

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Jamie R. Howard, Bridge Interim Pastor, PastorJamie@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 24, 2017

A View From the Bridge

In preparing for the memorial service for Helen Butcher, I asked my customary question of family: For what were you thankful in Helen? One of the qualities that they mentioned was that of encourager.

That definitely appeals to me. I have long felt that our world needs far more encouragers. I imagine you have noticed that the comments of "what went wrong" or "you shouldn't have done that" or "it'll never work" can arise much more readily than the words of appreciation or encouragement. We seem to take things for granted when all goes well, but when something is amiss, we are all over it in a heartbeat.

For years I have made a practice in my life of offering smiles to strangers on the street, extra thank-you comments to service people, a "how is your day going?" to a clerk or barista or teller (with a pause and a presence that lets the person know I am seriously asking the question and care about their answer), a smile and thanks for the toll-collector, a word of appreciation for someone's work or bright apparel or whatever.

People are disarmed and surprised by kindness and connection. That tells me it's even more needed than I've imagined. It takes so little of

your time and effort, and it can have ripple effects that help others as well.

Try it for a day, a conscious effort to offer kindness, appreciation, encouragement wherever you go and to whomever you meet. Reflect on your experiences. You just might develop a whole new practice yourself. And you will make a difference.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jamie

IN THE SANCTUARY

April 30, 2017

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Jamie R. Howard

"Just Keep Showing Up"

Luke 24:13-35

May 7, 2017

10:00 A.M. Holy Communion
Sermon by Rev. Jamie R. Howard

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

Acts 2:42-47

Sunday Morning with the Children

Nursery

The Nursery has relocated to a light, bright, airy space in the church library. The new space offers lots of safe, age-appropriate toys and play areas for infants and toddlers ages 0-3. As always, the Nursery is staffed by caring professionals and volunteers. Parents are able to check out pagers so they can be alerted during worship if anything comes up with their little ones.

Godly Play

On Sunday, April 30 children will begin in worship with their families and then leave after Children's Time for Godly Play. Godly Play will end at **11:15 am**. Parents are asked to come to the side door of the stage which is located at the bottom of the back staircase. Children will be dismissed one at a time.

Building Faith Brick by Brick

Children in grades 4 and up are invited to attend the Brick by Brick class which will meet on Sunday, April 30. Children will begin in worship with their families, then will be dismissed for class which is held upstairs in Room 22.

On May 6, children in grades Pre-K to 6th grade will begin in worship, then leave for a special all grade activity. They will return to worship for Communion and sit with their families.

Easter Flowers

The flower committee is very grateful to everyone who helped with the Easter flowers. Thank you to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Designs for providing the beautiful plants and to those who donated them. A special thank you to the group of volunteers who delivered the plants to our shut in and bereaved church members. All of your help made the sanctuary pop with color on Easter Sunday.

Stewardship – Tower Notes

Stewardship extends a big thank-you to all the folks who have returned their pledge cards. Everyone's pledge is important and vital to supporting the ministry of Centre Church. If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a pledge card, just contact the church office.

Crafters on the Common

Celebrate spring and support Centre Church's 3rd annual Crafters on the Common on Saturday, May 13 from 10 AM to 3 PM. You'll find unique jewelry, quilted bags, original art, spring and summer wreaths, and so much more!! Countryside Deli will be on hand to provide luncheon items.

Save the Date! – June 11 “Lobsta” Roll Super Sunday

Lobsta Rolls will be available for pick up after church that day. Only \$12 each.
Order forms will be in the next *Tower Notes*.



Flea Market & Bake Sale - Saturday, May 20

Sponsored by Christian Education and Membership. Profits will go to the Youth Group Trip and the Church Budget. (The event will take place on the front lawn of the Church. In the event of rain, indoor space will be available.)

Flea Market tables may be rented by Church Members at a reduced rate of \$25. Please contact the Church Office [781-334-3050] or Chuck Cotting [781-593-3120]

We are looking for **volunteers** to provide individually-wrapped goodies for the **Bake Sale!** A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

We are also looking for **Flea Market volunteers** to help set up in the morning, staff the church tables throughout the day and help clean up after the event. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Please bring your Flea Market **TREASURES** to the church between **Sunday, May 14 and Saturday, May 20**. (We do not have space to take them any earlier.) Please place them in the Narthex Closet. Unfortunately we will not be able to save any items. They will either be given away or disposed of.

Thank you!

Christian Education & Membership

Farm Volunteers Needed on May 6th

We will be working on The Food Project farm in Lynn on Saturday, May 6. We'll meet at the church at 8:45 am and should be back by 1:00 pm. Please contact Linda Ladd at ladd@neb.com or 781-334-6170.

Great Strides Walk on May 7th



We're registered for the Great Strides against Cystic Fibrosis walk around Lake Quannapowitt at noon on Sunday May 7th. Please join our team or make donations to our team at: fightcf.cff.org/goto/Centre_Church and contact Linda Ladd if you need a Centre Church shirt to wear while walking.

You can register for free and don't need to raise any individual money although each walker who raises \$100 will receive a Great Strides T-shirt that day.

News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Chad and Ashley Lucia Jennings of Melrose upon the birth of a son, Chase Daniel Jennings on March 15. His proud grandparents and Judi and Tony Lucia.

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Stanley Rossier of Lee, MA following a long illness. There will be a Memorial Service at The First Congregational Church in Lee on Saturday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Our love and sympathy are with Joe and Chris Gehret and their family upon the death of Chris' mother, Avis Evans on April 17. A Memorial Service was held on April 21 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lynnfield.

Bits 'n Pieces

We are returning to sending out Tower Notes every other week. If you do not currently receive your copy by email and would like to, please notify the church office at office@centre-church.org. You could help us save paper and preparation time by doing that.



Ladies Tea on May 21

The date has been changed for our Ladies Tea and discussion with Muslim women in our community. The gathering will be held in the Fireside Room on Sunday, May 21 at 3 pm. All ladies of the church and friends are invited. Please RSVP to Linda Ladd, ladd@neb.com or 781-334-6170.

Mission and Outreach

Mission Closet Collections: We are still collecting breakfast cereal and canned fruit through the end of April and will collect pasta and canned sauce in May, all for Haven from Hunger. We are no longer collecting redeemable bottles and cans or plastic grocery bags. Thank you!

Signup Sheets: can be found on the M&O bulletin board for serving meals at Haven from Hunger and gathering people to do some local fundraising walks as a Centre Church Team.

The Postal Food Drive: is on Saturday, May 13th. All you need to do is put canned goods in a bag and leave it by your mail box that Saturday morning. Your letter carrier will probably leave you a collection bag sometime during the week before. Please be generous. This is an easy way to help our hungry neighbors.



Tower Day School continues to be enrolled in the Box Tops for Education program. Look for and clip the bright pink box tops from many popular food, apparel, food storage, and paper product packages. Put your collected box tops in a plastic bag and bring them to the collection basket on the table in the narthex. Each box top turned in is worth 10 cents to Tower Day. With everyone collecting, they add up fast!

Our Opportunities

Sun. April 30	10:00 am 11:15 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Godly Play & Brick by Brick Deacons Meeting – Pastor’s Office
Wed. May 3	8:30 am	Bread & Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. May 4	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. May 5	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. May 6	9am-1pm	Giv2 Youth Food Project
Sun. May 7	10:00 am 11:30 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery PreK-6 th Grade Group Activity Great Strides Walk - Wakefield
Mon. May 8	4:00 pm	Care Team – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. May 11	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. May 12	10:30 am	Bible Study – 2 nd Floor Office
Sat. May 13	All day 10am-3pm	Postal Service Food Drive Crafters on the Common
Sun. May 14	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Godly Play & Brick by Brick

Our thoughts and prayers are with Capt. Michael Bruce USMC currently deployed in Baghdad, Iraq.

Church Office Hours – 9am-3pm Tower Day School is Open 8:30am – 3pm.

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 Services. Please feel free to contact the church office if you would like more information about any of these activities or groups.
