

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

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

February 25, 2015

The Most Challenging Time of the Year

*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit," Psalm 34:18*

People are weary! We have too much snow and still more is forecast as I write this. It is wearing us out. One parishioner wrote to me yesterday about how, if I come to visit, "*wear your bathing suit*" because they have so much water coming into their house from ice dams.

While in December, roofers were looking out, seeing green grass, wondering if their crews would have any work this winter. Now, they each have over 100 customers on their waiting lists hoping they will come to clean the snow off their roofs.

I have spoken with First Responders who are weary because in addition to having an unusually high number of calls on the job, they are dealing with their own homes and often, the homes of their parents and/or children, shoveling driveways and roofs.

Those who own snow removal equipment are weary from lack of sleep, and their equipment is breaking down more than usual.

People looking to buy snow blowers can't find them. Shovels, extension ladders, and chemicals for walkways are also in short supply.

I want to have my plumber come to my house, drain the water, close the house up, allowing me to fly away to warmer climates for the next two months. Any takers? I'll hire a coach bus to take us to the airport. I'll let you know how much and what day and time we will leave from the church parking lot.

I want to thank the Centre Congregational Church DPW crew who have gone far above the call of duty to keep the walkways clear: "Charlie," alias for Chuck Cotting, and Bruce Weaver. I want to thank Scott

DeSantis who is always ready and willing to respond to assist on the occasion of any "911" call from Charlie or myself regarding an issue involving the church's facilities.

While we are quick to give the DPW crews of our towns and cities a tongue lashing, I give thanks for all their efforts on our behalf. I know some of them personally, and I know that they do their best.

At the end of this season there is going to be a lot of work cleaning up messes made by nature, leaks, collapses and snowplows. It is going to be very challenging for some of us financially, to pay for repairs and heating bills after unusually high snowplowing bills. It will be challenging for students,

In the Sanctuary

March 1, 2015 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (through age 3) – Room 11

ARK Class – Room 14

Older Children & Youth in Church

March 8, 2015 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (through age 3) – Room 11

Godly Play (ages 4 and up) – Todd Hall

Followed by a light lunch and workshop
on Church Grown by Marie Lucca.

March 15, 2015 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey

Nursery (through age 3) – Room 11

Godly Play (ages 4 and up) – Todd Hall

teachers, and school administrators to make up time lost in classes.

In this year's Season of Lent we do not have to pretend to be going through a wilderness because we are in one, literally. "When will it end?" I hear myself saying.

There are places in scripture to which we can turn for assurance that God will help us through this, or any season of distress: Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Like the Psalmist, I pray on behalf of us all:

*"Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.
When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.*

*Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours."* (Psalm 86:6-8)

And while we are all distressed as a result of this unusually demanding winter, many among us are going through challenging times with illness, surgery, recovery, and rehab. Some are experiencing continuing battles with depression and addiction.

God puts us together so that we can help each other through the challenging times. I hope that you let me know when you are going through such times so that I and our congregation can be of support.

I encourage you to make room for God each day in prayer and reflection, asking God to guide you. I promise you that God will renew your strength and give you opportunities to be renewed in your faith.

This past week I visited a parishioner recovering from surgery. He held my hand firmly so as to give himself reassurance that he is not alone. But, he also gave me a great gift, reassurance that my hands have a purpose beyond holding my coffee or eating utensils. My hands, his hands, are channels through which the love of God flows like blood through our arteries and veins to give us life. While we held each other's hands, we also held and strengthened each other's hearts and souls. I shall never forget it, for as a result, my life has greater purpose. Thanks be to God!

I invite you to hold onto one another, because in this, you too will find great purpose as we walk together through the wilderness.

Yours in Lent and in Christ, Dennis

Sunday Morning with the Children

Nursery

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. Pagers are available for all parents.

Church School News

We are excited to begin offering Godly Play as our church school curriculum here at Centre Church. Based on the Montessori method, Godly Play uses a careful telling of scripture stories, engaging story figures, and activities to encourage children to seek and find answers to their faith questions. Our first Godly Play class will be on Sunday, March 8, and we hope your child will be with us! All children ages 4 and up are invited to attend.



Godly Play Room Open House

Sunday, March 1 following Worship.

Our room will be open for your family to tour. It will be located on the stage area in Todd Hall. We will be taking the 3-6 year old class down to the Godly Play classroom during class time on Sunday morning so they can be prepared for what to expect the following week when they will go to their first Godly Play class.

Youth Group

Sunday, March 1 - SKY ZONE 6-7:30pm. Drop off and pick up at Liberty Tree Mall. Please plan to eat before you come. Cost \$11.00. Youth must have waiver signed by parent or guardian to jump.

Sunday, March 8 - Youth Groups meet 6-7:30pm

Lego Night Planned...- Legos needed!

Education Ministries is hoping to plan a Family Lego night but donations of Legos and/or Duplos are needed to make it happen. Please check your attics and basements for building bricks and base plates that are no longer being used and can be donated for this fun event.

Contact Barbara Langill for more information.

All Church Workshop on Church Growth
March 8, 2015

The Diaconate is sponsoring a workshop for all ages on Sunday, March 8 following our regular worship service. A light lunch of pizza, salad, drinks and dessert will be provided. Babysitting will be available for younger children.

Rev. Marie Lucca will present a program entitled: "From Generation to Generation: Honoring Tradition and Embracing Change." It is designed for an audience with many age groups represented. It will highlight the historical events that have impacted the beliefs and spiritual practices of each generation. We'll explore changing worship preferences, communication styles, and volunteer inclinations. Marie will offer suggestions on how Centre Congregational Church can be more welcoming to younger demographics. Marie is an engaging speaker. Come and hear her suggestions on how Centre Church can grow!

A Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.
Margaret Waugh for the Diaconate



Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12 living in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive. The youth

groups of Centre Church will be collecting donations which are distributed to more than 250 local social agencies, nonprofit organizations, and shelters. Last year, Cradles to Crayons served 50,000 children. They are in need of new and gently-used goods.

- Shoes, boots, sneakers, and sandals (infant/child sizes 0-13 and youth/adult sizes 1-10)
- New socks and underwear
- Books, especially baby board books
- Toys (new toys are used for birthday gifts)
- Clothing & coats – all kids sizes and adult small and medium
-

Their most needed items include:

- Girls tops size 3T-7/8 Waterproof winter boots
- New body wash, shampoo, lotion, and conditioner 0-12 years
- Boys sneakers sizes 5-9 youth/adult

Please leave your donations in the box located in the Narthex. Let's see if we can fill it to the top. Youth will be volunteering and bringing in donations on Saturday March 14.

Get Ready for Spring!

Have you been cooking more comfort foods and yummy treats during these snowstorms?

Have you felt like your clothes are a snug fit?

Are you ready to take care of YOU instead of ice dams?

Well, here's your golden opportunity to feel healthy for spring! Weight Watchers will be coming to Centre Church soon! We are organizing a group that will meet once a week in the Fireside Room. (day and time to be determined.)

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Denise Weaver at dweav57@verizon.net or call Denise at 508-353-5188.

From the Mailbox

We want to say thank you to all our friends who said prayers for our newest great grandson, Liam. He was born with complications but he is doing well and getting the medical attention that he needs. A special thanks to Dennis for being there for us.

- Jeff and Marcia Stevens

Mental Health Mission Project

The Wakefield/Lynnfield United Methodist Church announces two talks on issues of Mental Health in our society today.

Tuesday, March 3 – Dr. Laurence Heckscher, New England Pastoral Institute – "Addiction and Substance Abuse and Its Effects on Our Communities"

Tuesday, April 7 – Dr. Jeremy Stewart, McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA – "Anxiety and Depression 101: Symptoms, Causes and Treatments."

All talks will be held at the church, 273 Vernon St., Wakefield at 7:00 p.m. followed by a time of refreshment. These events are open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken to fund this project for further community outreach.

For more information please call 781-245-1359 or email wlumc@juno.com

Our Opportunities

Sun. March 1 <i>Second Sunday In Lent</i>	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery (through age 3) ARK Class – Room 14 Older Children & Youth in Church Youth to Sky Zone
	6:00 pm	
Mon. March 2	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon – Fireside Room
Wed. March 4	8:30 am 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bread & Roses Group – Kitchen Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside Town Day Comm – Pastor’s Ofc
Thur. March 5	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. March 6	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. March 8 <i>Third Sunday In Lent</i>	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel
	10:00 am	Nursery (through age 3) – Rm 11
	10:00 am	Godly Play - Todd Hall
	11:30 am	Church Growth Workshop - RH
	6:00 pm	Youth Group – Basement
Mon. March 9	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Richards Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Wed. March 11	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. March 12	7:30 pm	Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. March 13	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. March 14		Youth to Cradles to Crayons
Sun. March 15	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Bradford Holt Remembrance

Office Hours - 9-3 Monday – Friday.

Next Tower Notes is the week of March 9.

Our prayers are with Tony Lucia, Meg Gulezian at home, Dayl Hufford in rehab at Edgewood, 575 Osgood St., N. Andover, MA 01845, Richard Bailey, Tony Ardagna, Roger Lauzon, Annabel Aldrich, Marion Barnes, Helen Butcher, Harvey Card, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard and Barbara Warburg.

We remember in our prayers Michael Bruce in Bahrain and Johnathan McCarthy who is in training with the US Marines.
