

**Love Notes to PJTC
Sunday, February 16th**

The wildfires that devastated much of the Pasadena area, destroyed not only homes and businesses, but also several houses of worship.

Our church school children will be sending notes of care to the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center whose synagogue and education building were completely destroyed by the fire.

We invite the congregation to join us by signing a card during coffee hour today.

We will also be accepting donations to help replace the many children's books that were lost.



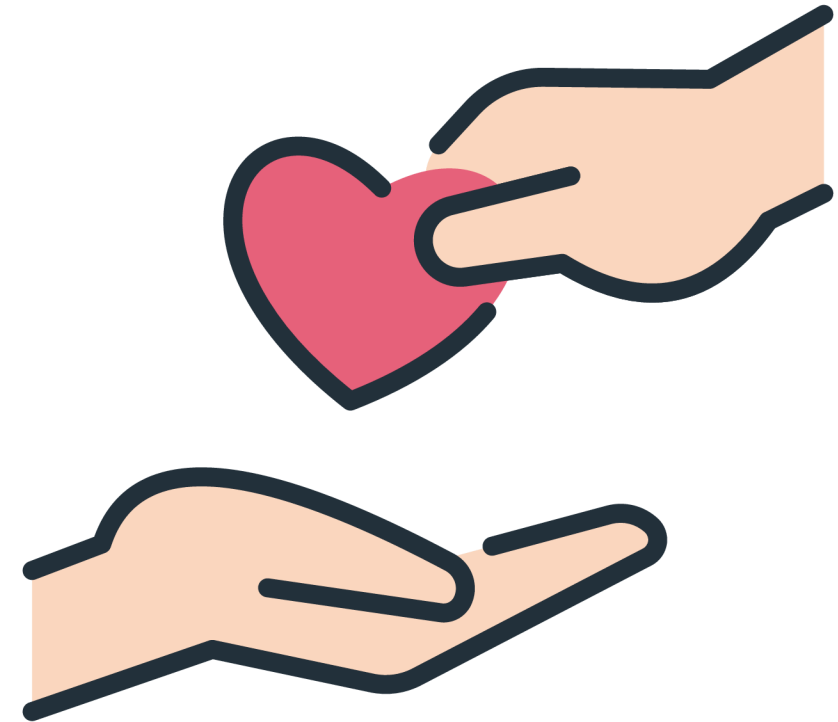
Worship Notes.

Music licenses: One License with license #A-733437, and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming #CSPL169342, Size A

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940
781-334-3050 www.Centre-Church.org
We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

Rev Thomas Bentley, Pastor
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director
Christina Joly, Faith Formation Children's Program Coordinator
Christine Marshall, Nursery Care Provider
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School
Bella Travaglini, Administrative Assistant



“Oh, My God...Love My Enemy!?”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

February 16, 2025

10:00 am

Prelude

“Largo”

Corelli

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship *(from Luke 6)*

Jeff Langill

Leader: Come and learn the ways of life.
People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.
People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.
People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
Leader & People: We have come to follow Jesus. Come and learn the ways of life.

Opening Prayer *(in unison)*

Jeff Langill

Loving God, we come before you today, seeking your blessings and your protection from the allure of sin. Heal us with your love, that we might love one another. Show us the truth we have found in Jesus. Embolden our courage, that we may seize the opportunities you place before us. Strengthen our resolve to spread your word and ways, and remind us that your guidance is always present through the power of your Holy Spirit.
AMEN.

The Lord’s Prayer *(in unison)*

Jeff Langill

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

#441

Children’s Time

“Love Notes to L.A.”

Barbara Langill

Following Children’s Time, children ages 4 and up are invited to join us for Kid’s Classroom in Room 10 with Christina Joly and Christine Marshall.

“I’m Pressing on the Upward Way” #442

1 I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
“O plant me, God, on higher ground.

Refrain:
O lift me up, and I shall be
By faith in heaven eternally,
A higher plane than I have found,
O plant me, God, on higher ground.

2 My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.

Refrain
3 I want to live beyond the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

Refrain
4 I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till Heaven I've found,
“God lead me on to higher ground.”

Refrain



Call to Offering

Offertory “God’s Eye is on the Sparrow” Gabriel

*Hymns of Praise (*in unison*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Living God, whom we adore.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel Reading Jeff Langill
Luke 6:27-38 *The Message*

“To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more payback. Live generously.

“Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that’s charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

“I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we’re at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.”
“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don’t condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you’ll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

Anthem “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Zundel

Message: “Oh, My God...Love My Enemy!?” Rev. Tom Bentley

*Closing Hymn “I’m Pressing on the Upward Way” #442

Benediction

Postlude “Marche Solonelle” Mendelsson

Our ushers today are
Rayden Sorli Hawk and Bob MacKendrick.



Please join us for Coffee Hour hosted by
the Armistead Family.