

2023
APPLE PIE FUNDRAISER

\$20 each

Order by Sunday, December 2nd for pick-up on Sunday, December 17th
 apple, apple crisp, or apple cranberry

Sign up sheets in the Narthex



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
 Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School
 Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator

“Unwrapping the Rapture”



Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

November 12, 2023

10:00 am

***PRELUDE**

***Fughetta**

Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Debbie Cotting

Leader: We are pulled in many directions.

People: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.

Leader: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

People: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.

Leader: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

Leader & People: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives.

AMEN.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Debbie Cotting

Through the week of stress and demands, we come to you this day, O Lord. Awaken us again to your comforting and loving presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which you have called to us and sustained us. Make us ready to be of service to you. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN**

"O God How We Have Wandered"

202

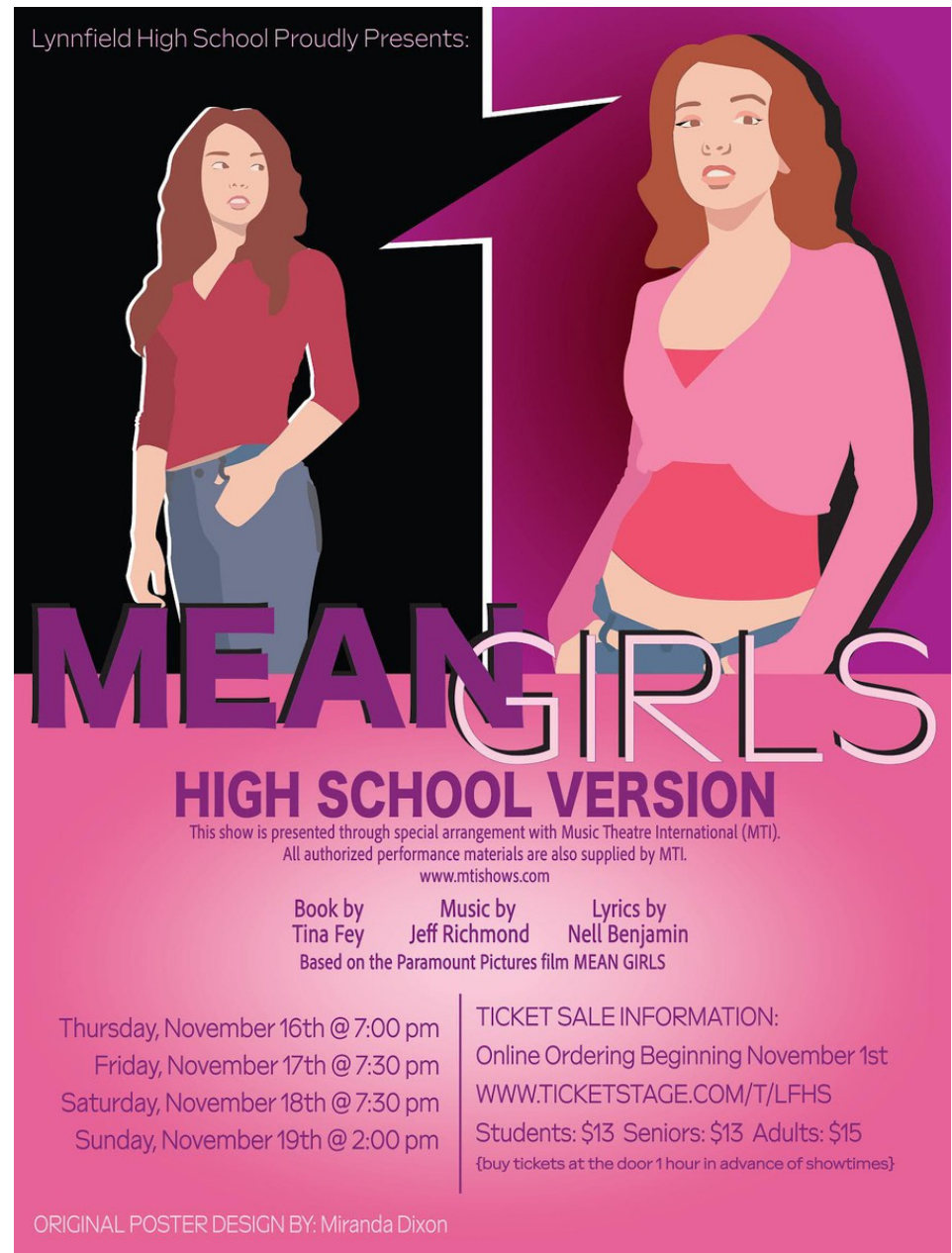
New Testament Reading

Debbie Cotting

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The Message

And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don't want you in the dark any longer. First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus. And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence—we have the Master's word on it—that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us. The Master himself will give the command.

*Stand as you are able



Get your tickets!! Be sure to look for our own Bruce Weaver on bass! Hope to see you there!

Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise—they'll go first. Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words. Call to

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology**

Kyrie Eleison

Snyder

Tune: Old 100th

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

THE LORDS PRAYER (in unison)

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

ANTHEM

The Lord Be With You

Sleeth



Our ushers this morning are Kathi Martin & Jim Wilkie

The flowers on the altar today are given by
Karen and Paul Harrington, remembering Beatrice
Annis, Karen's Grandmother, with love.

Our coffee fellowship hosts this morning is
Annmarie Pendola



GOSPEL READING

Debbie Cotting

Matthew 25:1-13 NRSV

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves. And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you; I do not know you. ‘Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

MESSAGE

Rev. Tom Bentley

“Unwrapping the Rapture”

CLOSING HYMN

“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

#17

BENEDICTION

Rev. Tom Bentley

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Arr. Swann

O God How We Have Wandered # 202

1 O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.
2 And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
3 O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.



To You, O God, All Creatures Sing #17

1 To you, O God, all creatures sing and all creations everything
sings your praises alleluia! Your burning sun with golden beam,
your silvermoon with softer gleam sing your praises.
2 Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail
across the sky, sing your praises, alleluia! Your morning rises
with a song, and lights of evening sing along, sing your praises.
3 Your flowing waters crystal clear, make melodies for you to
hear, sing your praises, alleluia! Your fire, ..bountiful and
bright, remembering your warmth and light, sings your praises.
4 To you, O God, after day, your planet earth in every way,
sings your praises, alleluia, As savory fruit and fragrant flower
show fourth your glory and your power singing praises.