

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

October 5, 2016

Dear friends,

I have a lot of words running through my mind lately. Here're a few: consider, convenience, choice, challenge, and clarity. We've just begun the Search process and we'll continue to **consider** the needs of this congregation as it is and as it will be in the years to come. We'll also consider the needs of the community, now and into the future. In the 8 months I've been here, I've seen subtle changes in the demographics as older folks move to assisted living, retirees move to warmer climates, and young families move to town.

Convenience calls to mind "user-friendliness". There was a time when, if you needed an oil change, you made an appointment with a car dealer or service station. Now, you can drive up to Jiffy Lube, 7 days a week, no appointment necessary, and be out within 20 minutes. Today, with online banking, you can pay your bills from home... in your PJ's... at midnight. Today, you can get your bachelor's, master's or even a doctorate with convenient evening, weekend, and online courses. Associate Conference Minister Wendy Vander Hart shared with us that the reason church is at 10:00 on Sunday was to work around the cow-milking schedule of years past. The church worked around people's schedules years ago. I wonder, how can church be more convenient today? (And might it even involve worship beyond the building?! Could it involve technology?!)

Choice is something I wrestle with as a church pastor. Never before has there been so much personal choice and so many options for those choices! Do you like music? Okay, there's broadcast

radio, satellite radio, Spotify, Pandora, CDs, and your iPod. There was a time when a phone was just for making calls. Now you can make calls and send and receive texts, email, play music, watch a movie, and play games.

When I was younger, we had 3 TV networks and PBS. Today, there's the Travel Channel, History Channel, Lifetime, reality shows, game shows, soap operas, music channels, national news, local news, comedy channels, cartoon channels, and multiple rerun channels. TVs are smarter today—you can get a guide right on the screen and leap from one show to the next. Or watch two shows at the same time with picture in picture. Or record one while watching another. How do we be broad enough to welcome all, yet narrow enough to allow for individual choice?

What are the **challenges** people are facing today and how can we best help? While the gospel has long encouraged us to provide for the most fragile of society, those on the fringes continue to grow. In addition to hunger and homelessness, we're also grappling with such things as learning disabilities, human trafficking, adult literacy, navigating quality care for seniors, etc... ***We are a uniquely poised group of caring individuals seeking to make God's love and justice tangible in the world!***

Clarity is an ongoing process. The Holy Spirit is at work here at Centre Church! Church is people, not a building. Imagine with me that we have no building, no organ, no preacher in a robe, and no hymnals. How then, will we 'do' church? What does it mean to 'be' church? And what lessons might that exercise in imagination yield for us in terms of how we minister to the world? Thanks for being part of the process!

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle

In the Sanctuary

October 9, 2016

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones

Nursery ((up to age 5) – Room 11

Older Children attend church with their families.

October 16, 2016

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sacrament of Baptism

Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones

Nursery, Godly Play and Brick by Brick

October 23, 2016

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sermon by the Rev. Estelle Margarones

Nursery, Godly Play, Brick by Brick

Sunday Morning with the Children

Godly Play

Godly Play is our church school curriculum for children PreK-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. Children begin in worship with their families and after Children's Time will be escorted to the Godly Play Worship Center which is located on the stage area in Todd Hall. Parents are asked to pick up children at 11:15am by coming to the side door of the stage which is located at the bottom of the stairs by the chapel.

Building Faith Brick by Brick, 3rd-5th grade

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. Paggers are available to ensure Nursery Caregivers can easily communicate with parents.

Youth Group at Centre Church

All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to attend our opening meeting on Sunday, October 16 at 6 pm in Richard's Hall. We will all enjoy pizza together and learn about upcoming youth group activities. We will be putting together care packages for our college freshman. Parents should plan to join us at 7:15 pm for a brief overview of the year ahead. Please bring along your calendars, as we will be asking you to sign up to chaperone and provide a meal or two throughout the year.

College Addresses Needed

The Youth Group will be making up care packages for our college freshmen. Please call the church office or e-mail christianed@centre-church.org with the information so that we can send our packages off to students.

Tower Notes Schedule is Changing

The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of October 17. Beginning in November the *Tower Notes* will be published once a month.

Wine Tasting With Peking and the Mystics

Save the Date!

Membership Ministries is hosting

A Wine Tasting with entertainment by the world famous A Capella group: Peking and the Mystics.

It will be held on Friday October 21, 2016

From: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The Wine Tasting is to be held in the Narthex and the Fireside Room. The event will be open to church members and friends who might be interested in some great entertainment. Hors-d'oeuvres will be provided. Water and soda will also be provided – to cleanse your pallet.

Reminder: Yankee Candle Orders need to be placed by Sunday, October 9. You may order online at www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and entering our group number: 990016890. Call Debby Cotting 781-593-3120 for more information.



Donation of the Month is:
Blankets & plastic grocery bags!
Collected in the Missions Pantry

Missions Pantry: Shaw's Stamps

If you shop at Shaw's and are not collecting their cookware stamps for yourself, we can direct them to an organization which will put them to good use. Various homeless shelters use these stamps to gather free cookware sets for families leaving shelters for their own apartments. You can help by taking the stamps when they are offered – you don't need to stick them in the little book, we'll take care of that. Please just put them in the "Shaw's Stamps" envelope in the Missions Pantry. We'll be collecting through January 8th. Thank you!

Thank You from the Hanson Family for the many visits and flowers from the calling committee for Bob Hanson at CareOne in Peabody for the past year. Your thoughts and prayers have helped our family during a very difficult time.

Sincerely, Pat Hanson,
Amy Anson-Kuleszka & Beth Hanson

Conversations for Caring

Finding Balance:

Supporting "Sandwich Generation" Caregivers

Tuesday, Oct. 11 - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Greater Lynn Senior Services

8 Silsbee Street, Lynn

To Register: Call 781-586-8620 or

Email dcollier@glass.net

Save the Date

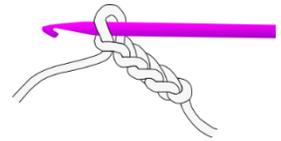
Sunday, October 22, 2016 – 3:00 p.m.

A Choral Festival celebrating 200 years of City

Mission Society's good work.

Old South Church, Boston

New Life for Old Bags



Your help is needed to repurpose plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless. Volunteers will sort bags and fold them to create 'plarn' (plastic yarn) and crochet them into sleeping mats. By participating, you'll create a practical item for those in need from materials that otherwise pose an environmental issue.

Most discarded plastic bags end up in landfills—for many, many years. Plastic bags, found in our oceans, harm or kill marine wildlife. Plarn can be made out of almost any type of plastic bags as long as they are clean. The plastic bags that you get at checkout at any of the grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies, mall stores all will work. Many of the stores have different colored bags which add to the variety of the finished mats.

The finished mats will be approximately three feet wide by six-feet long. Each mat takes from 500-700 bags to complete. They are fairly water resistant and will provide a barrier from moisture from the ground as well as being softer than lying just on concrete or the hard ground."

There are many ways to contribute to the New Life for Old Bags Project.

- Collect and save your plastic bags and bring them into Centre Church
- Help cut the bags into strips. Connect them together and roll into balls
- Crochet the 'plarn' into sleeping mats

Join us on Thursday, Oct 20th at 1:00 p.m. in the church library to get this project started.

We will also plan an evening gathering. You may also work on plarning on your own, instructions will be provided.

Contact Kathi Martin at 781-245-2409 or Barbara Langill at 781-334-5504 to let us know if you plan on attending or have any questions about this project.

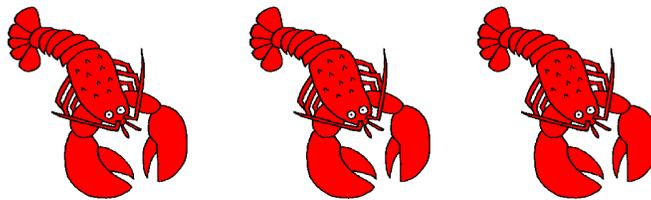
Ministry Moment - Joyful Noise

Joyful Noise is the children's music program here at CCC run by Lauren Donadio and Jill DiGiorgio. We had a great time last year learning about music and faith and sharing performances with the entire congregation. Children ages 3 and up are welcome to join us and all levels of musical ability are encouraged and included. Some members like to just dance along, shout out with joy, or sing to the Lord! We use movement to help enhance our performance and may even get some homemade instruments in!

This year, we will plan to present our music to the congregation about once a season, starting with a performance to be determined around Thanksgiving. Rehearsals will be held on the two Sundays before a performance at 11:30 in the Sanctuary. Our first rehearsal will be October 9th so we can get to know the children and families. We will collect email addresses so all families can be updated about rehearsals and we can send lyrics/music to those who can't make rehearsal, but would still like to be part of the performance.

If you have any questions about Joyful Noise, please see either Lauren Donadio or Jill DiGiorgio. It is such a wonderful opportunity for our children to be part of the worship service and discover how music can help deepen our faith and fun at church!

~Lauren Donadio



"Lobsta" Roll Sunday Sunday October 23rd, 2016

Only \$12.00 Each

Please make checks payable to: **Centre Congregational Church**

Lobsta Rolls will be available for pick up after Sunday Services, around 11:30 AM.

Lobsta Roll Order Form

Pre-order lobster rolls by Noon on Monday October 17th

Check to Centre Congregational Church with form.

(Return reservation to the church office during the week)

LOBSTER ROLL ORDER: (\$12 each) – Pick Up Sunday Oct. 23rd

Name _____ How Many? _____

WITHOUT Mayo? YES

Help Your Neighbor Days – October 22 and 23

Could you use help replacing some ceiling bulbs or smoke detector batteries? Do you have a TV remote, answering machine, or clock which needs to be programmed? Is there something that needs doing but it's just too dangerous to reach or too heavy to move? On the other side of these questions, **are you capable of doing these and other similar small chores?** Outreach Ministries would like to connect helpers with "helpees". Please contact Linda Ladd (617-957-0764 or ladd@neb.com) if you have small chores which need doing or are available to do some of these on the weekend of October 22 and 23. Other dates will be planned as necessary. As a church family, we like helping each other!

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 9	10:00 am 11:30 am 11:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery (up to age 5) – Room 11 Older children in church Joyful Noise Rehearsal - Sanctuary Deacons Meeting – Pastor's Office
Mon. Oct. 10	-----	Office Closed for Columbus Day
Wed. Oct. 12	7:00 pm	Search Committee – Pastor's Ofc.
Thurs. Oct. 13	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 14	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sun. Oct. 16	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Godly Play– Todd Hall Brick by Brick – Room 22 Youth Group – Richards Hall
Thurs. Oct. 20	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Planning Project - Library Choir – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 21	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office Wine Tasting – Narthex/Fireside Rm.
Sun. Oct. 23	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Room 11 Godly Play– Todd Hall Brick by Brick – Room 22
Wed. Oct. 26	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor's Office
Thurs. Oct. 27	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Oct. 28	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.

Church Office Hours are 9-3 Monday – Friday.
The next *Tower Notes* will be the week of Oct. 17
Once-a-Month *Tower Notes* will begin in November.