

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

March 4, 2019

Beginning Our Lenten Journey

And just like that, we have celebrated our commitments to do God's work together through the mission and ministry of Centre Church and Lent begins. On Wednesday evening, we will come together for our Ash Wednesday service and mark the beginning of our journey. Throughout our stewardship season we answered the question, "What shall we bring?" Answering this question ultimately calls us to reorient our hearts and lives toward God's work of reconciling the world to God's self. One of the questions we asked ourselves was about the distractions that get in our way of being fully present in the here and now in our lives. Continuing to explore this question would be an apt practice through our Lenten season of fasting and repentance. This will be the first year in a long time that I give something up for Lent rather than explore a "new to me" spiritual practice or take on an intentional act of discipleship. But as I shared with you, my cell phone is both an important ministry tool and a serious distraction. So, through Lent I will be fasting from using social media on my phone. And when I find myself at loose ends, itching to check Facebook on my phone, I'll be picking up any of the dozens of books in my reading pile!

What is distracting you from deepening your relationship with God? Lent, this season of lengthening days, repentance, and fasting is the perfect time to explore this question. I also hope you'll consider joining our Lenten study. If you can't make it to either our Wednesday evening or Thursday afternoon discussions, the book we're using as our guide can be read individually, one

chapter per week through the season (see the notice for the study in this Tower Notes for more information). There are also Lenten guides from salt* (www.saltproject.org) called Practicing Lent. They are printed and available in the narthex for anyone who would like one. If you would like one but aren't able to get to church, simply email the church office (office@centre-church.org) and we will send one out to you.

And so, let us begin our journey to Jerusalem with Jesus.

Together,

Rev. Nancy

In the Sanctuary

March 10, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation

March 17, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation

March 24

10:00 am Morning Worship

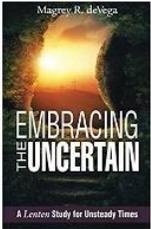
Nursery

Faith Formation



Practicing Lent, a Lenten guide created by salt* (www.saltproject.org) is available in the narthex. It contains practices for you to explore either alone, or with your partner, friend, or family

during this season of lengthening light. If you would like a copy but are not able to pick one up at church, email or call the church office and one will be mailed to you.



Lenten Study

On Wednesday evenings beginning March 13 at 7 pm and Thursday afternoons at 1 pm (beginning March 7) during Lent, Rev. Nancy will be leading our Lenten series. We'll be reading and discussing

Embracing the Uncertain by Magrey R. deVega. Please let Rev. Nancy know if you would like to attend by calling the church office or emailing pastor@centre-church.org.



Stewardship

Stewardship Ministries extends a BIG thank you to all who have submitted their pledges. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. We need accurate pledge data to develop the budget for the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1. If you have misplaced your pledge card, just call the church office and a new card will be mailed to you.

Our pledges reflect our support for the ministry of Centre Church. The work we do matters, and our pledges indicate that we value that work.

With appreciation for your generosity,
Debbie Cotting, Stewardship Ministries

Faith Formation Updates

March Calendar:

3/3: Worship and Sacraments Class & Ice Skating (2 p.m.),

3/10, 3/17, 3/24: Church School/Lenten Muffins: Footprints: 3/10, Godly Play 3/17, Brick by Brick 3/24

3/31: Service Sunday! FFMT, Families and Children Prepare and Serve Coffee hour.



Lenten Muffins: Faith Formation Ministry Team and Mission and Outreach are co-sponsoring the Lenten Muffins Program again this year! We will work together to support Heifer International. Each week during Lent, beginning March 10th, a Sunday School Class will prepare the muffins during worship and they will be warm and ready to purchase (any amount of donation is welcome!) after worship. This will be a SWEET time for our church community!

MACUCC Christian Education Class:

There will be a "Theories of Religious Education" class here at our church on Saturday, March 30th from 8:30 - 12:30. This is an opportunity to learn more about our denomination and connect with others who are interested in Faith Formation. All are welcome at this informative class! You can find more information and register

at: <https://www.macucc.org/certification>

City Reach Local Mission Trip: May 10th and 11th, Adult chaperones are needed. See Linda Ladd or Laraine with questions.

Children's Sunday, June 9th (Pentecost)

Vacation Bible School: The Faith Formation Ministry Team is hoping to hold VBS the week of August 12th. We don't have a budget for this, but we are hoping the "tuition/application fees" will cover the costs. It would be a half-day program from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. We will be looking for adult congregants to share a talent, skill, craft (i.e. reading to the children, making art with them, singing/teaching a song etc...)

300th Anniversary Committee Forming

Centre Church will be celebrating its 300th Anniversary in 2020. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in being part of the planning for that celebration is invited to a brief meeting after church on March 17. If unable to attend on March 17 please contact Bruce Weaver or Rev. Nancy.

Mission and Outreach News

The Mission and Outreach Team was very busy on Monday, Feb. 25. From 3 to 6:30pm we served up a record-setting 111 meals at Haven From Hunger and then at 7pm, we gathered for a meeting at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza. We enjoyed a delicious meal while we talked, feeling great about knowing that 20% of our total bill would be donated back to Centre Church – bonus! A major topic for discussion was how our ministry team can help Centre Church celebrate our 300th anniversary by making a larger-than-usual impact in our local community and beyond. A popular idea is to plan one or more adult mission trips in 2020. If you have ideas on where our help is most needed, please talk to a member of our ministry team. Find our names on the Mission and Outreach bulletin board, across from the Fireside kitchen. We'll be hosting coffee hour on March 24th, so please feel free to talk to us all then as well.

Mission of Deeds Coat Collection

A second LARGE collection of winter coats was delivered to Mission Of Deeds in Reading last week. These will be sorted, tagged by size and distributed to MOD clients. They are especially thankful for men's outerwear. Thank you to each and every one of you who donated gently-used coats. Please look for a Thank You from Mission of Deeds which will soon be posted on the Mission and Outreach bulletin board.

Green Wagon



Our February Green Wagon donation items of underwear, socks, toiletries and tote bags for Giv2 to take when they attend the City Reach homelessness program in Boston, were blessed in worship on Sunday.



Theater Outing

Sixteen Centre Church friends went to see “Keeping Faith: Sisters of Story” at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham on Sunday afternoon, Feb 24. Three women of different religious backgrounds told moving faith-based stories, accompanied by live music. The post-show talk-back allowed the audience to discuss similarities in the stories as well as the emotions each evoked. It was a great show about understanding different religions and the people who practice them. Quotes from a couple of Centre Church theater critics: “This was so good! Love how the three religions/cultures intertwine with one another in fascinating and surprising ways!” and “It was powerful. We saw “Unveiled” last year which was also thought-provoking. This show took us in a very nice unifying direction. Let there be LOVE.”



Sunday, March 10

Our updated directory of members and friends (The People Book) is available in the church office or on the table in the narthex.

Trivia, Silent Auction & Raffle Thank You!

A HUGE thank you to all of those who attended, donated their time and effort, donated food and prizes, bid on and/or donated Raffle or Silent Auction items! We are also very grateful to the many business that donated – please check out the list we have enclosed.

- Membership Ministries

Centre Church - TRIVIA, Silent Auction & Raffles - 2019

Many Thanks to our BUSINESS DONORS.

Please patronize and thank these establishments for their generosity!

Anthony's Cold Fired Pizza – 48 Walkers Brook Drive, Reading

Baubles Jewelry – 1 Post Office Square, and 495 Broadway, Lynnfield

Bellino's Restaurant & Bar/Trattoria – 146 Lowell Street, Wakefield

Bertucci's Reading – 45 Walkers Brook Drive, Reading

Big Y – 57 Broadway Street, Saugus

Bisou by Melissa – 10 Centre Court, Lynnfield

Brothers Deli – Restaurant – 404 Main Street Wakefield

Caffé Italia – 21 Water Street, Wakefield

California Pizza Kitchen – 1150 Market Street, Lynnfield

Carl Michael Salons – 407 Lowell St, Wakefield

Centre Yoga – 6 Centre Court, Lynnfield, 187 Lake Street, Peabody, 8 Cummings Park, Woburn

Century House – 235 Andover Street (Route 114), Peabody

Chili's Bar and Grill – 70 Walkers Brook Road, Reading

Christine's Café and Confections – 618 Salem Street, Lynnfield

Cravings at Colonial Spa – 329 Main Street, Wakefield

Dave and Buster's of Woburn – 271 Mishawum Road, Woburn

Davio's Northern Italian Restaurant – Market Street, Lynnfield

DeSantis Painting and Construction – 4 Fernway, Lynnfield

Dino's Brick Oven Pizza – 329 Lowell Street, Wakefield

Frame Shack – 339 Salem Street, Wakefield

Gaslight – 1100 Market Street, Lynnfield

Greater Boston Theatre Company – 395 Main Street, Stoneham

Gregory's Flower Shop and Garden Center – 329 Vernon Street, Wakefield

Hart's Hardware – 442 Main St, Wakefield

Harrington's Pub – 17 Water Street, Wakefield

Harrow's Chicken Pies – 6 Local Locations Near You!

JJ Licks – 800 Market Street, Lynnfield

Karl's Sausage Kitchen Café – One Bourbon Street, Peabody
Keurig Dr Pepper – 53 South Avenue, Burlington
Kowloon Comedy Club – 948 Broadway [Route One North], Saugus
Learning Express – 155 Market Street, Lynnfield
Legal Sea Foods – Legal C Bar 220 Market Street, Lynnfield
Longhorn Steakhouse – 39 Walkers Brook Road, Reading
Louise's Skin Care – 550 Summer Street, Lynnfield
Massimo's Ristorante – 19 Centre Street, Wakefield
Maya Indian Bar & Grill – 33 Tuttle Street, Wakefield
North Avenue Diner – 247 North Ave, Wakefield
North Shore Music Theatre – 62 Dunham Road, Beverly
Olive Garden Italian Kitchen – 153 Andover Street [Rte. 114], Danvers
Paper Source – 520 Market Street, Lynnfield
Parker Florist – 9 Lincoln Street, Wakefield
Peabody-Essex Museum – East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem
Pit Spot BBQ – 10 Vernon Street, Wakefield
Quannapowitt Players – 55 Hopkins Street, Reading
Richardson's Farm – 156 South Main Street Middleton
Sagamore Springs Golf Club - 1287 Main Street, Lynnfield
Solstice Power Yoga – 250 Market Street, Lynnfield
Sonny Noto's – 49 Water Street, Wakefield
Su Chang's – 373 Lowell Street, Peabody
Supino's Restaurant & Sports Pub – 250 Newbury Street - Route 1 South, Danvers
Texas Roadhouse – 301 Newbury Street, Danvers
The Cheesecake Factory – Northshore Mall, 210 Andover Street, Peabody
The Clubhouse Golf & Entertainment – 220 South Main Street, Middleton
The Sweet Bay Shop – 391 Main Street, Wakefield
Torigian Family YMCA - 259 Lynnfield Street, Peabody
Town of Lynnfield Golf – King Rail or Reedy Meadow - Lynnfield
Trenoi Salon – 146 Lowell Street, Wakefield
True Style Barber Shop – 588 Main St Lynnfield
Village Pharmacy – 590 Main Street, Lynnfield

