

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

August 2018

Hanging On and Letting Go

These past few months, as we have prepared to move from Nashua to Andover, we have had countless opportunities to decide what to hang on to, and what to let go of. It has been a constant barrage of choices about how we preserve memories and how we let go of objects that weigh us down on our journey.

We moved back to New Hampshire in 2002, our last military move, and settled in to raising our kids in one place. They all "grew up" here and we had all the "stuff" here to prove it. From bikes to clothing, from games to sleds, we have steadily made our way through the stuff and memories of our time in our beloved home. And each of us has had to make decisions about what we want to carry away from this place, in our hands or in our hearts. Some of these decisions have been easy. Colleen can no longer wear her teeny, tiny pajamas. Megan's old bike is too small for her to ride. Kevin no longer collects Pokémon cards or has a two-year-old's passion for Barney. We have donated, and donated, and donated some more, and quite happily. The letting go of this stuff that we no longer need in the hopes that someone else may find use in it is incredibly liberating. As they always used to say at Weight Watchers, "See you lighter, later." I wasn't a fan when that was being applied to my person, but regarding my household goods, I'm a huge fan.

But, then...then there are the objects that truly hold deep and special meaning and evoke memories that are so precious that I have to pause, breathe, and hold them long enough to let my heart decide what to do. In most cases, when I have done this, when I have taken the time to

cherish the memory, I have been able to let the item go. The first baby sling that I carried my first baby in. The birthing, breastfeeding, and mothering books. But some I have needed to hold on to. The baby bed that will be offered to my children for their children. Some precious children's books that are now in my office for our CCC kids. My children's baptismal gowns. We have even parted with some items one would call "heirlooms." Let's face it, when that old teddy bear is crunchy and stinky, it doesn't matter how many generations have loved it!

As we have been going through this, so many of you have commiserated with us, as you are experiencing your own purging, or are cleaning out a loved one's home. It is never easy, but it can also be liberating. What things bring you joy? What things are still useful in your life? What things could bring joy to someone else? My bottom line (mostly) has been to take with us to our new home only the things that we use. But for the real bottom line, I have returned to Rev. Dana Allen Walsh's word for us at my Installation. "Take Nothing." God promises us bread for the journey and light on the way. We, in fact, need very little, are blessed to have plenty to share, and are promised all that we could ever imagine in God's kin-dom which is now and not yet. What relationship do you have to your "stuff?" Are you dreading the work of purging or are you already a minimalist? What wisdom do you have to share about holding on and letting go? I'd love to hear your stories!

In hope,

Rev. Nancy

In the Chapel

August 5, 2018

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Kathryn Byers, Guest Preacher
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

August 12, 2018

10:00 am Morning Worship
Andrew Harris, Guest Preacher
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

August 19, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

August 26, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
All Ages Church School

Mission Update

Reid's Ride 2018

Thank you very much for the many monetary donations which helped our church bicycling team, the CCCyclers, raise \$3,200 and the ride as a whole to raise \$215,000 for the Reid R. Sacco Foundation which has funded a unique cancer clinic at Tufts Medical Center for Adolescents and Young Adults. The day is always a huge community event, which brings many church members and friends together in a common cause. Eight of us pedaled 28 miles. Four were up at the crack of dawn to mark the route, start and finish with balloons. Many other church members were at LHS early to staff the registration tables and then buzz to Gloucester to man the grills and serve the hungry hoards. That Sunday, July 15th, was a fantastic day to ride. It was cool with a nice cloud cover when we left Lynnfield at 7:30am and stayed that way until soon after we made it to Stage Fort Park in Gloucester. Thank you Lord! Our bikes all functioned well after a free tune-up in the LHS parking lot. Thank you Landry's Bicycles! Dunkin' Donuts and many other vendors were handing out treats at the finish. To all those involved who worked and supported this fundraising event – we THANK YOU!

News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy go out to Nancy Lauzon and family upon the death of Nancy's mother, Marion Walker, on July 6. Her funeral service was held on Thursday, July 12



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Katie Orlando and Roger Potter Furey who were married on July 15, here at Centre Church.

Haven From Hunger

On Monday July 23rd, Diane and David Bjorkman, Linda Ladd and Frank Scott helped Chef Mark at Haven From Hunger, to make and serve a mouth-watering dinner of BBQ chicken, smashed garlic potatoes, southern style greens, buttered biscuits and strawberry shortcake. Bet you're hungry now! Upcoming dates of service are: Aug 27 and Sep 24. Haven From Hunger serves meals all year round and Centre Church helps them on the 4th Monday of each month, all year. If you can just show up to help out, we need volunteers! Please contact events@centre-church.org to sign up or for more information. Thank you.



Christmas in July a Fun Success!

Our Christmas in July Service on July 8th was a great success! Thank you to everyone for their generous donations of toys and pajamas. The Cradles to Crayons Foundation was thrilled to receive them!

Donation of the Month:





We will meeting on **Tuesday, August 14** at 7 pm in the library to continue preparing for the upcoming Holiday Fair in November. Come join the fun and fellowship. Call Barbara Langill at the church office (781 334 3050) for more information.

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE

We will gather for worship to kick off our new church year at 10 am on Sunday, September 16th in the Sanctuary

Faith Formation Ministry News

Nursery/Church School: The nursery will be staffed each Sunday and a volunteer will be running an activity for the children (Pre-K - Grade 6) at the table. Here is the schedule for August:

8/5/18	Nursery: Allison	All Ages: Bread of Life/Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:35) <u>Jill Digiorgio</u>
8/12/18	Nursery: Jackie	All Ages: Eat and Drink (John 6:51-58) <u>Allison Barbieri</u>
8/19/18	Nursery: Alicia	All Ages: Sing and Pray (2 Sam 5: 1-5, 9-10) <u>Lauren Donadio</u>
8/26/18	Nursery: Alicia	All Ages: Many Gifts, Many Ministries (Ephesians 4:1-16) <u>Sarah Crosbie or Larainne Wilson</u>

Young Adult Gathering: The evening of Friday, August 17th at the Weavers' Home for Graduating Seniors, Current College Students and recent College Grads. Let's gather before parting ways this fall! More information (and an e-vite to come!)

Faith Formation Ministry Team Meeting and Retreat: Saturday, 8/25 at South Church in Andover from 8:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Church School Volunteer/Teacher/Parent Meeting: Sunday, September 9th OR Sunday, September 30th at 11:30 in the Counseling Office

Welcome Back Sunday/Blessing of the Backpacks: Sunday, September 16th!

Church School Parents: We will be looking at our groupings for

Footprints (<https://www.wholepeopleofgod.com/>),

Godly Play (<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/>) and **Brick-by-Brick**

(<https://www.churchpublishing.org/contentassets/f62bad0fb33048bbb08b3860039caea0/674192.pdf>)

Please talk with Larainne if you have concerns or thoughts about the best program option for your child(ren). We have been looking at Footprints as an option for children turning 4 - Kindergarten, Godly Play (Kindergarten - Grade 2-3), Brick-by Brick (Grades 3 - 6), but we want your feedback!

Our Opportunities

Wed. Aug. 1	8:30 am	Bread & Roses - Kitchen
Sun. Aug. 5	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Chapel Nursery – Library/Nursery Summer Church School Coffee Hour – Fireside Room
Sun. Aug. 12	10:00am	Sunday Worship- Chapel Nursery – Library/Nursery Summer Church School Coffee Hour – Fireside Room
Tues. Aug. 14	7:00pm	Craft Night - Kitchen
Sun. Aug. 19	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Chapel Nursery – Library/Nursery Summer Church School Coffee Hour – Fireside Room
Thurs. Aug. 23	1:00pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room
Sun. Aug. 26	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Chapel Nursery – Library/Nursery Children Serve Coffee Hour
Thurs. Aug.30	1:00pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room

In addition to our scheduled church activities, Centre Church hosts Boy Scout Troop #48, Cub Pack #48, Girl Scouts, Alanon, Alateen, Women’s AA, BKP Book Packing Group, Essex Society of Genealogists and the New England Pastoral Institute Counseling Center.

Please call the church office (781-334-3050) if you would like more information about any of these groups.

Church Office Hours – 9am-12pm Mon-Fri

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of Aug. 27