

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

September 7, 2016

Dear Friends,

As summer draws to a close, I find myself thinking about the changes we encounter. The nights have recently become cooler and the days are a bit shorter. It was still mid-August when supermarket shelves were divested of the flags and beach balls in favor of pumpkins and Halloween candy. My garden has a few flowers, but most of them have gone to seed. I'm thinking of planting hardy mums, readily available everywhere.

Our school children and youth are going into new grades, perhaps even new schools. The high school seniors we lauded in May have already set up their dorm rooms and made new friends at college. Exchange students have come here for an immersion experience. Teachers have new classrooms and school nurses in our community have new schools.

We've had a few congregants move over the summer; some just a town or two away, some out of state. A few folks have just begun new jobs. And there have also been a few transitions from this earthly life to God's heavenly kingdom.

We're just getting ready to transition from the chapel back to the sanctuary where our worship will take on a bit of a different feel, with a full choir, children's messages, and a more formal presentation. Ministry Moments will continue in the sanctuary. We'll also be offering communion

later in the worship service and we'll welcome the children and youth back to share the sacrament.

Change abounds. Yet, throughout, there is a constant: God. God is steadfast through every transitional moment in our lives, offering hope, peace, and love. Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Rev. Estelle

In the Sanctuary

September 11, 2016

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones

Welcome Back Sunday

Blessing of the Backpacks
Nursery – up to age 3
Godly Play – age 4-2nd Grade - Todd Hall
Brick by Brick – 3rd-5th Grade – Room 22

September 18, 2016

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Estelle Margarones
Nursery – up to age 3
Godly Play – age 4 – 2nd Grade -Todd Hall
Brick by Brick – 3rd – 5th Grade –Room 22

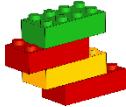
Welcome Back Sunday Sept. 11

At 10 am, children will go directly into Worship with their families for the Blessing of the Backpacks. There will be a special area in the front pews with some quiet activities for children that may find it hard to sit still for the beginning of worship. After Children's Time, the children will leave together with an adult who will lead them to the Godly Play Worship Center and to Brick by Brick. There will be a special welcome and orientation session offered. Children will be returning to Worship to sit with their families and participate in communion. Please be sure to fill out a registration form this Sunday.



Godly Play: We are excited to offer Godly Play as our Christian Education program for children ages 4 years through 2nd grade.

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.



Building Faith Brick by Brick:

This year we will be offering a special class for children in Grades 3 through 5 using the curriculum, "Building Faith Brick by Brick", an imaginative way to explore the Bible with children using LEGO® building bricks. It invites children to engage the Bible by creating the stories with their imagination and their own two hands. Children will begin in worship with their families, then leave for their class upstairs in Room 22.



Nursery: Our Church Nursery is fully staffed and ready to receive infants and children up to age 3 on Sunday mornings during worship time. Pagers are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents. The Nursery opens Sunday, Sept. 11 and will be staffed every Sunday through June. We welcome back Alicia Dwyer, as our Nursery Care provider. Alicia will be in the Nursery each Sunday and will be assisted by experienced High School caregivers.



Children and youth are invited to participate in a special "Blessing of the Backpacks", that will be part of the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, September 11. School-age children and youth are asked to bring their backpacks and book bags for which they would like a blessing, to the worship service. With this special blessing, Sunday will offer a time to celebrate the new beginnings and renewed energy that come with fall and a new school year.

Shareholders Dinner

The Shareholder's Dinner will be held, Sunday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. in Richards Hall. Come enjoy a delicious dinner (with McKinstry's Sweet Corn) and hear about our summer Mission Trip to Project H.O.M.E in Orland, ME. The participants of the trip will be your hosts. All are invited to attend.

Care Team

The next Care Team meeting is Tuesday, September 20th at 4:00 p.m. People with an interest in sharing support, care and encouragement are invited to join us in the Pastor's Office. We welcome those who can give an hour a month to visit with someone, make a few phone calls, or offer rides, etc.

Rev. Estelle

Lunch with the Pastor

We've got another Lunch with the Pastor date for September 21st at 11:30 (at the Senior Center) but we need to cap the number at 14 guests plus me for a total of 15 so that they don't have to turn away any of their regulars. First come, First served. We can take a waiting list in case anyone cancels at the last minute.

Rev. Estelle

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Reports of Officers and Ministry Teams
2. Presentation and Approval of the 2016 to 2017 Budget
3. Election of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions
4. Remembrance of Deceased Members
5. Recognition of 50 Year Members

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Night in Bethlehem Photos Wanted

Christmas will be here before you know it! In preparation for the Christmas season, Roy Sorli is planning to put together a promotional video and we'd love your help. If you have photos of Night in Bethlehem from years past, would you be willing to share them for a collage video background? If they're digital, you can send them to Events@centre-church.org and if they are actual photos, you can bring them in on a Sunday to be scanned. We'd like the background completed by October 15th.

Rev. Estelle

29th Annual Walk for Hospice

This event is sponsored by Care Dimensions who have provided end-of-life care for the terminally ill and invaluable support for their families for many years. This 3 mile walk is on Sunday, October 2nd beginning at 8 a.m. (a special time for those who would like to be able to attend church on that day.) Walkers and Teams are welcome to gather at St. John's Prep., 72 Spring St., Danvers.. For more information visit www.caredimensions.org or speak with Linda Ladd of the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team.

Ministry Moment - Get Together Wheel

There's a secret treasure hidden inside Centre Congregational Church that you may not know about. It's the women's Get Together Wheel which meets once monthly from September through May. Every woman who attends our church is welcome to join. You'll enjoy a delicious dessert prepared by a member, followed by a variety of programs. Jo Farnsworth may lead us in armchair exercises to keep us limber, or Lillian Foulds could 'wow' us with one of her fabulous 'make it and take it' projects. There might be a speaker from our group or community sharing a hobby, special interest or event. There's always time to chat with others, getting better acquainted with folks you only see briefly on Sundays. Who knows -- a kindred spirit may be waiting for you there. F

Friendship is a gift that can't be bought or sold. You'll find it at the Get Together Wheel where there will always be a welcome for you. Our meetings are usually on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Our first meeting of the year will be a Potluck Salad Luncheon, held on Tuesday, September 27 at 12:00 p.m. There is handicap access to the Fireside Room from the parking lot behind the church. If you have questions, call Donna Marino (781-581-2022) or Carol Carter (978-717-5563). Watch the church bulletin and mailings for details.



Thanks to Our Volunteers

September 11:

Ushers: Gage Whittier, Annmarie Pendola, Doreen DiFillippo, Dominic Donadio.

Ministry Moment: Deb Trifletti – Care Team
Lights Out (Sept. 9) – Dwight Decker

September 18:

Ministry Moment: Linda Ladd – Missions and Outreach

Lights Out (Sept. 16) – Dave Bjorkman

Our Opportunities

Sun. Sept. 11	10:00 am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Godly Play – Todd Hall Brick by Brick – Room 22
Tues. Sept. 13	7:30 pm	Diaconate – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. Sept. 15	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept. 18	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Godly Play – Todd Hall Brick by Brick – Room 22 Missions/Outreach Mtg - Sanctuary Shareholders Dinner - Richards
Tues. Sept. 20	4:00 pm	Care Team – Pastor’s Office
Wed. Sept. 21	11:30 am	Lunch with Pastor – Sr. Center
Fri. Sept. 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Sept. 25	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Godly Play – Todd Hall Brick by Brick – Room 22 Annual Meeting - Sanctuary
Tues. Sept. 27	12:00 pm	Get Together Wheel Luncheon
Thurs. Sept. 29	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Sept. 30	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2nd Floor Office

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 Janice Miller Dance Company, and the New England Pastoral Institute Counseling Services. Please feel free to contact the church office if you would like more information about any of these activities or groups. (781-334-3050 or office@centre-church.org)

Church Office Hours are 9-3 Monday – Friday.

Tower Notes will be published every other week.