

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463
Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

The Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey, Pastor, Pastor@Centre-Church.org

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Ed & Youth Ministry, ChristianEd@Centre-Church.org

Carrie J. Pericola, Church School Superintendent

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Sally MacDonald, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

April 3, 2013

What God Does

In Easter we celebrate what God has done in our lives through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Despite all of our human efforts to the contrary, God remains capable of showing us how we can correct our wrongs and sins, and live lives of justice, kindness, and righteousness.

God instructs us in ways that lead to life. The Ten Commandments were, after all, not laws designed to restrict our freedom. They were given to us by God as an act of love to help us treat each other with respect and love. They were and are laws of love, given as a blessing from God for our benefit.

Jesus continued this tradition by giving us the greatest commandments, directing us to love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

God's love for us is so great that Jesus comes to die for our sins, teaching us how to receive forgiveness, to give forgiveness, and to give ourselves another chance to live in ways that lead to life, and not death.

According to the Bible, God has directed people how to create families (Adam and Eve; Abraham and Sarah), even against all odds. God has freed whole nations from slavery and exile.

God has been an architect, directing Noah how to build the Ark.

God helped Joseph prepare a nation for years of famine, saving the lives of thousands of people.

God guided Ruth and Naomi in continuing the line of David that led to the birth of Jesus.

God showed Moses how to find water and food, and the way to the Promised Land.

God, in Jesus, brought healing to the lame, sight to the blind, and hope to the rejected.

And now, in Jesus' resurrection, God shows us how to defeat death today and into the future.

What does this mean for us? It means that we, too, can dare to believe in what God has done and is still doing. If we accept Jesus' invitation to come and follow him, we, too, can be participants

In the Sanctuary

April 7, 2013

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery at 9:00 a.m. & 3-5 Year Olds at 10:00
Children Gr. 1-8 may worship briefly with their families before going to Rotation Workshops.

April 14, 2013

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
9:00 a.m. Child care for children up to age 5.
Older children may worship with their families for the entire service.

April 21, 2013

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery 9 a.m.
3-5 Year Olds and Rotations at 10 a.m.

in what God is doing, saving millions of lives from dying from hunger, thirst, disease, oppression, violence, and war. It is God's desire for all of us to live lives of freedom, happiness, fulfillment, and joy. Such desires do come to fulfillment a lot easier to us in the United States than they do in many, if not most, other countries in our world.

We can read of what God has done and allow it to inspire us toward what God can still do, with our help, allowing ourselves to become instruments of his good and great work. It requires us, though, to turn away from focusing simply on our own well-being, and focus on the well-being of those whom God has given us to love. It requires us to consider what we have received, learned, been given, and how we can share that with others near and far, beating back evil in our world and replacing it with the goodness of God.

Our ministry as a church, allows us to work together so that our combined efforts will make a bigger difference, a more coordinated effort, so that we can connect what it is we want to do with what others are doing. That is why your support of our ministry has been and remains important. Day by day, week by week, God wants us to be a part of what he is doing to bless the lives of others. If you attended our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services, you experienced first-hand the differences we are making.

I pray that together we will continue to be a part of God's resurrecting power through Jesus Christ, bringing life out of death, hope out of despair, comfort to the grieving, and rebuilding out of destruction. In so doing we will continue to proclaim that Christ has Risen and we are evidence of it!

Yours in Christ,
Dennis

Palm Sunday Thanks

I am extremely grateful to the Centre Congregational Church Choir, Douglas Hodgkins, Music Director, and Spencer Campbell, Narrator, for an outstanding and very meaningful Palm Sunday Cantata, "Upon This Rock."

You all worked very hard and showed great skill and dedication in sharing such a meaningful, spiritually powerful musical presentation of Holy Week and Easter. We are very fortunate to have such leadership, dedication, and talent as part of our church! Thanks be to God! Rev. Bailey

Todd Hall Stage Dedication

I am also grateful for the leadership of the Youth Choir, Douglas Hodgkins, Music Director, and the adults who participated in the "Life School Musical" on Sunday, March 17th as we dedicated the refurbished Todd Hall Stage in grateful memory of John and Caroline Walsh. It was an exciting way of celebrating Caroline's generous gift to us for the Todd Hall Stage.

I am also grateful to the Deacons for preparing and sharing such a delicious shepherd's pie luncheon for us all to enjoy and share in fellowship. Again, Thanks be to God! Rev. Bailey

"What is Stewardship?"

On April 7th, the Stewardship Campaign will begin. This year we are asking people to answer questions throughout the campaign. We will share the responses during services. Our first question for you to consider (which we will answer on the 7th) is "*What is stewardship?*"

Our campaign will run the same as last year. Please pick up your letter on April 7th after the service in the Library. On April 28th, we will be handing out and collecting the pledge cards during the service and then will be hosting a special luncheon to celebrate our stewardship. We hope you will be able to attend!

Sunday Morning with the Children

Our Nursery, located in Room 11, is open each week for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play. The nursery is now open at 9am.

3-5 year old class

Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us each Sunday at 10 am in Room 14 for a class just for this age group. There is time for free play, a Bible Story and a craft and/or activity to help reinforce the story.

Rotation Sensation

On Sunday April 7, 1-8th grades will attend a Rotation Sensation Workshop on Stewardship.

On Sunday, April 14 there will be no workshops due to April Vacation week.

Youth News

Confirmation

Sunday, April 7 - Holy Communion

Sunday, April 14 - no classes due to the beginning of school vacation week.

Youth Groups

Sunday, April 7 - The Middle School Youth Group will be having a special movie night from 6-8 pm. Please plan to bring a bag lunch and go directly to the movie room. Dessert will be provided. Kathy Delaney and Judie Potter will be the leaders. There is no High School meeting scheduled.

Sunday, April 14 - no youth groups (beginning of school vacation week)

News From Around the Parish

Congratulations to Robyn (Becker) Biagioni who was recently honored for outstanding service to the Wakefield School System.

Revs. Mark and Nancy Strickland announced the birth of two new grandchildren in March. Alison Strickland Meadows and her husband Wayne are the proud parents of Austin James born on March 11 in Bedford, MA. Austin joins big sisters Caitlin and Hailey. Matthew Strickland and his wife Allison are the proud parents of Lucy Adeline, born March 22 in Alexandria, VA. Lucy joins big brother Oliver and big sister Violet.

Our love and sympathy are with the family and friends of Virginia Smith of Laconia, NH who died recently. A Memorial Service will be held at the Laconia Congregational Church on April 13 at 10 a.m.

We extend our love and sympathy to Elva Batchelder and her family upon the death of her daughter, Deborah Goodale-Marchand. A Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church in May.

Can and Bottle Fundraiser for Joni and Friends

Please continue to drop off your cans and bottles to help raise funds for Joni and Friends, a nonprofit Christian organization focused on helping persons with disabilities.



Movie Night

In April the Sunday School classes will be studying The Good Samaritan. To go along with this story, Christian Education will be hosting a movie night on April 26 at 7 p.m. We will be watching "Pay It Forward" and discussing how it relates to The Good Samaritan story. If you would like to join us, please sign up at a service of contact Carrie Pericola. (We want an idea of the number coming so we can choose the place to show it.) Popcorn will be served!

From the Mailbox

On behalf of the family of John Wishart, we would like to thank our family here at Centre Church for all the ways in which you have supported us during our Dad and grandfather's recent passing and during all the months that his health was declining. Whether it was a card, a phone call, a visit, an inquiry or by participating in his service at Centre Church, it was so meaningful for him and to us. This past year has been very difficult but made easier for our family by all that you have done.

With gratitude,

Ann, Dwight, Katherine and Andrew Decker

Thanks to our Volunteers

April 7: Ushers: Margaret Waugh, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Doreen DiFillippo. Provide Altar Flowers: Pam VanTwyver. Lights Out beginning April 5: Phil Johnson.

April 14: Provide Altar Flowers: Lillian Foulds. Deliver Altar Flowers: Judith Doe and Randy Russell. Lights out beginning April 12: Steven Richard.

Missions Pantry

Our ongoing collections include Redeemable Bottles & Cans, Aluminum Can Pull Tabs, Used Eyeglasses, Non-Perishable Food, Travel Size Toiletries, and Used Cell Phones (numbers erased with charger).

Don't forget to bring newspapers, magazines, catalogs, etc. to the paper recycle bin in the parking lot. No phone books or cardboard, please.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Apr 7	9:00 am 10:00 am 10 :00 am 6-7:30 pm	Nursery – Room 11 Morning Worship – Sanctuary 3-5 Year Old Class Youth Groups - Basement
Mon. Apr 8	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. Apr 9	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Membership Comm – Library Deacons – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Apr 10	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg. - Library
Thurs. Apr 11	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Apr. 12	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun Apr. 14	9:00 am 10:00 am	Nursery – Room 11 Morning Worship – Sanctuary Classes and Youth Groups will resume after Vacation Week
Mon. April 15	----- 7:30 pm	Church Office Closed Alanon/Alateen – FR & Libr.
Wed. April 17	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Meeting - FR
Thur. April 18	6:30 pm -----	Bethlehem Comm. - Library No Choir This Week
Fri. April 19	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of April 15.

Our prayers are with Esther McGrath at Abbott House-Swampscott Wing, 28 Essex St., Lynn 01902; Arthur Pyburn at Hunt Center, 90 Lindall S., Danvers 01924; Carolyn Furey at Overlook in Charlton; Marion Barnes at Hawthorn Hill, 15 Kirkbride Dr., Danvers 01923; Marge Cole, Ray and Arliene Thorn, Helen Butcher, Marion Edkins and Priscilla Kress at Continuing Care at Brooksby; and David Bruce, Eddie Beatrice and Andy Warburg.

We remember in our prayers Michael Bruce in the Far East and Dan Neary in Afghanistan.
