

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Estelle Margarones, Interim Pastor, RevEstelle@centre-church.org

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

March 2, 2016

Dear friends,

Stewardship is a word that invites us to look beyond ourselves to the greater whole. Implicit in the term is concern, care and management of that with which we've been entrusted. We are stewards of the church. This is a central place for support, encouragement, and fellowship. Here, we wonder and worship together in a diverse and unified community. **You matter here!** Your thoughts, ideas, and questions are invited and welcomed.

With great joy, I've observed your commitment. I've watched as people have shared of their **time, talent and treasure** to fulfil and broaden the work of Centre Congregational Church. Your hands and hearts make a difference in this church and in the world!

The Apostle Paul says that each of us is a part of the Body of Christ; thus, we've each got a particular function. Some will be able to offer more **time** to the church, others will be able to offer **particular skills**, while still others will be able to share more **financially**. **ALL of these gifts are precious and necessary to a vital and vibrant church.**

Your gifts reach far beyond the building to support and strengthen people through life stages and events. I'm a strong believer in the motto, "Do what you can, when you can, however you can." I believe that Jesus smiles when we consciously realize opportunities to do good works.

Part of what you can offer during both the stewardship and transition processes is your honest input. During this Stewardship Season, you have already begun to consider your hopes and dreams for

Centre Church. I invite you to look beyond the building and look closely at the people that make up this church. **Who are we now?** What needs do you see? What needs do you have? What would help? What can you do? What can we do together?

I support Debbie Cotting's invitation that you consider increasing your donation by \$10 per week. This increase is less than the cost of your daily coffee or a Friday night pizza. Your financial support is critical to ensure that Centre Church is able to minister to the needs of the faith community and beyond into the wider world.

In addition, please feel free to think 'outside of the box' with regard to extra ways you may increase your offering to the church. Could you provide a ride for someone who doesn't drive? Would you send a card when someone needs encouragement? If you're handy around the house, what about sharing your gift with someone that needs help? Might you prepare a meal for someone returning from the hospital? What about painting someone's nails? Would you spend an hour or two helping a senior with yardwork this spring? Are you able to visit with someone? These are all ministries of presence.

Jesus said, "I am with you always" and He is! Your stewardship allows us to shine His light into the world. How will you share of your time, talent, and treasure to support and strengthen Centre Congregational Church?

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle

In the Sanctuary

March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:00 A.M. Holy Communion
Nursery and Godly Play
Confirmation Class Making Muffins

March 13, 2016

Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Nursery, Godly Play & Breakfast Club

March 20, 2016 - Palm Sunday



10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Nursery, Godly Play & Breakfast Club

Sunday Mornings 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.

Godly Play

On Sundays, March 6 and 13, children in PreK- 4th grade will worship briefly with their parents before leaving for Godly Play.

Breakfast Club

On Sunday, March 6 the confirmands and their mentors will be baking and selling muffins to help raise funds for Heifer International. Please plan to meet in the kitchen at 10 am. Other youth are welcome to help. Many hands make light work.

On Sunday, March 13 the Breakfast Club will meet.

Membership News

Our 5th annual Silent Auction/Trivia Night was a great night of food, fellowship and faith! Ninety plus participants ranging in age from 14 to 90 played trivia, sampled culinary delights, and bid on unique items. Fun was had by all and, in addition, we raised more than \$4,500 for our church!

Stay tuned for details about our upcoming theater matinee outing in April.

Dotty Whittier for Membership

Trust in the Promise

God promises a future of hope, and I'm sure God has great plans for Centre Church! We are in the midst of our annual Stewardship campaign – a great time to think about our hopes and dreams for Centre Church. In order to attain our vision for the church, we will need everyone's time, talent, and financial commitment.

Please consider increasing your pledge this year. It would be wonderful if our pledges reflected an average increase of \$10 per week – that amount works out to be a daily cost of less than a cup of coffee at Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks. I know that we would all like to avoid budget deficits, supplemental pledge drives, and dipping into our savings to cover budget short-falls. We can't all pledge the same dollar amount, but we can all give with the same spirit of generosity! So, please be as generous as you can.

We will present our pledges during the service on March 13. If you won't be in church that day, please mail your pledge by March 13. Returning our pledges on time is important. Soon, the Budget Sub-Committee of Parish Council will begin planning the budget for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2016. Accurate pledge data is crucial to the budgeting process.

Working together, we can help realize God's promise of a future with hope.

Debbie Cotting, Stewardship Ministries

Time to Spring Forward: March 12

Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour.

Youth Group Happenings

Giv2 City Reach Overnight, March 4-5. We will meet at Our Lady at 5 pm before going in to Boston.

Sunday, March 6 Grog Night! 6-7:30 pm Youth group meeting for 5th-12th grades.

Sunday, March 13 - All youth group members are invited to attend a special presentation from the Giv2 youth who attended the City Reach Overnight. We will meet at the Lynnfield/Wakefield United Methodist Church (273 Vernon St., Wakefield) at 5:30 pm. There is a large parking lot behind the church. Dinner will be served. Families are invited to attend.

Cradles to Crayons

On February 17, youth from Centre Church volunteered at Cradles to Crayons in Boston. We sorted and sized a large bin of boy’s pants, then went on to make up outfits and packs of girls’ clothing. We were able to bring in donations that we purchased using funds from the Pumpkin Carving Contest. Five outfits for each child will be made into packs along with toys and books and distributed to children in need across Massachusetts.

Thank you for your generous support.

From the Mailbox

Dear Centre Church Members, Friends,
and Rev. Estelle,
The loss of a loved one is never easy but the comfort, prayers, cards and words of assurance are welcome thoughts that I will always feel fortunate to have received,
Thank you all so much. I will miss my Dad a lot, but am fortunate to have many happy memories.
Love, Karen Harrington

Resurrection: A Cantata/Music Drama

By Bryan Jeffery Leech

This inspirational story of Simon Peter and the forgiveness of Jesus Christ will be performed by the St. Patrick’s Family Players in Massachusetts during March:

For more information call 617-923-4394
www.stpatricksfamilyplayers.org

Super Saturday

On Saturday, March 12 the Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ will gather for a day of worship, workshops and networking. Participants will be able to attend 2 90-minute workshops related to one of 7 vital ministry areas.

There will be Lunchtime Conversations around the subject of a collaborative ministry among the three Conferences of Southern New England in the future. The fundamental question is:
“Is this collaborative ministry among Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island something God wants us to do?”

Further information will be available on the Mass Conference website: www.macucc.org

Domestic Violence: Clinical and Spiritual Awareness and Response

This program, sponsored by the Northeast Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors will be offered on Friday April 1 in Manchester, NH. (Six educational contact hour credits.)

Presenters will be Kathy Jones, a Domestic Violence Intervention and Response Specialist, and Rev. Dr. Dayl Hufford, an ordained Pastor in the UCC and Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist.

You will find more information at nepastoral.org



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 March 27.

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

Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter, March 27.

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

Thursday, March 17 is the deadline for placing orders.

Our Opportunities

Sun. March 6 4th Sunday In Lent	10:00 am	Holy Communion- Sanctuary Nursery (up through age 3) Godly Play – Todd Hall Stage Confirmation Class - muffins Aging in Place Info Meeting Youth Group - Downstairs
	11:30 am	
	6:00 pm	
Mon. March 7	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 48 – Todd Hall Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Tues. March 8	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Education Ministries – Library Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Wed. March 9	7:00 pm	Women’s AA – Fireside
Thurs. March 10	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. March 11	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. March 12		<i>SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR</i>
Sun. March 13 5th Sunday In Lent	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery and Godly Play Breakfast Club Youth Group – Methodist Church
	5:30 pm	
Mon. March 14	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #48 Alanon/Alateen– Fireside & Libr.
Wed. March 16	7:00 pm	Women’s AA – Fireside
Thurs. Mar. 17	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Mar. 18	10:30 pm	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. Mar. 20 Palm Sunday	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery and Godly Play Breakfast Club Youth Group - Downstairs

Our thoughts and prayers are with William DiGiorgio, Barkey Gulezian, Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Bob Hanson, Parker Holloway, Edie Richard, and Bob Shorey.

We remember in our prayers Jamie Stone in Kuwait and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.

Easter Worship Service, March 27 – 10:00 a.m.
