

# 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

Barbara Langill, Interim Director of Faith Formation

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*

**April 13, 2016**

Dear Friends,

I parked behind a Jeep the other day and I was struck by the wheel cover on the back. It was a picture of the galaxy with an arrow to a tiny dot and the words, "You are here." That same day, I walked near a bush where tiny little black flies were swarming. They were no bigger than a dot made by a pen tip. I was reminded that perspective differs based on your understanding of your place in the world.

Are we tiny specks in the cosmos or are we giants here on earth? Apparently, we are both! We are God's children, interdependent upon God and one another while at the same time able to effect change in the world. As individual members of a local church, we might be 'small', but we are also a part of the larger denomination. Locally, we're a member of the Metropolitan Boston Association. State-wide, we're a part of the Massachusetts Conference. Nationally, we're a part of the United Church of Christ. We share resources and receive support from the UCC, including generous support in the process of calling your next settled pastor. Associate Conference Minister Wendy Vander Hart will be preaching on May first and she'll lead us in an important congregational meeting following worship. I encourage you to attend!

I took a corporate seminar years ago in which the presenter asked us to fill in the blank in this sentence: Life is a series of \_\_\_\_\_. We were told the answer is "events". If you scan your mind, you may recall graduations, weddings, birthdays, celebrations, etc... Let's call these Events, with a capital E. They're the greeting card holidays. (Interestingly, holiday is derived from "holy day" and as a Christian, can't you find something sacred and holy in every day?)

If you widen your perspective, you'll notice that there have been a number of events (small e) that

are just as—and possibly more--significant. I'm speaking of the time between the things we typically mark as "Events".

Let's say, you booked a vacation, but you haven't taken it yet. Aren't shopping for sunscreen, counting down the days, and packing the suitcase 'events'? You've enrolled in college, but you haven't graduated yet. Don't reading textbooks and going to classes count as 'events'? You have been born, but you haven't died yet. Wouldn't you consider meeting your friends, developing relationships, trying new things, making mistakes, learning, forgiving, and loving to be 'events'?

At Centre Church, we're in that time between the Events of calling settled pastors. Simultaneously, we're having 'events' every day as we think, pray, and talk about the past, present, and future. We have begun the congregational conversations that will lead to writing a church profile, the gathering of a search committee and calling a new settled pastor.

Over the next few months, we'll share stories, lifting up the rich heritage of the church. We'll invite self-assessment of individual and collective gifts, skills, and energy. We'll intentionally look at the community to determine how we can be of service. We'll strengthen partnerships and possibly develop new ones. All the while, we will continue to look toward the future with hope, excitement and prayer!

Remember the scripture verse from our Stewardship Campaign. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your good, to give you a future with hope." Thanks be to God for God's own involvement in this process!

Rev. Estelle Margarones

### **In the Sanctuary**

**April 17, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.**

#### **Morning Worship Sacrament of Baptism**

Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones  
Nursery (up to age 5)  
Older Children and Youth in Church

**April 24, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.**

#### **Morning Worship – Scout Sunday**

Nursery, Godly Play, Breakfast Club

**May 1, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.**

#### **Holy Communion**

Nursery and Godly Play  
Older Children and Youth in Church

### **Sacred Storytelling Workshop**

On Sunday, April 17th, join Linda Ladd and Rev. Estelle Margarones from 11:15-12:45 for a Sacred Storytelling Workshop.

Come and learn dramatic reading techniques so you can bring the Bible to life! Participants will see and hear demonstrations, learn tips, and gain tools for reading and sharing Biblical material. There will be opportunities to practice in small groups and in the church sanctuary. This workshop will help you to deepen your understanding of the sacred text.

Snacks will be provided. Feel free to invite friends!

(Location: Lower Level Kitchen)

### **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.

#### **Godly Play**

Sunday, April 17, No Godly Play classes. Children 5 years and under may go to the nursery.

Sunday, April 24, children in PreK- 4<sup>th</sup> grade will worship briefly with their parents before leaving for Godly Play.

### **Youth Activities**

Breakfast Club - Sunday, April 17 Youth are invited to attend the worship service with their families.  
Sunday, April 24 The Breakfast Club will meet in the kitchen.

Youth Group - Sunday, April 17 No Youth Group - start of school vacation  
Sunday, April 24 Sky Zone in Danvers 6-7:30pm.  
Pick up and Drop Off in Danvers.

### **“Feed My Sheep”**

At our April 10 youth group meeting, the youth discussed the message Rev. Estelle gave during worship based on the Scripture reading, John 21:15-17, where Jesus says three times “Feed my sheep”. Who are the sheep Jesus is talking about and how can we feed them? We talked about how faith is not just an inner feeling, but an action, the act of saying ‘yes’ to the word of God, and saying yes to Jesus’ command to “feed my sheep”. When we take actions of faith, we are ready to make a difference in the world. To put faith into action, the youth assembled 13 trays of macaroni and cheese with ham to help feed those in need.

### **Young Families Group**

On Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> we will meet at Richardson’s in Middleton at 3:00 p.m. for ice cream and visiting with the farm animals.

On Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> we will have a Playground Meet Up at 11:00 a.m. at Moulton Park, 14 Harrington Ct. in Wakefield (next to the West Side Social Club.)

Contact Jill DiGiorgio for more information

### **News From Around the Parish**

We extend our love and sympathy to Rev. Dr. Dennis Bailey upon the recent death of his son, Anthony Lloyd Bailey. A funeral was held at Brighton Allston Congregational Church on April 8.

Our congratulations to Johnny Gonzales and Dr. Jessica Cintolo-Gonzalez of Mission Hill, Boston upon the birth of a son, Rafael Gonzalez on April 7. His proud grandparents are Tom and Jean Cintolo.

Congratulations to Ginny Daniels who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on April 8.

### **"GET TOGETHER" with Barbara**

Please join us on Tuesday, April 26, at 12:30 in the Fireside Room as we welcome our own Barbara Langill. She will tell us about the book Trips Down Memory Lane that was written by her Great Grandmother, Jennie Gladding. The book includes many of her original poems, as well as "pieces" that she memorized and would recite. It also has stories about her life in "Horn of the Moon", Vermont. Barbara will make it very interesting I am sure.

On another note, our March craft was really great! Lillian Foulds along with her able assistant, Edith Wendt, instructed us on making a really pretty flower and box craft. With around 14 ladies working at two tables, talking, gluing and asking questions, we did give them some fun moments.

When we did finish our project, Lillian then presented each of us with a beautifully colored Easter Egg (Psyanka), hand drawn in Ukrainian patterns by her daughter, Dianne. We were thrilled to have this beautiful piece of art to place in our flower-topped boxes. Thank you very much from Get Togethers.

We have so much talent in our church community. Hope to see you on the 26th. This is open to all women of the church and if you have questions, please give me a call.

Blessings, Donna Marino (781) 581-2022

### **Empty Bowls Project**

Williams Middle School, 180 Walnut Street, Chelsea  
Thursday April 21, 5 – 7 pm

The Empty Bowls Project is an international grassroots effort to raise money and awareness in the fight to end hunger. It began in 1990 and has spread around the globe. The finished bowls are put on display at the Empty Bowls event which will be held on Thursday April 21, 2016 from 5 – 7 pm at the Williams Middle School in Chelsea. Admission (\$15 in advance or \$18 at the door) buys you the bowl of your choice. Fill it with fresh soup and bread. Then join neighbors and friends around the table. Take home your bowl as a reminder of the hungry in the community. St. Luke's Community Dining Room and Food Pantry are the primary recipients of the funds raised by the event.

Several youth (and adults) from the Giv2 ecumenical youth group got together in January to hand paint bowls, which were then sent out to be fired. These, along with contributions from several other groups, will be available.

### **Gospel Concert on April 30**

The City Mission Society of Boston will be celebrating its 200th anniversary with a lively evening of joyous song and praise music at Payson Park Church in Belmont on Sat, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. Centre Church has consistently supported this local mission's efforts to prevent family homelessness in the Boston area. The concert sounds like a fun event, supporting a great cause! Should we car pool to it together as a group? Tickets can be bought online at <http://citymissionboston.org/lift-every-voice>, or from Linda Ladd. Please contact me for more information, tickets and/or a ride.

–Linda Ladd ([ladd@neb.com](mailto:ladd@neb.com), 781-334-6170)



### **Flea Market – May 14**

From 8am-2pm on Saturday, May 14, Centre Church will hold a Flea Market and Bake Sale on the front lawn. The cost of renting a 10x10 space is \$35.00. If you would like to register for a space, please contact the Church Office.

### **Theater Outing on May 15**

Looking for some fun Sunday afternoon entertainment? We have the opportunity to go as a group to see the theater production of "My Old Lady" by Israel Horowitz at the Quannapowitt Playhouse in Reading on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. As a group, our tickets will cost \$15 each – it's a great deal. "My Old Lady" is Horowitz' most recent play which was recently made into a movie starring Maggie Smith and Kevin Kline. Interested? Please contact Linda Ladd ([ladd@neb.com](mailto:ladd@neb.com), 781-334-6170)

### **Crafters on the Common – May 21**

Are you a crafter? Do you know a crafter? We are looking for people who would like to have a table at our craft fair. For more information, contact Debbie Cotting (781-593-3120) or Margaret Waugh.

### **Pledge Reminder**

Thank you to the many folks who have submitted their pledges. Have you returned your pledge yet? If not, Stewardship Ministries reminds you to please return it as soon as possible. Budget planning will begin soon, and our financial wizards need accurate pledge data to complete their work.

Debbie Cotting, Stewardship Ministries

## *April is Autism Awareness Month*



The Family Fun Event for Autism Awareness on April 2 was a wonderful day! Decorations and signage created an impressive sea of blue. Three beautiful bulletin boards were on display, designed with bright colors and educational information including a myriad of facts, descriptions and resources regarding Autism. A prominent symbol displayed throughout the building was the Autism Awareness puzzle piece ribbon.

Wiggles & Giggles performed during which the kids enjoyed dancing, singing, the limbo, and other movement activities. The sensory stations were a huge hit and included four sensory bins with water beads, cloud dough, rice, and pom-poms. A few

children spent the majority of the two hour event experimenting and playing with these bins! The children had many opportunities to create a variety of crafts. The most popular craft was a make-your-own blue sensory bottle which was filled with a variety of colorful, sparkling ingredients to create a snow globe effect.

In addition to crafts and activities, the children and families had an opportunity to interact positively with each other. They were able to learn more about Autism and the different ways it affects the lives of children and their families. Information was also provided regarding what they could do to help spread awareness and also support and befriend those on the spectrum. Autism...different, not less!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of those from the congregation and community who volunteered to help make this event such a huge success! Here are just some members of the crew. Big thanks go to ALL!



## *Our Opportunities*

|                      |                 |  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Sun. April 17</b> | <b>10:00 am</b> | <b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b>                     |
|                      | 11:15 am        | Nursery (up to age 5)<br>Sacred Storytelling - Kitchen |
| Mon. April 18        | -----           | Office Closed  |
| Tues. April 19       | 7:00 pm         | Membership – Fireside Room                             |
| Thurs. April 21      | -----           | No Choir Rehearsal This Week                           |
| Fri. April 22        | 10:30 am        | Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office             |
| <b>Sun. April 24</b> | <b>10:00 am</b> | <b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b>                     |
|                      |                 | Nursery, Godly Play<br>Breakfast Club                  |
|                      | 11:30 am        | Joyful Noise Rehearsal – Sanct.                        |
|                      | 3:00 pm         | Young Families – Richardson’s                          |
|                      | 6:00 pm         | Youth Group to Sky Zone                                |
| Tues., April 26      | 12:30 pm        | Get-Together Wheel - Fireside                          |
| Thurs. April 28      | 7:30 pm         | Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room                           |
| Fri. April 29        | 10:30 am        | Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office                         |
| Sat. April 30        | 11:00 am        | Young Families to Moulton Park                         |
| <b>Sun. May 1</b>    | <b>10:00 am</b> | <b>Holy Communion - Sanctuary</b>                      |
|                      |                 | Nursery and Godly Play                                 |

Please be in touch with the church office if you would like more information about any of these activities.  
(781-334-3050 or [office@centre-church.org](mailto:office@centre-church.org))

In addition to our scheduled church activities, Centre Church hosts Boy Scout Troop #48, Cub Pack #48, Girl Scouts, Alanon, Alateen, Women’s AA, BKP Book Packing Group, Essex Society of Genealogists and the New England Pastoral Institute counseling center.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ed Ericson, David Riester, Margaret Markham, Ginny Daniels, Annabel Aldrich, Helen Butcher, Marguerite Burns, Marge Cole, Marion Edkins, Barkey Gulezian, 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.