



Join us in Richards Hall for
the Great Pie Challenge
and Coffee Hour!



Our annual Flea Market will be held
Saturday May 18th 9 AM to 1 PM

Please bring your Flea Market TREASURES to the Church on
Sunday, May 12 after the Worship Service and
Monday, May 13 - Friday, May 17 from 3 PM to 5 PM.
For other arrangements, please contact Chuck Cotting at
chuck@thecottings.com or 339-440-1819.
Please – no clothing, books, electronics!
Books can go to the Library Book Sale!



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
Bella Travaglini, Administrative Assistant



“Time for a Pandemic of Love”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts
May 5, 2024 10:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Deb Cotting

Leader: We come with joy to this celebration of God’s love!

People: Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.

Leader: We come with hope to this witness to God’s power!

People: Challenge and encourage our spirits to serve you, Lord.

Leader: We come with a willingness to proclaim God’s presence to all.

Leader & People: We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Deb Cotting

Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. As we gather here this day, we hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples for his departure. He gave to them the words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. AMEN.

Opening Hymn “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

#485

New Testament Reading

Deb Cotting

Acts 10:44-48

The Message

No sooner were these words out of Peter’s mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners. The believing Jews who had come with Peter couldn’t believe it, couldn’t believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on “outsider” non-Jews, but there it was—they heard them speaking in tongues, heard them praising God.

Then Peter said, “Do I hear any objections to baptizing these friends with water? They’ve received the Holy Spirit exactly as we did.” Hearing no objections, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Then they asked Peter to stay on for a few days

**1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2 Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide in future days as in the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.**

**3 Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here
when we shall be with God whom we adore,
with disappointment gone, no grief nor fear,
sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” #485

**1 O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in you;
I give you back the life I owe,
That in you ocean depths its flow
May swell with ardor true.**

**2 O Light that follows all my way,
To you I yield my flickering flame;
Renew my spirits feeble ray,
That from your brilliant sunlit day
It may new brightness claim.**

**3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,
To you I cannot close my heart;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And know the promise is not vain
That you will ne-er depart.**

**4 O Cross that raises up my head,
from you I dare not seek to flee;
Life's glories wither and are dead,
But from the ground there blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be.**

Children’s Time

Children ages 3 and up are invited to join us for the Kid’s Classroom.

**Call to Offering
Offertory**

“Simple Song”

Bernstein

***Hymn of Praise”**

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

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

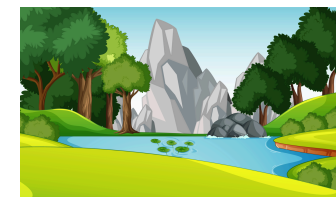
The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*)

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

“Shall We Gather At The River”

Lowry



Gospel Reading
John 15:9-17

Deb Cotting
The Message

“I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love.”

“I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father.”

“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.”

“But remember the root command: Love one another.”

Message: “Time for a Pandemic of Love”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Hymn: “Be Still My Soul”

#488

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

The flowers on the altar this morning are given in memory of our very much loved and missed dad and husband, Tony Lucia.

Our ushers today are David Bjorkman and Jeff Law.



Build A Bed Event

Join our volunteer team on Saturday, May 11 from 9 to noon at MarketStreet to help build a bed for a child in need. All materials and tools are provided. Space is limited, please let us know if you would like to lend a hand. Families are welcome.



Sat May 11th is Stamp Out Hunger: Please leave a bag of non-perishable food for your mail carrier. We can also sign up to help Citizen's Inn that day, at Haven from Hunger or at a Drop-off site such as the Big Y plaza.