

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
The Special Meeting of the church will be held
on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 11:10 a.m.
to discuss the following items:

1. Presentation and Approval of the 2024 to 2025 Temporary Operating Budget
2. Term extension of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions

Bruce Weaver, Moderator



“Pentecost Sunday”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

May 19, 2024 10:00 am

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

Prelude “Offertoire Sur Les Grand Jeux” Couperin

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Bill Seelig

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Inspire our hearts with your fiery presence!

All: Let your flame burn within us, stirring us to action.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Energize our lives to work for God.

All: Let your wind of hope swirl around us, lifting and moving us from complacency.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Pour your blessing on us.

Leader & People: Let your presence challenge us to proclaim God’s presence and love in everything we say and do. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (in unison) Bill Seelig

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ disciples, hidden in an upper room in Jerusalem. A violent wind and tongues of fire were the symbols of a new thing happening in their lives. May your Holy Spirit burst into our lives today, encouraging and inspiring us to proclaim boldly the good news of Jesus Christ who offers healing and hope to all people. AMEN.

Opening Hymn “In the Midst of New Dimensions” #391

New Testament Reading Bill Seelig
Romans 8:22-28 *The Message*

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it’s not only around us; it’s within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We’re also feeling the birthpangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don’t see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

“Forward Through the Ages” #377

**1 Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
manifold in service, one the sure reward.**

**Refrain:
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

**2 Wide grows God's dominion,
reign of love and peace;
for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.
Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,
poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died. [Refrain]**

**3 Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal. [Refrain]**

“In the Midst of New Dimensions” #391

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways, who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

2 Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? [Refrain]

3 As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes, grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. [Refrain]

4 We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young, each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. [Refrain]

5 Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. [Refrain]

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God’s Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don’t know how or what to pray, it doesn’t matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That’s why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

Children’s Time

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

Call to Offering

Offertory

“The Gift of Love”

Arr. Hopson

***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

“Let Your Voice Be Heard”

Schram

Gospel Reading

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

“When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—he will confirm everything about me. You, too, from your side must give your confirming evidence, since you are in this with me from the start.” But now I am on my way to the One who sent me. Not one of you has asked, ‘Where are you going?’ Instead, the longer I’ve talked, the sadder you’ve become. So let me say it again, this truth: It’s better for you that I leave. If I don’t leave, the Friend won’t come. But if I go, I’ll send him to you.

“When he comes, he’ll expose the error of the godless world’s view of sin, righteousness, and judgment: He’ll show them that their refusal to believe in me is their basic sin; that righteousness comes from above, where I am with the Father, out of their sight and control; that judgment takes place as the ruler of this godless world is brought to trial and convicted.

“I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won’t draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honor me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I’ve said, ‘He takes from me and delivers to you.’

Message: “Today is Our Birthday for the Rest of Our Lives” Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Hymn: “Forward Through the Ages” #377

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude “Fugue Sur Les Jeux D’Anches” Couperin

Bill Seelig

The Message

The altar flowers are given by Paul and Karen Harrington in memory of Karen’s mother, Beatrice Blanchard, that is missed so much.

**Our ushers today are
Kathi Martin an Bob MacKendrick**

Please join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Linda Ladd and the Social and Environmental Ministry.



Sunday, May 19, 2024



The Social and Environmental Ministries Team will have environmentally friendly laundry detergent sheets, dishwasher tablets, toilet bowl cleaner, shampoo & hand soap for sale after Worship.



Save the Date!

On Sunday, June 9th we will be welcoming Gladys Vega, executive director of La Colaborativa in Chelsea as our guest speaker. Centre Church has partnered with this organization and this year we were able to donate over 1,000 Easter Baskets for children of the Chelsea community.

Please come hear directly from Gladys the goals of this group and how we can lend our support. Following Worship, enjoy an ice cream social where you will have a chance to talk directly with Gladys.