:

We are gearing up for a great church school year! Footprints, Godly Play and Brick-by-Brick teachers are getting excited. We will be putting together groups for the fall, so please see Larainne with questions/feedback about classroom assignments. Registration for Church School has begun! You should have received an email with the form to register, but we also have information packets for all families. We will have a Parent Information Session on 9/15 at 11:30 a.m. in the kitchen. On the 22nd, we will have an information table at the Deacon's Breakfast.

Welcome Back Sunday: September 15th is "Welcome Back Sunday" and our first day of Church School for the 19-20 year. We invite all children (and adults!) to bring their backpacks, briefcases, work bags or hiking packs to be blessed during our mini message.

Church School Assistant(s)/Volunteers: We are in need of a few more folks to assist our teachers in the Church School classrooms. We are specifically looking for someone to help Ms. Allison with our preschool classroom, Footprints. Having a second adult present is critical for meeting the diverse needs of our children and to comply with best safe church practices. This position doesn't involve any planning, just come & enjoy! Typically, Church School is held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month (excluding holidays and special events). We plan out the calendar for the year, so you will know ahead of time when the dates are. Our priority is to find several folks to commit to one Sunday per month. One-time opportunities are also still available. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an assistant, speak with Larainne or Jill.

Joyful Noise: Does your child love to sing? Ms. Lauren Donadio will continue her great work with our pre-school and elementary-aged children next year. They will share their songs at Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. Typically, we rehearse after church the week before and before church the morning of. The time commitment is small, but the gain is HUGE! See Lauren with questions.

FFMT and the "300th": The FFMT plans to partner with the community for the Trunk or Treat event on October 26th and a Disability Awareness event in April. If you are interested in helping with either of those events, please let us know. We are putting together a group of folks for each event!

Middle School Youth Group: Our first meeting will be Sunday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m.! If your child is in Grade 5 or above, they are welcome! This group will meet once monthly on Sunday evening. The group will brainstorm service projects and other ways to help their community. We may also have some youth from other churches (St. Pauls, UMC, OLA, SMG) joining us. We need a parent host for each month who will provide the "goodies" for the group and be the second adult in addition to the Faith Formation Team Member who is present. Deb Biggar is the parent host for our first meeting in October.

September Sundays: 9/15: Welcome Back, Blessing of the Backpacks, Church School, Parent Orientation (11:30 a.m.), 9/22: Deacons Breakfast, Church School and Annual Meeting, 9/29: Service Sunday/All Ages: Families with Young Children bring Coffee Hour Treats and children prepare them during worship!

October Sundays: 10/6: All Ages/Communion/Creation Care Class, 10/13: Church School, 10/20: Church School (a.m.), Youth Group (5:30 p.m.), 10/27: Church School

Faith Formation Ministry Team: We are looking for new members for our team. If you are interested in joining us, please let Jill or Larainne know!

Our Opportunities

Sun. Sept. 15	9am 10:00am	FF Staff/Volunteer orientation Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 10 Faith Formation Blessing of Backpacks
	11:30am	FF Parent Orientation
Tues. Sept. 17	7:00 pm	Craft Night – Fireside Room
Thurs. Sept 19	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Room 10 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sun. Sept. 22	8:30am 10:00am	Deacon’s Breakfast-Kitchen Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 10 Faith Formation
	11:30am 6:00pm	Annual Meeting-Sanctuary Night of Hope – Town Common
Mon. Sept. 23	3:00pm	Haven From Hunger-Peabody
Wed. Sept. 25	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sun. Sept. 29	10:00am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 10 Faith Formation -

Office Hours – 9am – 3pm

The next Tower Notes will be on September 23

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)