

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

March 11, 2015

"Uncovering"

Jesus once said: *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:14-16)

I look out my window and see the beginning of the "uncovering." In the places and pathways, and on some roofs, where we have been clearing away the snow, the temperatures and sun have melted away the remainder. We see grass, bare walkways, driveways and roof tops.

In some of these cases the "uncovering" has come as the result of hard work, back breaking work, while in other cases it has been done by snowplows, snow blowers, chemicals, contractors, neighbors, or friends.

I think of this in the season of Lent, in particular, because it is during this time that we are invited to "uncover" the spiritual places in our lives that have become covered over, out of sight, hidden beneath other things.

It makes me wonder. Have our spiritual ties become covered with "storms" of suffering, work, time, neglect? Do we need and/or desire to uncover and rediscover the places and things of meaning in our lives that once gave us hope, dreams, idealism, and inspiration? Have we intentionally covered the "light" that God has given to us, not allowing it to be a blessing in the lives of others?

I know that when things change in our lives, sometimes our spiritual connections also change, break, and become covered over. It could be that what was once comfortable and meaningful was broken due to a change in persons through whom we found spiritual meaning, and/or through unpleasant conflicts that pushed us away.

I write this to you today, to invite you to "uncover," to try again to reconnect with God's presence, and to open your heart, mind, and spirit to God's light. As the snow melts outside to reveal pathways that you can

once again walk, may that which has covered over the once important spiritual pathways in your life also melt away, allowing you to once again, find your way to God's light.

May you also "uncover" your light and discover pathways through which you can share the light that God has generously given to you, so as to be a blessing to others. I know that many of you feel that your light has little or nothing to offer, but, I find that once we reconnect to the spiritual energy of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God's people, we are pleasantly surprised that we have more of God's light to share than we ever imagined!



*Your light, God's light,
Let it shine! Uncover!*

Yours in Christ,
in our Lenten Journey, Dennis

In the Sanctuary

March 15, 2015 – 4th Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Remembrance of Dr. Bradford Holt
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11
Godly Play (older children) – Todd Hall

March 22, 2015 – 5th Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Stewardship Sunday
Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dennis C. Bailey
Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11
Godly Play (older children) – Todd Hall
Followed by Stewardship Lunch

March 29, 2015 – Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

April 5, 2015 – EASTER DAY

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Remembering Dr. Brad Holt

On Sunday, March 15, we will be remembering Dr. Brad Holt during the worship service. We will hear a remembrance prayer said on his behalf and will have the opportunity to meet his family and enjoy conversation and refreshments following the service.

Church Growth Workshop with Rev. Marie Lucca

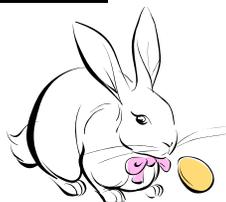
Thank you to over 50 people who attended the Church Growth workshop led by Rev. Marie Lucca. We had representatives from all age groups participating and learning about how each generation has been influenced by world events, family values, community, measures of success and what they are seeking in life. We explored changing worship preferences, communication styles and volunteer inclinations.

Marie offered suggestions on how Centre Church can be more welcoming to younger demographics. A special thank you to Pizza Chef Chuck Cotting for manning the kitchen and to Annmarie Pendola for providing the beautiful table decorations to transform Todd Hall into a breath of spring.

Margaret Waugh for the Diaconate

Pictures with Easter Bunny!

What could be more fun for your child than having their picture taken with the Easter Bunny? Nothing this side of a jelly bean!



Saturday, March 21, 2015

9 am to 12 noon

Cost: First picture - \$10.00.

Additional packages available

Taken by: Priestley Photography Studios, Lynnfield, MA

All proceeds benefit Centre Congregational Church.

Your picture(s) will be printed and given to you immediately.

Appointments available or walk in that morning.

Call: (781) 635-6225 for more information

Stewardship Celebration Luncheon

This year's stewardship packages have been mailed. Please call or email the church office if you did not receive yours.

You are cordially invited to the Stewardship Celebration Luncheon on Stewardship Sunday, March 22nd following the service. We will be collecting the pledge cards during the service, or you can mail yours in if you will not be here on the 22nd. Thank you for your support of the church!

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. Pagery are available for all parents.

Church School News:

"Godly Play"

Education Ministry is excited to begin offering Godly Play as our church school curriculum for children in Pre-school and above. 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. Godly Play respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God.

Children begin in worship with their families and after Children's Time will be escorted to the Godly Play Worship Center which is located on the stage area in Todd Hall. Parents are asked to pick up children at 11:15am by coming to the side door of the stage which is located at the bottom of the stairs by the chapel.

Please contact Barbara Langill, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry with any questions you may have about this wonderful new program.

Kid's Korner

We will have a special area just inside the first pews with quiet activities for children who may find it difficult to sit still during the worship service. Parents are asked to remain with their child in this area.

Weight Watchers at Centre Church

Are you ready to lose weight in a healthy way? Weight Watchers can help you reach that goal. Starting Thursday, March 19 we will have the convenience of attending Weight Watcher meetings right here at Centre Church in the Fireside Room. On the 19th we will meet at 6:30pm for free information and a registration session. The cost for the 12 week plan is \$156.00 payable in full at the first meeting. The payments can be broken down into 3 payments of \$52.00 which would be collected upfront, but would be deposited one month apart. This equates to \$13.00 a week. Laurel Caputo will be the leader of this group

Youth Group

Both youth groups will be going into Boston to volunteer at Cradles to Crayons on Saturday, March 14. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:15 am and carpool into Boston. Please go through your closets and bring along donations of gently used children's clothing. New socks and underwear are also needed. There are no youth group meetings scheduled for Sunday night, March 15. Sunday, March 22 Youth Groups meet 6-7:30pm

From the Mailbox

Thank you dear friends for your get well wishes for me. Your cards, flowers and Dennis' visit means so much. I am down, but not out yet! Time heals so much and I must remember that.

God bless, Meg Gulezian

“Resurrection”

“My name is Peter and this is my story.”

“Resurrection”, a musical cantata, is the inspirational story of Simon Peter and the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. This moving story is presented by The St. Patrick's Family Players, a multi-denominational musical group from Watertown, MA, featuring over 100 performers from ages 4 to 84.

This uplifting musical has become an Easter tradition for many people. Below is a list of performances scheduled for the remainder of March.

- Sat., March 21 – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Peabody, MA – 7:30 p.m.
- Sun., March 22 – Most Blessed Sacrament Parish Wakefield, MA – 3:00 p.m.
- Sat., March 28 – St. Michael's Parish North Andover, MA – 7:30 p.m.
- Sun., March 29 – St. Patrick Parish Watertown, MA – 4:00 p.m.



Eagle Scouts: Boy Scout Troop 48, of Centre Congregational Church, invites us to attend the Eagle Court of Honor, Honoring Six (6) Boy Scouts receiving

Eagle Awards this Sunday, March 15th, 4 pm, at Centre Congregational Church, 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA. We are all invited to attend the ceremony and honor these outstanding members of our community and celebrate their accomplishments.

We are so proud of the outstanding work of Troop 48!!

Save the Date! Legos Building Party

You are invited to a fun filled family afternoon of Lego building on Sunday, May 3 from 4-6:30pm. We will have lots of Legos and Duplos available. Children of all ages and their families are invited to attend. We will have pizza, drinks and desserts. You are never too old to enjoy building with Legos!

May 16, 2015

Crafters on the Common and Flea Market

Crafters Wanted

Are you a crafter? Do you know a crafter? Centre Church is hosting “Crafters on the Common” on May 16, 2015, and we are looking for crafters to participate. The event will run from 8 A.M. – 2 P.M., and space (12 x12) can be rented for \$35.00. Crafters must provide their own tables.

There will be lots happening in Lynnfield Center on May 16. In addition to Crafters on the Common, the church is holding a Flea Market on the church lawn. Also, the Friends of the Library will hold their Used Book Sale on the Common, the Art Guild will have their show in the Meeting House, and Geraniumfest and Field Day will take place at the Middle School.

For more information about Crafters on the Common, contact Debbie Cotting or Margaret Waugh.

Flea Market Items and Bakers Wanted!

Have you been “spring cleaning”? Trying to find somewhere to donate your gently used “treasures”? Centre Church is sponsoring a flea market on our lawn as part of “Townscape’s Geraniumfest and Field Day” celebration on Saturday, May 16, 2015. The event takes place from 8:00a.m.-2:00p.m. Rent a 10X10 flea market space for \$35.00 or contribute items to Centre Church’s section. Vendors must provide tables.

We will also be holding a Bake Sale. Baked items must be individually wrapped before bringing to church for the bake table. In addition, volunteers to help for the day are needed! In case of inclement weather, space will be provided inside the church. What a great way to support Centre Church and have fun at the same time! For information contact Dotty Whittier or Barbara Langill in the church office.

Relay for Life

Church Member Baylee Priestley, a student at Umass, Amherst, is participating in a Relay for Life, raising money to fight cancer.

Baylee is a member of Team “Rotarunners” of the Rotaract Club at Umass. She, along with her team, is seeking sponsors for their Relay for Life, April 18-19, working to fight cancer.

Please take time to check out her team page and sponsor her if you can.

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?px=39381834&pg=personal&fr_id=65110&s_loc

Our Opportunities

Sun. March 15 <i>Fourth Sunday In Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:20 am 4:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary, <i>Holt Remembrance</i> Nursery (up to age 3) – Room 11 Godly Play Class – Todd Hall Eagle Scout Court of Honor
Mon. March 16	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 – Todd Hall Alanon – Fireside Room
Wed. March 18	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thur. March 19	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers’ Registration Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. March 20	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. March 21	9-12:00	Pictures with the Easter Bunny
Sun. March 22 <i>Fifth Sunday In Lent</i>	10:00 am 10:00 am 10:20 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) – Rm 11 Godly Play Class - Todd Hall Lunch – Richards Hall Youth Group – Basement
Mon. March 23	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Richards Alanon/Alateen – Fireside & Libr.
Tues. March 24	12:30 pm	Get-Together Wheel – Fireside Rm
Wed. March 25	7:00 pm	Women’s 12 Step Mtg – Fireside
Thurs. March 26	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Weight Watchers’ – Fireside Rm Senior Choir – Choir Room
Fri. March 27	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. March 29 - <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10:00 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary

Office Hours - 9-3 Monday – Friday.

Next Tower Notes is the week of March 23.

Our prayers are with Tony Lucia at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 300 First Ave., Boston 02129; Dayl Hufford in rehab at Edgewood, 575 Osgood St., N. Andover, MA 01845; Marguerite Burns (Nancy Miller’s mother,) Rick Miller, 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 Jamie Stone in Kuwait, Michael Bruce in Bahrain and Johnathan McCarthy who is in training with the US Marines

Easter Plant Order

I would like to order for **\$7.75 each**:

___lilies ___red tulips ___yellow tulips ___kalanchoe

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

These flowers have been given by _____

in memory of _____

in honor of _____



PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

___ I will take my plant(s) home after the 10 a.m. Easter Service on April 5.

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

Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter, April 5.

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

Friday, March 27 is the deadline for placing orders.