

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

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

JUNE 5, 2017

A View from the Bridge

From the Pastor

Lately I have pondered the subject of assumptions — I do from time to time — and the arenas in which assumptions can be made are many.

What happens when we assume:

- that all family members will want to do the same thing?
- that our word to a legislator won't make a difference?
- that the puppy we bought will always be cared for by the kids?
- that other people will pledge enough to support our life and work as a church, so we don't have to think about it?
- that a long list of accomplishments and activities is essential to our children's futures?
- that other friends will visit the person in the hospital, the nursing home, the prison?
- that the suit bought in view of weight to be lost will be worn in this lifetime?
- that our spouse or partner or children know that we love them?
- that family will know what to do without our creating a will?
- that good health is a given without our looking after it?
- that others know by our silence we disapprove of their actions?
- that weather for an outdoor event in New England will be sunny?
- that the work to prevent violence is best left only to a few community folk volunteering to explore it?
- that town meetings are really best left to the dedicated regulars?
- that our children will learn all they need to know about faith from Sunday School?
- that we don't have time to nurture our own Christian faith on a regular basis in communal worship and study year round?
- that we can't give up anything to read with our kids?
- that we can't give up anything to talk with our spouse or partner?
- that we can't set aside even five minutes – let alone fifteen – for silent, peaceful prayer or meditation or reflection (without creating a to-do list) each day?

I've made many of these assumptions at different times in my life. I'm willing to venture that you have, too. Summer is such a good time for growing things: maybe summer will be a good time to carry out some personal inventory to grow beyond our assumptions. May it be a fruitful season.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jamie

In the Sanctuary

June 11, 2017

Celebration Sunday – 10:00 a.m.

The children will show us what they have been learning in Godly Play and Brick by Brick Classes this year.

Special Music by Joyful Noise Choir
Recognition of High School Graduates
Recognition of Faith Formation Volunteers
Followed by an Ice Cream Social.

June 18, 2017

Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Sermon by Rev. Jamie R. Howard
“How To Be a Perfect Stranger” Part 1
Nursery (infants-age 4) – Nursery/Library
Summer Sunday School – Library

In the Chapel

June 25, 2017

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.

Sermon by Rev. Jamie R. Howard
“How To Be a Perfect Stranger” Part 2
Nursery (infants-age 4) – Nursery/Library
Summer Sunday School – Library



Celebrating Our High School Graduates

Join us on Sunday, June 11 as congratulate our High School Graduates:

Alison Carey, Madeleine Law
Laura Mucci, Matthew Seelig

“How To Be a Perfect Stranger”

Join us on June 18 and June 25 for a two-part sermon series by Pastor Jamie: “How To Be a Perfect Stranger.” Learning about the beliefs and practices of friends and neighbors who follow different religious traditions is always a valuable experience. In this present day, it can help us move from prejudice and fear to understanding and appreciation.

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 children up through age 4. As always, the nursery is staffed by caring professionals and volunteers. Parents may check out pagers so they can be alerted during worship if anything comes up with their little ones. The nursery will be open every Sunday during the summer.



Celebration Sunday, June 11

ALL children and youth, leaders, doorkeepers and nursery care givers are invited to join us for Celebration Sunday! Our children and youth will be participating in the worship service. Joyful Noise, our children’s choir, will give a special presentation. There will be a recognition of all volunteers as well as our High School graduates. An ice-cream social will be held on the front lawn following the service. Please join us as we celebrate.

Summer Sunday Program for Children 5 and up



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.

**Ongoing Mission Outreach
Opportunities**



Donation of the Month for June

Cans of Tuna Fish

Jars of Peanut Butter

*Please bring these much-needed food items to
the Missions Pantry.*

Haven From Hunger Mondays

Volunteers are needed to help make and serve meals at Haven from Hunger on the following Mondays: 6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/27. The Fourth Monday of each month could be a nice date night or family event for parent(s) with middle or high school youth.

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

Stewardship Reminder

If you usually pledge, but haven't submitted your pledge card yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Stewardship Ministries hopes that you continue to value and support the ministry of Centre Church.

If you haven't pledged in the past, but would like to pledge this year – there's still time! If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office.

Graduations

Congratulations to Jeffrey Lambe who recently graduated from the Univ. of Maine School of Law with a J.D. Degree. He is among the first graduates to receive a Certificate in Information Privacy Law.

Our congratulations to Becky Ladd who received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Bates College with majors in Math and Economics.

Congratulations to Emily Couillard who received her BAA from Pace University, Lubin School of Business in New York. She majored in Marketing, Advertising and Integrated Marketing Communications with a minor in Management. She is currently employed at oneQube, a marketing firm in NYC.

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

*Thank
You*

They say "Many Hands Make Light Work" and that is certainly the case with those of you who volunteer your time to help out with various tasks around the church. Your willingness to help in the Church Office, or deliver altar flowers on Sundays or be part of the Lights Out Team is much appreciated!! (and these are just a few of the ways people contribute to the life and mission of this church.) Thank You to all!

Our Opportunities

Sun. June 11	10:00 am	Celebration Sunday - Sanctuary Service led by Children and Youth Nursery – Library/Nursery Ice Cream Social – Front Lawn Lobster Roll Pickup
Mon. June 12	4:00 pm	Care Team – Fireside Room
Tues. June 13	12:00 pm	Get Together Wheel - Lunch
Fri. June 16	10:30 am	Bible Study – Fireside Room
Sun. June 18	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Summer Sunday School – Library
Tues. June 20	6:30 pm	Council – Pastor’s Office
Fri. June 23	10:30 am	Bible Study – Fireside Room
Sun. June 25 <i>Chapel</i>	10:00 am	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery – Library/Nursery Summer Sunday School – Library
Mon. June 26	3-6 pm	Group Volunteers at Haven from Hunger in Peabody
Fri. June 30	10:30 am	Bible Study – Fireside Room

Our thoughts and prayers are with Capt. Michael Bruce USMC currently deployed in Iraq and with the Search Committee as they continue their work.

Church Office Hours – 9 am – 12 pm

The next issue of Tower Notes will be the week of June 26.

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.
