

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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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*

**September 11, 2017**

## News from the Pastoral Search Committee

We are pleased to announce that we have found an excellent fit for our open settled pastor position! After many months of reviewing ministerial profiles and interviewing candidates, as well as prayerful discussion and consideration, we have come to a unanimous decision. We joyfully present to you Nancy Rottman as our candidate for the Senior Pastor of Centre Congregational Church.

We'd like to introduce you to Nancy and discuss how greatly she has impressed us with her emotional warmth, demonstrated pastoral concern for all ages, and passion for storytelling. We invite you to attend one of two informal "Meet and Greet" opportunities with Nancy and her husband Mike.

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9pm** or  
**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6pm.**

Both events will be held in the church narthex and Fireside Room. Light refreshments will be served.

On **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**, Nancy will conduct our 10am worship service. Following the service, a special congregational meeting will be held to discuss and vote on our recommendation to call Nancy Rottman as our new pastor.

Nancy holds a Master of Divinity degree and a Certificate in Interfaith Leadership from Andover Newton Theological School. She comes to us from Hancock United Church of Christ in Lexington, MA where she recently served as Congregational Care Coordinator, following two years of working on their staff as a Student Minister. Nancy is approved for ordination pending call in the United Church of Christ. She and Mike currently live in Nashua, NH and they have three adult children.

Originally trained as a nurse, Nancy was commissioned and became a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps in Ohio, assigned to the Labor and Delivery Unit. Her responsibilities included training new nurse interns and scheduling the entire unit nursing staff. Her professional path led her from there to New Hampshire, where she worked as a Service Coordinator for families of children with developmental delays and established conditions.

Nancy describes her pastoral journey as an arc of caring ministry, lived out as a nurse, a mother, a caring church member, through family services, and now as a trained minister. She describes herself as extroverted and organized, very approachable and relational. She approaches scripture with intelligent curiosity and aspires to share her understanding of it relative to our lives today.

We believe that God has led us to this exciting moment in our ministry. We look forward to growing as a faith community together with Nancy. Please attend one of the meet and greet opportunities as well as Nancy's "Candidating Sunday" service and our special congregational meeting. Thank you for the great trust and privilege you have bestowed upon us.

With gratitude and enthusiasm, the Centre Church Search and Call Committee:

Bruce Weaver  
Ann Decker  
Linda Ladd  
Sarah Crosbie  
Kathi Martin  
Jeff Law  
Jeff Langill  
Randy Russell  
David Bjorkman

**In the Sanctuary**

**September 17, 2017**

*Luke 11:1-13*

Sermon by Nancy Rottman

“The Invitation”

Nursery – Nursery/Library

Older Children’s Group Activity – Todd Hall

Congregational Meeting after Worship

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**The Special Meeting of the church will be held  
on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.**

**to discuss the following item:**

**1. Presentation and Approval of Terms of  
Call for the position of Senior Pastor.**

**Bruce Weaver, Moderator**

**Faith Formation**

• **Church School:**

- Whole Group Activities, Covenant Building and Orientation on 9/10, 9/17, 9/24 and 10/1 (Communion)
- Parent Orientation for Church School: 9/17 and 9/24 at 11:15 a.m.
- Update: Brick By Brick and Godly Play to start on 10/8/2017

• **Youth Group**

- September Meeting on 9/24 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. (Grades 5 and up)
- October Meeting: Pumpkin Carving 10/29 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Grades 5 and up, join us and bring a hollowed out pumpkin to decorate.

• **Giv2**

- Giv2 Kickoff Meeting: Grades 7-12, Methodist Church in Wakefield on 10/1 from 5:30–7 (dinner included)
- Giv 2 Boston Area Gleaners: 8:30 on Sat. 10/14. Farm location is TBD

- **We are in need of volunteers.** **Everyone** is invited to think about how they might be able to contribute to the children and youth of our church - parents, grandparents, high schoolers and others are welcome! Please email Laraine at [lwilson@centre-church.org](mailto:lwilson@centre-church.org) with your September, October and November availability. A volunteer orientation date will be announced soon!

**Centre Congregational Church**



**2017 Annual Golf Tournament**

**Sagamore Spring Golf Club –**

**Sept 22, 2017**

Save the date of **Friday, September 22** for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Centre Church Golf Tournament. The net proceeds go to our Operating Budget. This will be a **best ball** tournament with a tee time of **12:00 Noon Sharp** at Sagamore Spring Golf 1287 Main Street, Lynnfield. Please plan to arrive by 11:30 AM.

The cost is **\$110** per player. This covers the cost of greens fees, cart, goody bags and prizes.

All sorts of prizes and the chance to have your winning team’s names engraved on “*The Unholy Grail*” are but a few of the benefits of playing in this tournament. Players of all skill levels welcomed.

**Please invite your friends to play, too.**

**Please let us know as soon as possible – Thanks!**

Sign up with Chuck Cotting ([chuck@thecottings.com](mailto:chuck@thecottings.com) or 781-593-3120) or Bruce Weaver ([bruce@newenglandlab.com](mailto:bruce@newenglandlab.com)) - no later than **Friday September 15th!**

Checks should be made payable to: **Centre Congregational Church** at 5 Summer Street Lynnfield, MA 01940.

**From the Mailbox**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for the kind and caring recognition offered at the conclusion of my service with you as Bridge Interim Pastor. The warmth of the final worship together at the end of August, the beautiful altar flowers (and delicious goodies at coffee hour!), the card on my last day with its notes from Council members and the delightful Willow Tree thank-you angel...and the most wonderful surprise of the brick that will reside with others as part of Centre Church’s story. That last gift was just overwhelming.

Blessings as you embark upon a new and exciting chapter in your pilgrimage together.

Yours in Christ,  
Jamie Howard

## Yankee Candle Fundraiser



It's time for our annual Yankee Candle Fundraiser which will run from Sept. 17 to Oct. 15. As you know by now, fundraisers have become an important line item in our operating budget. We've come to rely on these fundraisers to support all of our ministries at Centre Church. We will earn 40% of all Yankee Candle sales.

You can pick up a Yankee Candle catalogue in the narthex after church. When you look through it, you'll see that it contains some wonderful candles, great gift ideas, and a lovely selection of wrapping paper. There is something for everyone....whether you are a candle lover or not. So please pick up your catalog after church and be sure to share it with family and friends. If you prefer, you can view the catalogue and order on line by visiting:

[www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) and entering our group number: 990016890.

The last day to place an order is Sunday, October 15. We will receive the orders before Thanksgiving.

For more information,  
contact Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

### **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Reports of Officers and Ministry Teams
2. Presentation and Approval of the 2017 to 2018 Budget
3. Election of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions
4. Remembrance of Deceased Members
5. Recognition of 50 Year Members

Bruce Weaver  
Moderator

## Get Together Wheel

Summer has passed by so quickly and now we settle back to our regular activities. We will be having our first meeting on Tuesday, September 26 at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. Hoping that we may be able to put together a few programs for our upcoming meetings. No program this month as I thought we may enjoy just sitting and chatting with each other as most of us haven't seen each other for some time.

Please remember that all women of the church are invited to join us. We would love to have new members.

Blessings, Donna Marino

**SuperSaturday**, Framingham, MA: Join us on Saturday, October 21, 2017 for a full-day of worship, workshops and networking.

**Great Day, Great Price! Cost includes, morning worship, 2 workshops, an optional lunch activity, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, marketplace and closing worship. \$54 by 10/7, \$64 thereafter.**

Participants will be able to attend two 90-minute workshops related to various aspects of church life, mission and ministries, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

In addition, participants have the option of attending a 30-minute table conversation or forum during one of the mid-day lunch periods.

<http://www.macucc.org/supersaturday>

**Speak to Larainne or Linda Ladd  
before October 7 if you would like to attend.**



### **Deacons Breakfast – October 15th**

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before church on Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 8:30-9:45 am. We will be serving up our delicious breakfast to raise money for the Organ Maintenance Fund. The cost is \$10/person or \$25/family.



## How can we help in the aftermath of recent Hurricanes?

The Missions and Outreach Team of Centre Church is collecting funds for disaster relief. Please make checks payable to Centre Church and clearly mark “Hurricane” or “Disaster Relief” in the memo line. Then drop these in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to the church office. A portion of these funds will buy immediately needed items on the Amazon.com wish list of the Texas Diaper Bank. More will be distributed through the UCC Disaster Relief Fund as cash or rebuilding gift cards. Please give generously to our southern neighbors who have lost so much.

### *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. Sept. 17</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>  11:00 am	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Worship led by Nancy Rottman Nursery – Library/Nursery Children’s Group Activity – Todd Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
Thurs. Sept. 21	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Friday Sept. 22	11:30 am	Golf Tournament – Sagamore Springs
<b>Sun. Sept. 24</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>  11:30 am 5:30 pm	<b>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Children’s Group Activity - Todd Annual Meeting – Sanctuary Youth Group (Gr. 5-12) – Kitchen
Mon. Sept. 25	3-6 pm	Volunteer at Haven from Hunger
Tues. Sept. 26	1-3 pm 7-9 pm	Get Together Wheel – Fireside Rm Council – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. Sept. 28	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

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

***The next issue of Tower Notes – Sept. 25***