

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**November 9, 2011**

## Thanksgiving

The scriptures are full of words of thanksgiving! A quick search for the word "thanksgiving" reveals some of the following from the Old Testament:

**Leviticus 7:12** gives detailed instructions for giving offerings of thanksgiving: *"If he offers it as an expression of thankfulness, then along with this thank offering he is to offer cakes of bread made without yeast and mixed with oil, wafers made without yeast and spread with oil, and cakes of fine flour well-kneaded and mixed with oil."*

**Ezra 3:10-11** gives an example of thanksgiving at the building of the temple: *"When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel. 11 With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: 'He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.'"*

**Nehemiah 12:27, 31, 38** tell of the lengths to which the leaders would go to gather the people for ceremonies of thanksgiving, as in the occasion of the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem: choirs, not just one, but two!

(v. 27) *"At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres."*

(v. 31): *"I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate."*

(v. 38): *"The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction."*

It is important, according to our biblical traditions, to give thanks to God, who is good and whose love endures forever.

In **Philippians 4:6** the apostle Paul continues this when he says, *"...but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

I invite you to join with our biblical ancestors, our spiritual ancestors from all over the world, who, from generation to generation, saw it important to stop, give thanks to God who is good, gives us all that is good, and whose love is unconditional, merciful, healing, strengthening, calling, teaching, recovering, and eternal.

**Give thanks for:** I invite you to stop and give thanks for recovery from illness and for those you know and love who have recovered and are sitting with you around the Thanksgiving Table.

I invite you to give thanks for the parents who loved you into life, encouraged you, forgave you, and who worked hard to give the best that life has to offer.

I invite you to give thanks for those who have stood by you in times of difficulty, trial, and tribulation. I think of and give thanks to God every day for those who stood by me, welcomed me to their table, even though they were not required to do so, even though they were not my family.

*(continued on pg. 2)*

## In the Sanctuary

**November 13, 2011**

**10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

Message by Sandi Watson

"Heifer and Peace"

on behalf of Heifer International.

All children may worship with their families for the entire service.

**November 20, 2011**

**10:00 A.M. Morning Worship**

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Children may worship with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

The Nursery will be open in Room 11.

**Give thanks for your home:** I invite you to give thanks for the special people, but also for the special places that have been a blessing to you: your home, especially homes where generations of your family have gathered to celebrate, grieve, rest, comfort, welcome, and love. I remember how hard my mother worked in our home to provide wonderful meals that served to bond immediate and extended family and friends for life. There was always plenty to eat and it helped to make me aware that there was always plenty of love for me and whoever came into our home. This love had and has its source in the Lord of Creation.

**Faith:** I invite you to give thanks for our faith, that allows us to know of the God who gave us birth, who gives us every breath, a new day each day, a new friend, stable old friends, family. I give thanks for the church of Jesus Christ, the community of believers who gather in thanksgiving, who pray for help, who offer themselves in service to God and others, and who make the whole body of Christ greater when they walk in faith.

I invite you to give thanks for the buildings that give testimony to how important we feel it is to gather in prayer, worship, and service in thanksgiving to God.

**Please, I implore you, give thanks:** stop, give thanks today, as you read this, to God for the blessings you have. Please pause with your family and friend, before the Thanksgiving Meal and give thanks to God for those gathered with you around your table. Cherish their faces, every word, every smell, every taste, and every moment of high emotion.

Today, I give thanks for you, who read, who pray, who love, and who serve the Lord, our God! You have made me better and continue to make me better. You make me so happy! God bless and Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ, Dennis



Remember to give thanks by attending the **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**, led by the Lynnfield Clergy Association, on Sunday, November 20, 2011, 7 pm, at the Our Lady of Assumption Roman Catholic Church, Grove Street, Lynnfield, MA.

Join the Choir by rehearsing on Wed., Nov. 16 at 8:00 p.m. (optional) and on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 5:00 p.m. (required). A light supper will be available for choir members.

An offering for Haven from Hunger will be received in Thanksgiving to God!

## Sunday Morning With the Children

There will be no Rotation Workshops on Sunday, Nov 13. Please plan to worship as a family in the Sanctuary. Sandi Watson will be the guest speaker.

On Sunday, Nov 20, Rotation Workshops will focus on learning about Heifer International and preparing for the Heifer Marketplace on Dec. 4.

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each week (excepting Holiday weekends) for infants through age 3.

## Youth Group News

Thanks to everyone who voted for the pumpkins carved by the Middle School Youth Group. The pumpkin that received the most votes was “kitty-cat” carved by Raden Sorli Hawk. In second place was the “throw up” pumpkin by Laura Mucci and there was a three way tie for third place, “Mummy”, “Ghostbuster”, and “Snow White”. The money raised will go to Birthday Wishes.

Thanks to our Middle Schoolers who went Trick or Treating for UNICEF last Sunday. They raised \$18. in a world-wide effort to help children in need.

There will be no evening youth group meetings on Sunday, Nov 13. Both youth groups will be meeting on Sunday, Nov 20. The Middle School will meet from 5-6:30 pm and the High School from 6:30-8 pm. We will be putting together boxes for Birthday Wishes. Please plan to bring a roll of Birthday wrapping paper and/or other Birthday supplies with you to the meeting.

## Car Smash Fundraiser

Frustrated over inequality and injustice? Having a bad day? Just feel like smashing a car with a baseball bat? Or maybe a sledge hammer? Here's a fundraiser that will help you vent your frustrations.

The High School youth group is hosting a car smash on Saturday, Nov 12 from 1-3 in the church parking lot. For a small donation anyone can participate and take a swing at this 94 Ford Taurus Station Wagon donated by the Langill family. This vehicle has a curb weight of 3,285 pounds, so let's see how long it will take to crush it flat! All proceeds raised will go to Heifer International to support their mission to end hunger and poverty.

The charge is \$1.00 per swing, \$5.00 for glass, or you can really go to town for 10 swings for \$5.00. All participants must have closed toed shoes and wear all safety equipment provided to participate. All Participants under the age of 18 years old **MUST** be accompanied by at least one parent or legal guardian. All Participants **MUST** sign a Liability Release Waiver to participate.

### **Deacons Breakfast on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>**

Another Deacon's breakfast opportunity is coming your way on November 20<sup>th</sup>! That's the date of our Thanksgiving Worship service and the last Sunday before (believe it or not) Advent begins! It will be a great day to bring your frozen turkey to church and then gather together in Thanksgiving fashion for the Deacons' famous made-to-order pancakes, as well as eggs, bacon, coffee, juice and fruit. All proceeds benefit the repair and maintenance of our church organ.

Breakfast is served in Richards Hall from 8:30 to 9:45am. We hope you will come to enjoy a sociable breakfast out, and to support the music portion of our worship services. Suggested donation is: \$10/person, \$25/family. Mark your calendars!

-- Your Faithful Diaconate



**Turkey Drive:** We will be collecting frozen turkeys for Haven from Hunger on Sunday morning, November 20 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will have youth on hand to help carry your turkey to the Haven From Hunger truck. Please consider donating a turkey to help provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for those who might otherwise go without.

### **From the Mailbox**

A Note to Our Bread and Roses Crew,

While delivering our Nov. 3 meal to Bread and Roses, the Director and Chief Chef, Bob Lanzone, mentioned to me that our October meal was most delicious and the "Best of the Month." He wanted to give our crew kudos and thanks to all for a job well done! Centre Church's beef stew is a favorite with all.

Henry Flickinger, Driver

### **Confirmation Class News**

The confirmation class will be meeting with Rev. Bailey on Friday, Nov. 11 from 1-5 pm. Please plan to bring your mentor or a parent along for this important class. A visit to McDonald Funeral Home in Wakefield is planned.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, the confirmation class will meet with Rev. Bailey in the Pastor's Outer Office from 11:30-1 pm. Lunch will be provided by Cheryl Schedin Caron. Both the confirmand and his/her mentor should plan to attend. Reminder: you are expected to attend worship on Nov. 20. Please be sure to fill out your worship forms. If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled classes, be sure to call or e-mail the church office so arrangements can be made for you to make up the missed class.

### **Returnable Bottles and Cans**

We will be collecting returnable bottles and cans once again. Haven from Hunger will pick them up when they pick up our food donations. They will redeem them and use the proceeds to help stretch their budget. There will be boxes for your donations in the Missions Closet.

### **Dealing with the Holidays For Grieving Parents**

The holiday season can be extremely stressful for those who have lost children. You may find yourself dreading the holidays, feeling overwhelmed with emotions on how to cope with the upcoming holiday season. Please join our free bereavement support group where we will share our losses, develop coping strategies and move toward healing in a supportive, confidential environment. The group will be held in the Fireside Room from 6-7:30 p.m. starting on Tuesday, Nov. 22 and continuing until January 3. Please call Lu Bonanno at 978-372-4211 (Beacon Hospice) to register and get additional information.

### **Needed:**

#### **Supplies for Goody Bags and Birthday Boxes**

The High School Youth Group will be making up Birthdays in a Box for Birthday Wishes, an organization which provides Birthday parties for children living in homeless shelters. There will be a tree in the Narthex with leaves listing the items needed. Just pluck off a leaf with the item you would like to donate and bring it to the church by Sunday, Nov. 20. Here are some of the items we are looking for: cake mix, can of frosting, prizes for goody bags, juice boxes, box of candles, pack of party hats, decorations, disposable cake pans, pack of spoons or forks, small packs of Birthday plates, cups, and napkins. Birthday gifts are also needed, especially for children who are turning 1 and 2 years old, (anything Fisher Price is perfect). With your help we hope to make up 10-20 boxes to help make Birthdays special for children who might not otherwise have a Birthday party.

### **Thanks to Our Volunteers**

**Nov. 13:** Ushers: Bruce Weaver, Karen and Paul Harrington and Al Johnson. Lay Reader: John Sievers. Provide Altar Flowers: Gage & Doty Whittier. Deliver Altar Flowers: George and Perry Hayden. Lights Out beginning Nov. 11: Bill Seelig.

**Nov. 20:** Head Usher: Jeff Law. Lay Reader: Marian Orfeo. Provide Altar Flowers: Earl and Edie Richard. Deliver Altar Flowers: Margaret Waugh and Barbara Ericson. Lights Out beginning Nov. 18: Steven Richard.

## The New England Pastoral Institute

In response to the injury of one of their staff members, NEPI is raising funds to build a new mental health facility in Salem, NH that is uniquely designed and staffed to serve the needs of physically handicapped people.

### An Evening Of Musical Delights

will be presented on Saturday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.  
at the Windham High School Auditorium.

This concert will feature The Windham Swing Band, The Monument Brass, The Symphony Quartet,  
Musique du Bois and Pianist Jonathan Yourtree.

Cost: \$25.00

Tickets may be purchased online at: [www.nepastoral.org](http://www.nepastoral.org), at the door, or from the church office.

Rev. Dr. Dayl Hufford, Clinical, Director

### Our Opportunities

Sun. Nov. 13	10:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary All Children in Worship
Mon. Nov. 14	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Nov. 16	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR Ecumenical Choir Reh. - OLA
Fri. Nov. 18	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office Cub Pack #48 – Richards Hall
Sun. Nov. 20  <u>Turkey Drive</u> 	8:30 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Deacons Breakfast - Richards Morning Worship– Sanctuary Rotations/Nursery Confirmation Class Ecumenical Choir – OLA Middle School Youth Group High School Youth Group Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service -Our Lady of Assumption
Mon. Nov. 21	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. Nov. 23	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. – FR
Thur. Nov. 24		HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Fri. Nov. 25	9-12:00 10:30 am	Church Office Open Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office

Our prayers are with Irene Allyn, Jean Card and Louise Marshall recuperating at home; Caroline Walsh at Essex Park Rehab Center, 265 Essex Street, Beverly, 01915 (978-927-3260); Marion Edkins at Rosewood; Helen Butcher, Denis Edkins, Harold Kress and Priscilla Kress at Renaissance Gardens, Peabody; Louise Allen at Beaumont Nursing Home, Westborough, MA; Marion Barnes at Harborside Cedar Glen, Danvers; Carolyn Furey at Overlook Masonic Health Ctr, Charlton; and Olive Wood at Woodbriar in Wilmington. We also remember in our prayers Bob Trayers and David Tuttle in Afghanistan.

The Church Office is open Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.  
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of November 21.



# POINSETTIA ORDER

I would like to order for \$8.50 each: \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettia

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

These flowers have been given by \_\_\_\_\_

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

\_\_\_ I will take my plant(s) home after one of the services on Christmas Eve. (5 pm or 11 pm)

\_\_\_ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

***Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18.***

***A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.***

***Wednesday, December 7 is the deadline for placing orders.***