

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

Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation, lwilson@centre-church.org

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear, Secretary

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

August 30, 2017

A View from the Bridge

Beloved in Christ,

You are close to engaging the new adventures that will unfold after we have finished crossing this bridge together. Making a covenant with a new pastor for a shared ministry is an exciting moment in a congregation's life, a time full of blessings all around.

My sojourn with you ends on 31 August, but my prayers for you will continue. I have been delighted to serve with you these five months; it has been a true blessing in my life. Thank you for sharing so readily in our times of worship, for bringing your hearts and minds, your spirit of compassion, and your sense of humor as well.

I give thanks for the Care Team, volunteers who check in with and respond to any folks who might need a little uplift, some practical help, some listening, a card, a note. The Care Team is an important part of your shared pastoral care as Centre Church. The ministry is confidential: a person's permission is sought before placing him/her with the Care Team's support, and "what is shared with Care Team stays with Care Team." If this is a ministry to which you could give some time (and the amount of time is at your discretion), do speak to your new pastor.

Centre Church's folks who serve in various leadership positions: officers, chairpersons, members of organized teams and ministry

groups: your readiness to offer dependable leadership and a plethora of personal skills, whether in programming, care, or physical stewardship of the building, is a tremendous gift. My hope is that more people in this congregation will discover ways in which they can join in offering their gifts as well, so that not only may tasks be shared but new and deepening relationships discovered.

To work again with Susan Spear and Barbara Langill and Doug Hodgkins, and to work with Noel Smith during summer worship has been a joy. And I am glad that I have been able to greet Laraine as she brings her talents and knowledge to begin her CE ministry here. Treasure your church staff; Centre Church is very blessed.

A particular blessing for me as we have been traveling over this bridge has been the joy and freedom of spirit I have felt within myself as we have shared in worship. I conclude forty years of ministry with a renewed and joyful heart.

Rejoice in your shared life, turn to God in all times and seasons with thankfulness for that Steadfast Presence, daily attune your common walk in faith to be in concert with the love and call of Jesus Christ, and delight in the wonder, comfort, and challenge that will come from God's Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jamie

In the CHAPEL

September 3, 2017

Exodus 3:1-15 and Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon by Jeffrey Langill

“Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me!”

All Children in Worship

In the SANCTUARY

September 10, 2017

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-14

Sermon by Jeffrey Langill

“Do You Know What Love Is?”

Nursery – Library/Nursery

Sunday School – Todd Hall

Faith Formation Ministry Team News and Information

New Director of Faith Formation: Larainne Wilson is thrilled to be joining us at Centre Church. Her email is: lwilson@centre-church.org

Name Change: The team formerly known as "Education Ministries" will now be called the "Faith Formation Ministry Team". In the larger body of the United Church of Christ, this change in language is becoming common. We can understand faith formation to be "an engaged process of learning and practice integrated throughout all aspects of congregational and daily life." This definition highlights the initiative and action we must take in our own faith formation, versus seeing it as something that is simply imparted by others. It will take some time to adjust to the new name, but we will get there!

The Faith Formation Ministry Team's next meeting is on **Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m.** We are looking for a few new members, particularly parents of children in grades 5 and above. See Larainne Wilson or Jill DiGiorgio if you are interested!

Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for folks to serve as volunteers to serve on the Faith Formation Ministry Team, Nursery, Sunday School (various roles), Youth Group, Intergenerational Events, Assisting with material preparation and organization etc... There are roles that can fit into any schedule!

Sunday School



On **Sunday, September 3rd**, all children are welcome to be in worship (in the Chapel) with their families. There will be activity sheets available.

On "**Welcome Back Sunday**", **September 10th**, we will hold a "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the service -- we encourage all school aged children and youth to bring their backpacks to service for a blessing on September 10th.

After Children's Time we will meet for a fun group activity as a whole group in the Godly Play area.

Also, registration forms for Nursery, Sunday School and Youth Group are due!

After the service on Sept. 10, we will have "Lemonade on the Lawn with Larainne."

On **Sunday, September 17th**, we will have a Godly Play Orientation and officially begin our Sunday School programming.

Sunday School Choices -- Any parent of a student in Grades 3 or above will be asked to choose between "Godly Play" and "Brick-By-Brick" for their child. A description of both programs will be going out to all parents with a Welcome Letter and Registration forms.

Youth Group



Youth Group will meet once per month and will also be participating in Giv2 (Give Squared) activities monthly.

We are looking for parent volunteers to host the Youth Group Meeting (pizza and an activity) at the church. Larainne will be putting together a schedule of meetings and events.

A Note from Laraine
Starting School and Church

Hopefully, you've had some time to have fun with your child(ren) this summer! Starting a new school and church year can be very exciting, but it also produces anxiety in many children. This is completely normal, but isn't always easy to manage. So many new things start in September that it is hard to keep up with it all. Remember that the adjustment takes time and that your child may be more anxious in the next couple of weeks. Be patient with yourself and with them -- try to enjoy these last days of summer doing something fun. You can also begin to ease your child into getting ready for school -- gradual earlier bedtimes and wake-ups, reviewing the schedule or known information and helping them to organize their school supplies. All of these small ways to prepare will ultimately help with the adjustment.

For any of the Faith Formation related items, please see
Laraine Wilson (lwilson@centre-church.org)
or Jill DiGiorgio (jilldigorgio@yahoo.com).

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Ann Bishop who died on August 13. Her funeral was held in Wakefield, officiated by Rev. Jamie Howard.

From the Mailbox

To the Centre Congregational Church Family, I wish to thank all of you for attending Barkey's Celebration of Life. It meant so much to us as a family to see the outpouring of affection each and every one had for him. He truly was a good Christian and practiced his faith in his daily living.

Thank you, Deacons and Deaconesses, for all you did to make the service and collation a successful celebration of Barkey's life.

All my best, Meg

The Becker and Biagioni family would like to thank everyone for their concerns and prayers for Capt. Michael Bruce while he was deployed. Michael has returned to California where he is stationed at Camp Pendleton. A special thanks to Jaime for showing us so much love and caring.



Yankee Candle Fundraiser
Sept. 17 – Oct. 15
Stay tuned for more information

SUPER SATURDAY for UCC Churches
of MA, CT, and RI Conferences

October 21 8:00-3:45

Keefe Technical High School in Framingham

An event to assist local churches which includes 51 workshops as well as a Marketplace, optional lunchtime activities, and a Children's Program (a Vacation Bible School model)

REGISTRATION – including for Children's Program – DEADLINE October 7!!! For details check www.MACUCC.ORG/SS-October 2017

This is an invaluable resource for churches like Centre Church, and how timely for us as we begin a new church year and a new shared ministry! We need volunteers to attend and bring back the treasure!

Keynote Speaker's Workshop: "Is your congregation interested in becoming an immigrant welcoming and/or sanctuary congregation?" Led by The Rev. Noel Andersen.

Additional Workshops being offered include a wide variety:

- Care and Wellness
- Church Vitality
- Community
- The Environment
- Faith Formation/Christian Education
- Justice & Witness
- Leadership
- Open and Affirming
- Racial Justice
- Spirituality
- Stewardship
- Worship
- Youth and Family

Check out the website for details of all of these workshops and let us know if there is a topic that appeals to you.



Want to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey?

Centre Church is collecting funds to be sent on to the UCC Disaster Relief Fund. Just make out a check to Centre Church and mark it "Hurricane Harvey" in the memo line. We will forward it. All \$\$ raised will go directly toward disaster relief.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Sept. 3	10:00 am	Morning Worship - <u>Chapel</u> All Children in worship.
Mon. Sept. 4	-----	Office Closed for Labor Day
Wed. Sept. 6	8:30 am	Bread & Roses – Kitchen
Thurs. Sept. 7	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sun. Sept. 10 <i>Welcome Back Sunday!!</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Worship – <u>Sanctuary</u> Blessing of Backpacks Nursery – Library/Nursery Church School – Todd Hall Lemonade on the Lawn with Larainne
Sun. Sept. 17	10:00 am	Morning Worship – <u>Sanctuary</u> Nursery – Library/Nursery Godly Play Orientation

Church Office Hours – 9 am – 3 pm Mon-Fri

*The next issue of Tower Notes
will be the week of September 11.*
