

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

May 10, 2016

Dear friends,

I'll be having rotator cuff surgery on May 27th and the ways in which I'm preparing for surgery are actually similar to the transition process we're in at church. I'm self-aware and I'm thinking about the future. Centre Church is in a process of self-reflection and we're considering our future.

I've been advised that I will be in a sling for 4-6 weeks following surgery. Bearing this in mind, I've embarked on a very thorough cleaning of my home, ridding myself of things I no longer use and rendering the entire space functional. I learned that I will need to sleep sitting up so I got a chaise lounge. I'm also cooking and freezing those many meals I will be unable to prepare while I can't use my arm.

Right now, Centre Church is looking closely at who we are today. This includes the people and our passions, our physical space, our congregational energy, the ways in which we include newcomers, etc... We're also considering community needs of the future.

I've had other surgeries, so I have an idea of what to expect; but many of my circumstances have changed. I'm not as young as I was, the surgeries weren't on my shoulder, I'm no longer living in a ranch style home, and I'm not living in a town with many friends nearby.

This church has been through Search and Call before. While that will give us an idea of what to expect, I urge you to recognize that our current and future needs are vastly different than they've ever been before, especially in light of the current religious landscape. Last week, our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Wendy Vander Hart shared that only 9% of people in Massachusetts are church-goers.

Please spend time thinking about what God is calling us to be in light of who we are today and what

local needs we may help serve. Please also be aware that our 'success' can't be measured by membership numbers or financial contributions. We are successful when we have changed the world by faithfully shining Christ's light in the world and being in service to others!

For now, our jobs are to pray and to gather and process information about ourselves and our neighbors so that we have clarity about what is necessary for the future. (Take a breath, please, then read on... The truth is that the church of tomorrow may look different than the church of today. While I don't know what tomorrow's church looks like, I wholeheartedly trust the Holy Spirit will reveal it!)

We'll have a third congregational meeting immediately after worship on Sunday, May 22 and I encourage you to be actively involved in this process! If you think you may be interested in being part of the transition/search work, please speak with Bruce Weaver or any member of the Parish Council. I'm very familiar with both sides of the process and I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

If we are diligent in honest self-reflection and we truly seek out community input (Lynnfield and surrounding towns), we will have an excellent idea of who we truly are and who our neighbors are. That will lead us to a greater sense of clarity about what God is calling us to do. With that information, the required qualifications of your next Pastor will be abundantly clear and your settled pastor will be a fantastic fit for this community in terms of serving the needs of the church and community today and ensuring the vitality of Centre Church in the future.

Rev. Estelle

In the Sanctuary

May 15, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship – Reception of New Members
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery and Godly Play

May 22, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery and Godly Play

May 29, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship
Sermon by Jeffrey Langill
Nursery (up to the age of 5)
Older Children Planting Flowers on Lawn



Flea Market/Bake Sale

Come shop for treasures and enjoy baked goods at our Flea Market on Saturday, May 14 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the front lawn. There will be bargains for everyone!

The Postal Service Food Drive is on Saturday, May 14, 2016. All you need to do is put canned goods in a bag and leave it by your mail box on Saturday morning. Your letter carrier will probably leave you a collection bag during the week before. Please be generous. This is an easy way to help our hungry neighbors.

Theater Outing on May 15

We have a great opportunity to purchase \$15 (group-priced) tickets to this Sunday's 2 pm matinee of "My Old Lady" by Israel Horovitz, which is currently being presented at the Quannapowitt Playhouse in Reading.

Israel Horovitz grew up in Wakefield, acted with the Quannapowitt Players as a youth and then started the Gloucester Stage Company. He now writes Broadway scripts. This particular one was produced as a movie starring Maggie Smith and Kevin Kline. QP feels honored to be presenting the first production of this on a community theater stage, thanks to Mr. Horovitz long-standing relationship with the Quannapowitt Players.

Contact Linda Ladd (ladd@neb.com, 781-334-6170)

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

On Sundays, May 15 and 22 children in PreK- 4th grade will worship briefly with their parents before leaving for Godly Play.

Missions and Outreach Meeting

Are you interested in bettering lives? Locally and globally? Helping people to better their physical and mental health? Encouraging sustainable living to better the health of our planet? If so, Outreach is the ministry team for you! Please join me for an initial meeting of this re-organized group where we'll talk about what our priorities and focus should be. May 15th at 11:30 am in the sanctuary.

--Linda Ladd, Outreach Ministries Chair

"As You Sow" Workshop Offered

A workshop on being mindful about what you want out of life! Galatians 6:7 says, "As You Sow, So Shall You Reap". Join Kathi Martin and Rev. Estelle Margarones on Wed. 5/18 in the Centre Church Library for a spiritual workshop. We'll offer a day session at 10:30 and an evening session at 7:00. The workshop will be one hour long and we'll do some thinking, talking, writing and crafting. Open to men and women. Supplies provided so we need an accurate count. Call 781-334-3050 to RSVP by 5/17

"Golfing with God" is Back!

CCC is pleased to announce that starting Thursday, May 12 all golfers are invited to meet at the Reedy Meadow Golf Course on Thursdays at 7 am for a round of 9 holes. All are welcome to attend. In years past, as many as 10-12 golfers would show up for a round of golf camaraderie followed by coffee, donuts, and discussion for those able to stick around. The style of golf is "best ball" which tends to improve everyone's score! Get in touch with either Chuck Cotting (chuck@thecottings.com) or Randy Russell (randallhrussell@gmail.com) to learn more.





Crafters on the Common

Saturday, May 21, 2016

10 AM – 3 PM - Rain or Shine

Unique Jewelry, New Quilted Bags, Beautiful Doll Clothes, Seasonal Wreaths, Knitted Items, Luxurious Soaps, Artwork by Local Artisans, Seaside & Driftwood Décor and so much more!

Countryside Deli will have luncheon items for sale on the church lawn.

Check it out before or after you go to the Library Book Sale and/or the activities at the Middle School.

News From Around the Parish



Scott DeSantis and Rev. Estelle recently visited Annabel Aldrich at Newbridge on the Charles in Dedham. She's doing well and sends her love to all at Centre Church.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ashley Lucia and Chad Jennings who were married on April 24. They are living in Brooklyn, NY.

A Quick Reminder: We are approaching the end of the Church's fiscal year on June 30. If you have not sent in your contribution for MBA Dues (the orange envelope in your envelope packet), please take the time to do so. This reflects our commitment and covenant to support the Metropolitan Boston Association (MBA) of the United Church of Christ in their work. The dues amount is \$20.10 per church member. Also, please take a moment to look at your Pledge for the fiscal year ending June 30 to see if you are up-to-date. Thank you, Jim Marshall & Jeff Law

Save the Date!

Lobsta Roll Super Sunday – June 5

\$12.00 each.

Place your order after church on Sunday

Or call the church office.

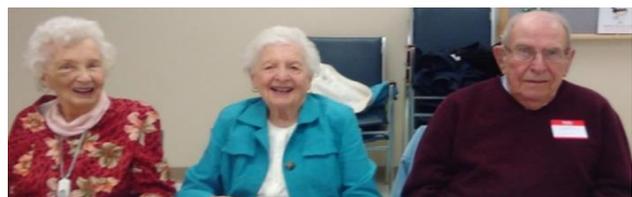
Our Shopping Card/Gift Card Program

Do you shop at L.L. Bean, Gap or Athleta? If so, you could potentially donate 14% of your bill to the church. If you have an occasional dinner at Legal Sea Foods or the 99, you could be donating 13% of your bill. The gift card/ shopping card program is a great opportunity to shop or eat like you would normally do, but simultaneously help out the church. We have a relationship with GLScrip to receive cards at a discount and have a percentage of the expense go toward the church. Some cards give a much higher percentage to the church than others, so although every little bit helps, some cards are a better deal. If you want to see a complete list of the many retailers who are in this program, you can go to shopwithscrip.com and click on "Retailer List" at the bottom of the page.

Finally, we sell a few of the most popular cards that the church has pre-purchased to make your shopping easier. There is a table set up in the narthex after the service most weeks where these "cash and carry" cards can be purchased. Only cash or checks are accepted, so bring your money or your checkbook if you would like to make a purchase!

John Sievers, Coordinator

The first "Lunch with the Pastor" was a huge success. Centre Church took 14 people to lunch at the Senior Center. Very special thanks to Center Director Linda Naccara and Assistant Director Debby Triffletti for a delicious luncheon and beautifully set table!



Our Opportunities

Sun. May 15 <i><u>Pentecost</u></i> <i>New Members</i> <i>Received</i>	10:00 am 11:30 am 2:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 3) Godly Play (age 4 – grade 4) Outreach Mtg. - Sanctuary Theater Outing to Reading
Wed. May 18	10:30 am and also at 7:00 pm	“As You Sow, So Shall You Reap” Workshop - Library
Thurs. May 19	7:00 am 7:30 pm	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow Senior Choir - Choir Room
Fri. May 20	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. May 21	10am-3pm	Crafters on the Common
Sun. May 22	10:00 am 11:00 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery and Godly Play Congregational Meeting Young Families – Richardson’s Youth Group - Downstairs
Wed. May 25	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. May 26	7:00 am 7:30 pm	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. May 27	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office
Sun. May 29	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery Children Plant Flowers Outside

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)

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.

We hold in prayer the following members and friends: Ed Ericson, Barkey Gulezian, Bob Hanson, Edie Richard, Bob Shorey and Johnathan McCarthy (son of Mary McCarthy) deployed with the Marines.
