

# 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*

**June 8, 2016**

Dear Friends,

Years ago, I was a hospital chaplain. At that time, I could learn of a person's physical, emotional and spiritual challenges within moments of meeting them. In each of these encounters, I would ask, "Where is God in this situation?"

*We rarely make deep heart connections so quickly. Yet we all encounter people every day with physical, emotional, and spiritual struggles. There is something very profound in being able to be with others so that they are not alone.*

I recently experienced aloneness, when I had the cab drop me off for surgery and I waited alone; watching spouses, parents, and friends sit together. If I'm honest, though, the aloneness goes deeper: to a mother I'm still grieving not quite a year since her death; to a family that is broken over estate squabbles; to missing dear friends that I used to be able to walk to go see; to a love relationship that I don't have; to being able to take out my own trash and to easily pick up fresh fruits and vegetables since I don't have use of my dominant arm (How's that for honesty?) When we're feeling fragile, those deeper wounds surface.

I share this honestly, though not so easily. I suspect you know what I mean. It's easier to say, "I'm fine". No one ever wants to appear less than confident and able, right? I know that I'm not alone in my "aloneness". Maybe you're feeling alone in something. Or maybe it's your cousin or coworker.

What is so personal that you dare not give it voice? Is it money? Career? Addiction? Addiction in the family? Abuse? Anger? Kids moving away? Kids moving back in? Lack of a relationship?

A relationship you'd rather not be in? Depression? Shuttling people like a taxi driver? Not being able to drive? Children's health? Parent's health? Too little time on your hands? Too much time on your hands?

**You are not alone. There is something very profound in being able to be with others so that they are not alone. And this is what the church does. Jesus said, "I am with you always."**

While I was in the most fragile state, even as I felt alone; I knew that God was there. God was there in the people I could call upon. God was there in the neighbor I hadn't yet met who texted my landlord offering to pick up groceries for me. God was there in your prayers and well-wishes for me. I have my church and I have my faith.

How can Centre Church walk with others? Maybe the need isn't your own, but is that of a friend, family member or colleague. If you find this thought-provoking, I wonder what programs, talks, or discussions would make a difference to you or someone you know?

So often, we say we're "fine"...even when we're not. Let's ask the questions, "How are you doing?" and "How can we, as Centre Congregational Church, a gathered Body of Christ, help in the healing process?" How can we show people that God is here...and God is there for them?

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle

### **In the Sanctuary**



*June 12, 2016*

#### ***Celebration Sunday – 10:00 a.m.***

Children and Youth will participate  
Special Music by the Joyful Noise Choir  
Recognition of High School Graduates  
Recognition of Church School Volunteers  
Followed by Ice Cream Social

### **In the Chapel**

June 19, 2016

Chapel Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.  
Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones  
10:00 Nursery (up to age 3)  
10:00 Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library

June 26, 2016

Chapel Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.  
Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones  
10:00 Nursery (up to age 3)  
10:00 Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library

### **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. Paggers are available for all parents.

Beginning on June 19, worship will move to the Chapel. We will continue offering nursery care during the summer months with the exception of Sunday, July 3 and Sunday, Sept. 4

#### **Godly Play**

June 12: ALL children and youth, leaders, doorkeepers and nursery care givers are invited to join us for a special Celebration Sunday! Our children and youth will be participating in the worship service. There will be a recognition of all volunteers as well as our High School graduates.

A very special Ice Cream Social will be held on the front lawn following the service.

### **Summer Program for Ages 4 and Older**

Beginning Sunday, June 19, we are excited to be offering a Summer Sunday Kids Camp. Each Sunday during worship, children ages 4 and up are invited to join us in the Library for Bible stories, crafts, games and snack. We hope your family will join in the faith-filled fun.

### **The Food Project Work Day 6/18**

Please join Outreach Ministries volunteering at The Food Project (TFP) in Lynn on the morning of Sat. June 18<sup>th</sup>. TFP grows produce for [community supported agriculture](#) programs, [farmers' markets](#), and to donate to local [hunger relief organizations](#). TFP also employs youth who participate in all of this, giving them valuable job experiences and a personal connection to our food system and issues of food justice.

All ages are invited to participate in this morning of working on the land as we learn more about TFP and their local mission. We'll carpool from the church, meeting at 8:30 am. Please contact Linda Ladd ([ladd@neb.com](mailto:ladd@neb.com)) for more info. And feel free to invite friends! We have many slots available.

**Golfing with God:** If you are interested in a round of golf each Thursday morning at 7 a.m., our golf group will be at Reedy Meadow course. Contact Randy Russell 781-334-5766 or Jeff Langill 781-334-5504 for more information.

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

We extend our love and sympathy to the Mauser family upon the death of Kam's father, Kamden D. Mauser of Phoenix, NY on May 25. His funeral was held on June 3.

Our love and prayers are with Centre Church's custodian, Tony Ramirez, upon the recent death of his sister Cary Ramirez Pagan of Miami.



### **Congratulations Graduates!**

Congratulations to our High School Graduates:

Leigh Claflin, Lynnfield  
Olivia Costello, Lynnfield  
Kelly Look, Lynnfield  
Elizabeth Miller, Essex Aggie  
Rebecca Sievers, Lynnfield  
Hayley Timmons, Lynnfield  
Rachelle Votano, Peabody  
Abigail Weaver, Lynnfield

Congratulations to Alex Kihiczak who recently graduated from High School in Los Angeles. His proud mother is Kirsten Boling Kihiczak.

Congratulations to Andrew Decker upon his graduation with a J.D. degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

We congratulate Evan Wendt who recently graduated from Tyngsborough High School.

### **Care Team**

The Biblical Book of Galatians invites us to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal 6:2) and to that end, Centre Church now has a Care Team. The Care Team will assist Rev. Estelle with pastoral care, particularly in visitation. The hope is that as Centre's Care Team grows, so too, will the range of possibilities including calls, cards and/or setting up meals during times of illness or crisis. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED and TRAINING IS PROVIDED. A simple commitment of one hour per month is all that is necessary.

- Do you drive? *You could visit someone.*
- Social media savvy? Perhaps *you can set up Meal Trains.*
- Homebound? *You can make calls and send cards* to others,
- Have room in your car? *You could bring someone to church.*

Your presence will make a difference and you will find that you get back significantly more than you give.

The next Care Team meeting is Thursday, July 7 at 3:15 in the Pastor's outer office.

### **Celebrating Centre Church: Past, Present and Future**

We will soon be lighting a 3 wick candle as part of our worship service. We'll lift up something we appreciate about Centre Church from the past; we'll lift up a current ministry; and we'll lift up a hope for the future of Centre Church. The candle is a reminder of God's presence with us throughout our journey. What sacred moments can YOU share from times past? What makes YOU smile when you think of Centre Church today? What hopes do YOU have for this church moving forward? Please consider sharing a sentence with the congregation in an upcoming worship service!

### **Concerts on the Common**

Exciting news! Centre Church will be on site for Concerts on the Common this July. We'll have church information and some type of giveaway items. This is a wonderful opportunity to be where the people are, to put a 'face' on Centre Church, and to share information about our fantastic faith community! Special thanks to Bob MacKendrick for connecting us with Rotary for these shows!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to staff our table from approximately 5-7:00 PM on the following Wednesdays: July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27. We need just two volunteers per week. Rev. Estelle will also be there. If you can help out on one of these Wednesdays, please let Susan in the office know: [Office@Centre-Church.org](mailto:Office@Centre-Church.org) or 781-334-3050.

### **No Bread and Roses in July!**

Due to the Holiday week, our many volunteers will not be available to prepare our July meal for Bread and Roses. In place of our meal, we will send a check covering the cost of the meal that we usually prepare. We will resume our usual Bread and Roses meal preparation on Wednesday, August 3. Thank you to all our meal preparers, brownie makers, grocery shoppers and food delivery people. It takes many hands to make this wonderful outreach work!

- Margaret Waugh

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. June 12</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Celebration Sunday - Sanctuary</b> Children & Youth Leading Worship Ice Cream Social – Front Lawn Missions/Outreach Meeting – Sanct.
	11:00 am	
Mon. June 13	7:30 pm	Deacons – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. June 16	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. June 17	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sat. June 18	8:30 am	The Food Project (TFP) - Lynn
<b>Sun. June 19</b> <b>CHAPEL</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship - Chapel</b> Nursery - Room 11 Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library
Thurs. June 23	7:00 am	Golfing with God – Reedy Meadow
Fri. June 24	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Office
Sat June 25	10:00 am	Sensory/Autism Friendly Movie – Burlington AMC Theater
<b>Sun. June 26</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel</b> Nursery – Room 11 Summer Sunday Kids Camp-Library

**Chapel Worship Services begin on June 19 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Church Office Hours during the summer are 9-12.**

***Tower Notes* will be published  
the last week of June, July and August.**

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: Rev. Estelle Margarones as she recuperates from shoulder surgery.

We also remember in our prayers the following members and friends who are unable to be with us today: Harriet Holt, Bruce Gist, Barkey Gulezian, Bob Hanson, Edie Richard, Bob Shorey, and Johnathan McCarthy deployed with the Marines.