

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

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

MAY 22, 2017

A View from the Bridge

Can you name someone who has been or remains a profoundly positive, nurturing, encouraging presence in your life?

At the May meeting of Lynnfield Clergy we heard from Lori Roscoe, Family Resource Recruiter with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. I was awed by the decades of faithful service she has rendered in a field that could cause severe burnout or significant discouragement in the face of the Sisyphean task (see my recent *Tower Notes* or Maundy Thursday poetry or any collection of classical mythology). Not only has Lori persevered, but she speaks in the spirit of hope and possibility.

That's where church folks can make a difference. While not everyone can take up the mantle of foster parent (and there are several kinds of foster parenting options), anyone can participate actively in a network of support for a foster family.

For example:

- Family A in Centre Church deliberates, decides, prepares, trains, and becomes a foster family.
- Family B commits to providing school supplies for the elementary-age child.
- Individual C and her son, who attends the same school that will be so new to the child, help the student get acquainted with adults and kids at school.
- Family D offers to take the foster family with them on a recreational outing.
- Individual E, who has grown children, offers to buy some much-needed clothing.
- Individual F organizes an initial network of meal preparers.

Or, if an infant is fostered:

- Family G subsidizes several months of diapers.
- Family H takes some training and is CORI'ed so they can take care of the baby for an evening so the foster parents have some respite time.
- Individuals I, J, and K organize a knitting/quilting group, not only to provide Family A's infant with colorful, warm blankets and outfits, but also to provide some for other foster infants.

I imagine you can think of other possibilities...

On Sunday, May 7, people in our congregation offered answers to a sermon question: "How will others know if you are a Christian?" They provided some qualities and some practical actions. Here is a very concrete, critically needed, practical option for a congregation.

Just putting it out there... And posting some information on church bulletin boards... And including contact information here so you can explore...

Lori.Roscoe@state.ma.us

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617-748-2000

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Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jamie

In the Sanctuary

May 28, 2017

10:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Jamie R. Howard
Acts 16: 16-40
“Freedom and Remembrance”

June 4, 2017

PENTECOST

You are invited to wear red (or gold or white,
if your prefer) to celebrate the Holy Spirit.
Sermon by Rev Jamie R. Howard
Acts 2:1-21
“The Bird’s Working!”

Sundays with the Children

Nursery

The Nursery (for infants and toddlers ages 0-3) has relocated to a light, bright, airy space in the church library 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.

Sunday, May 28, Flower Planting Sunday. All children, grades PreK-Grade 8, are invited to join us as we plant flowers outside the church. Please bring trowels, watering cans and wear garden-friendly clothes. Children will begin in worship with their families and then leave after Children’s Time.

Sunday, June 4, Children will begin in worship with their families, then head downstairs to Todd Hall to begin practicing for Celebration Sunday which will be held on Sunday, June 11. They will return to the Sanctuary to sit with their families for communion



Attention Joyful Noise Makers!

We will start rehearsing for our performances on Celebration Sunday. Rehearsals will be every Sunday after worship from now until Celebration Sunday (6/11).

Please feel free to contact Lauren Donadio or Jill DiGiorgio with any questions. See you then!

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Special Meeting of the Church will be held on Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Presentation and Approval of the 2017 to 2018 Temporary Operating Budget
2. Term extension of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions until the Annual Meeting in September.

Bruce Weaver, Moderator

Summer Program for Children 5 & Older

An Illustrated Compassion: Learning to Love Like God



We are excited to offer a new program for Faith Formation this summer which turns to scripture and looks for examples of God's compassion throughout the Bible, and also asks what it might look like for all of us to lead more compassionate lives.

Each Sunday there will be a simple but meaningful lesson focused around hearing a biblical story, reflecting on it with open questions and discussion, followed by a chance to create a piece of art based on the story.

Volunteers Needed for Summer Sundays

Calling all parents, parishioners, and teens! We have fun ideas planned for Summer Sunday School in July and August, but we need your help in making it a reality! No advance preparation is needed. All materials will be supplied for you.

If you are available to help with one or more Sundays this summer, please contact Barbara Langill in the church office or e-mail christianed@centre-church.org.

Graduations

Congratulations to Jessica DiFillippo who recently graduated from the University of Prince Edward Island’s Atlantic Veterinary College with a Dr. of Veterinary Medicine degree.

Congratulations to Katherine Decker who graduated from Simmons College with a Master of Science in Library and Information Science.

Mission and Outreach

Donation of the Month for May
Pasta, Canned Tomatoes and Sauce

Haven From Hunger Mondays

Dear Church family,

This year we promised Haven from Hunger that 4-6 volunteers would come once a month to help them cook, serve and clean up after a meal. Once a month seemed like a small commitment, especially when shared by the whole church family. However, we haven't had many volunteers for this. Upcoming Mondays are: 6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/27. This could be a nice date night or family event – a couple or parent(s) with middle or high school kids could easily be half our crew on one of these nights. Could you please check your calendars and sign up or email events@centre-church.org to claim one or more of these spots?

Thank you!

Linda Ladd for Mission and Outreach

Your Support is Much Appreciated!

Stewardship extends a big thank-you to all the folks who have returned their pledge cards. Everyone's pledge is vital to supporting the ministry of Centre Church. If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible. We need accurate pledge data to develop the church budget for the next fiscal year which begins on July 1. If you need a pledge card, just contact the church office.

Get Together Wheel

Our last meeting of the year will be on June 13 for lunch at Brothers Deli at 404 Main Street in Wakefield. We will meet in the church parking lot at 12 pm to car pool to the restaurant. Please call Lillian Foulds at 781-334-4574 if you would like to join us.

Blessings, Donna Marino 781-581-2022

Calling all CCCyclers

It's time to register for Reid's Ride. Please join us on this 28 mile bike ride from Lynnfield to Gloucester which raises funds to WIPE OUT cancers affecting Adolescents and Young Adults. The ride is on July 16th and \$75 early bird registration ends on June 1. Please join our team at <https://www.firstgiving.com/team/352725>

Ladies Tea on May 21st

The Fireside Room was filled to capacity on Sunday afternoon with women interested in learning about Islam and what it is like being Muslim in our community today. Many thoughtful questions were posed to our six Muslim guests who gave insightful and often humorous answers! We learned that many religious "rules" are wise suggestions dependent upon your situation and beliefs. Do you give something up for Lent? Fast during Ramadan? Wear a hijab? These are all personal choices reflective of your faith and situation in life. Once again we were reminded that all religions teach being good to others while on our path to Heaven.

Thank you to everyone involved in setup, cleanup and making treats for this Ladies Tea. It was a successful event thanks to you!

"Lobsta" Roll Super Sunday

Sunday June 11th, 2017



Only \$12.00 Each

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

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

Lobsta Roll Order Form

**Pre-order lobster rolls
by Noon on Monday June 5th**

Check to Centre Congregational Church with form.
(Return reservation to the church office ASAP.)

**LOBSTER ROLL ORDER: (\$12 each) –
Pick Up Sunday June 11th!**

Name _____

How Many? _____

WITHOUT Mayo? YES

Our Opportunities

Sun. May 28	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Children Plant Flowers on Lawn
Mon. May 29	-----	Church Office Closed Memorial Day
Tues., May 30	7:00 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. June 1	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. June 2	10:30 am	Bible Study – Fireside Room
Sun. June 4	10:00 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Older Children Group Activity
	11:00 am	Congregational Mtg. – Sanctuary
	11:30 am	Deacons – Pastor’s Office
Wed. June 7	8:30 am	Bread & Roses - Kitchen
Fri. June 9	10:30 am	Bible Study – Fireside Room
Sun. June 11	10:00 am	Celebration Sunday – Sanctuary Service led by Children and Youth
	11:30 am	Nursery – Library/Nursery Ice Cream Social – Front Lawn Lobster Roll Pickup

Our thoughts and prayers are with Earl Richard at Rosewood (22 Johnson St., Peabody) recuperating from a broken hip; and with Capt. Michael Bruce USMC currently deployed in Iraq.

Church Office Hours – 9am-3pm

The next issue of Tower Notes will be the week of June 5.

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.
