

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

July 2022

Dear Centre Church,

Over the last two weeks I have been sharing some news via every available avenue of communication and want to update you all here via Tower Notes to make sure that I have reached as many of you as possible. I have been open with you about my family story, including that I was adopted as an infant and that over the last decade I have been reunited with my birth family. While we reveled in our reunion, my brother Michael and I were still missing a key piece of information - my name given to me at birth by our mother. Fortunately, a new law was finally passed in New York State, and I was able to get copies of my original birth certificate and adoption decree. My name at birth: Lori Anne Wyckoff. After much prayer and reflection, I have decided to officially change my name back to my birth name. On Friday, June 10, I began my petition to the court here in Massachusetts. I am asking everyone to begin calling me Lori or Lori Anne, or Rev. Lori, or Pastor Lori beginning now. My immediate family members all know and are offering me their full support. I will inform you when the decree is received from the court, and I can begin changing my name officially with the government and other institutions. One of the common reactions is that I'm trying to erase what was. That couldn't be further from the truth. This decision to stand in the center of my identity is the product of the entirety of my life experience. Claiming my name is the best way to honor ALL of it and the God of my understanding who has never left me, always loved me, and will accompany me all of my days. I know it will take practice to call me

Lori and so I promise: 1) I will understand mistakes as we try, 2) still answer to Nancy for a while as we adjust, and 3) may even forget myself at times. I thank you in advance for your kindness in trying and offer you abundant grace in the same. [Here](#) is a link to a slightly longer version of this letter to you.

Thanks be to God who knows and loves each of us perfectly!

Your pastor,
Lori

FAITH FORMATION



Children's Sunday was a Sundae Fun Day!

On June 12th, we held our annual Children's Sunday! Thank you to all of those who attended this special worship service. Please join us in sending all of our best to Alicia Dwyer as she "retires" from working with our youngest children as the Nursery Attendant. Our gratitude to Allison Barbieri who did the storytelling, The Mauser Family who donated the ice cream and our team of amazing teachers and our parents. Saving the best for last, we want to thank all of our children who were ushers, readers and singers.

Summer Nursery and Church School

We will have Room 10 open and staffed for any children that join us for the summer. Children are equally welcomed to stay with their parents in the chapel if they so choose. Each Sunday, we will have Children's Bulletins from Illustrated Ministries with activities that follow the lectionary readings (see below), to which the mini-message and Pastor Lori's message will also be related. While we love a good theme, going back to our lectionary for the summer feels good too!

- July 3rd: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: 2 Kings 5:1-14
- July 10th: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Luke 10:25-37
- July 17th: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Luke 10:38-42
- July 24th: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Luke 11:1-13
- July 31st: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Luke 12:13-21

Community Service for MS/HS Youth:

We are discerning ways for youth in Grades 5-12 to become more involved in the service opportunities that our adults are involved in. The first step in our planning is a meeting with one of our partners in mission, Haven From Hunger. We will have more information on this soon!!

Summer Youth Group: ** Time Change **

We will have a mid-summer meeting on Sunday, July 17th from 5-6 p.m. We will eat ice cream and talk about our summer plans. We would also like to know of anyone who is interested in confirmation (Grades 8-12) for the 22-23 Church Year. RSVP to Larainne at 339-226-0544 (text/call) or larainne.wilson@centre-church.org

MISSION & OUTREACH

Reid's Ride 2022



After two years of "virtual" fundraising events, the traditional Reid's Ride 28 mile bike-a-thon from Lynnfield High School to Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, returns this year on July 17 th. Everyone is invited to join the riding/volunteering fun, or to donate to our CCCyclers Team at <https://secure.frontstream.com/reidsride/team/982357>. This annual event is the primary

fundraising source for the Reid R. Sacco Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Alliance, which works to improve the lives and outlook of adolescents & young adults diagnosed with cancer.



Bee Happy!

Did you know that bees play a part in every aspect of our ecosystem? They support the growth of trees, flowers, and other plants, which serve as food and shelter for a variety of creatures. Bee pollinators help plants survive to produce 1/3 of our food supply of fruits, vegetables, and nuts and 1/2 of the world's oils, fibers (such as the cotton used to make clothes), and other raw materials. Bees also make yummy honey! We know there are some beekeepers within our church family. Are YOU one? Are you interested in "bee-coming" one? Or are you interested in just hearing all about this exciting and dangerous(?) activity? The Green Team plans to form a bee-keeping club for sharing tips of the trade and spreading awareness of the importance of local bees. Please email <mailto:green@centre-church.org> if you are interested in joining this club.

Volunteer opportunities

Please consider spending some of your summer hours volunteering to fight local food insecurity. You can find more information and sign-up online at these links: Newhall Farm: www.newhallfieldscommunityfarm.org Haven From Hunger: www.timecounts.org/haven Boston Area Gleaners: www.bostonareagleaners.org



Fair Trade Goods & Laundry Detergent

During July and August: coffee, tea, chocolate, and plastic-free detergent are just an email away! Orders can be picked up at church or possibly delivered to your door! Please email green@centre-church.org with your request. Most items on the order form linked from <http://www.centre-church.org> are available.



Stewardship

Have you turned in your pledge card yet? We have several outstanding pledges from folks who pledged last year but haven't yet done so this year. We hope you will continue to support the ministry of Centre Church and return your pledge card as soon as possible. If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office.

Blessings,

Debbie Cotting and Katie Swayne-Gerrish
Stewardship Ministries

Host Families Needed for International Students. Share your love with the nations.

Lynnfield High School, in partnership with Educatus Group, will welcome international student scholars to the school and to the community for the upcoming school year. Students come from all over the world and take classes alongside their American peers, while living with host families in town. We have several international students arriving in the fall going to Lynnfield High School. We are looking for host families to take these students into their homes. A host family provides a bedroom and meals in the home for the student. Our Host Families receive a monthly stipend to help with the costs of having an extra person. Host Families come in many different shapes and sizes - young couples with small children, single persons, one parent families, empty nesters, etc. The one characteristic all host families share is a big heart with a lot of love for a new family member! We also have a local coordinator to help support the student, host family and school. Our company has worked with the Lynnfield School for many years and have enjoyed a close relationship. For more information please contact Kathi @ Kathi.sanborn@educatus.org



Centre Church Golf Tournament 2022

We held our Centre Church Golf Tournament on Monday June 27th at The Thomson Club in North

Reading. The Thomson Club was great to work with, very helpful, and the course was in excellent condition for our outing.

26 players braved the rain and wind to play and support Centre Church. The Team of Phil Crawford, Phil Anderson, Drew Mills and Gary Hathaway were the Winners, and their names will be engraved on "The Unholy Grail" trophy. The Team of Leslie and Rick Carey, Jeff Law and Dwight Decker placed Second.

Long Drive Men: Drew Mills

Long Drive Women: No winner this year.

Closest to the Pin: Gary Hathaway and Drew Mills.

We also wish to thank those who made financial contributions in support of our golf tournament: Margaret and Harvey Waugh, Bruce Weaver and Phil and Sue Johnson. We included a Raffle again this year with 15 prizes including raffle donations by Doreen DiFillippo, Stephen Riley, Phil Crawford, Christine's Cafe, and The Thomson Club. The raffle brought in approximately \$330. The golf fundraiser and the raffle proceeds will provide approximately \$1,368 to support the ministry and mission of Centre Church.

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Our fellowship time together after Sunday worship is precious time for building intergenerational relationships. We check in on one another, sharing news, joys, and concerns. And of course, a cup of coffee, tea, or lemonade and a sweet treat or two are enjoyed as well. We are in need of hosts for coffee hour as this task has fallen on fewer and fewer individuals for a variety of reasons. It is time to spread around this vital part of our ministry and have more individuals or groups take a turn. If you are interested and available to host coffee hour after one of our summer Sunday services, please call or email the office (office@centre-church.org, 781-334-3050). No experience needed and mentoring is available. And if you are not available during the summer but willing to host periodically during the church year from September – June, please let us know that as well. Thanks everyone!