

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

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

Nancy Rottman, Senior Pastor, pastor@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*

**September 25, 2017**

WOW! Simply and powerfully, WOW! Sunday was certainly one of the most spirit-filled and heart-full moments in my ministry and even, I dare say, in my life as a child of God. WOW! How welcoming and friendly and hopeful you all were throughout our opportunities to meet and greet one another. We have all waited, and worked, and prepared for this new day and on Sunday, we said yes to new life in Christ together. I am so humbled and honored to be your pastor!

Thanks! All praise and honor be to God, who in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit brought us together. I pray a special prayer of thanksgiving for the Search Committee of Centre Church. I ask you to join me in lifting up Bruce, Linda, Jeff, Kathi, Jeff, Ann, David, Sarah, and Randy in gratitude for their time, talent, and prayerful intention poured into the search and for the thoughtful and enriching conversations that we shared along the way to Sunday. It is also right and good for us to pause for a moment and give thanks for the ministries of both Rev. Estelle Margarones and Rev. Jamie Howard that saw you through your time of transition. And I give thanks for the countless people who saw me here to you, especially my husband, Mike.

Help! I want to remind us all that our help comes from God, who is our strength and our shield. As we begin together, I will be constantly reminding myself and all of us that we are, at our heart, a praying community, formed and transformed by the love of Christ. We need to rely on God and each other to move forward together, listening deeply to our still speaking God and to one another. We need to recognize the Risen Christ in each other and in everyone that we meet. To that end, I am excited to meet and get to know you. I plan to be in Lynnfield

Sunday through Thursday, with Friday and Saturday being my Sabbath. Please feel free to stop by or make an appointment to see me by calling the office. In a few weeks I will also be announcing "Coffee hours" at the Starbucks at Market Street so stay tuned for more on that.

As we begin, after such a long wait, the temptation is to rush forward. So, I ask you to live these words with me: Above all, trust in the slow work of God. ~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ. We can, and we will.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Nancy

## In the Sanctuary

**October 1, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.**

**World Communion Sunday**

Sermon by Pastor Nancy Rottman

*Matthew 21:23-32*

"Saying and Doing"

Nursery – Nursery/Library

Older Children's Group Activity – Todd Hall

Before returning for Communion

**October 8, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Morning Worship**

Sermon by Pastor Nancy Rottman

*Matthew 21:33-46*

"Stone by Stone"

Children may attend worship with their families.

## Faith Formation

### Church School

October 1 - World Communion Sunday - Families are asked to bring a bread that represents their family's background. We will have an activity after the Mini Message and return to worship for communion.

October 8 - No Church School/Indigenous People's Day/Holiday Weekend

### Upcoming Activities for Youth

October 1 – Ecumenical Youth Group, Giv2 Kickoff Event - Breakfast for Dinner at the Wakefield/Lynnfield Methodist Church from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to stay and hear about all of the Community Service events and activities that are planned for the year.

Please bring a donation of cereal, canned fruit, bottled juices, peanut butter and jelly or jam to benefit Haven from Hunger.

Saturday, October 14, - Giv2 Service Event – Boston Area Gleaners

(<http://www.bostonareagleaners.org/>). We'll meet in the Centre Church parking lot at 9am and carpool to a farm for harvesting. Online registration forms must be filled out prior, so please RSVP to Larainne if you can come. Or RSVP to [events@centre-church.org](mailto:events@centre-church.org), or Linda Ladd, any of these will work.

October 22 – Centre Church Youth: College Care Package Assembly after church 11:15 - 12:30 (Middle and High School Youth needed to help)

**Parents of 1st year college students, please send Larainne their addresses ([lwilson@centre-church.org](mailto:lwilson@centre-church.org))**

November 4 - Giv2 Middle and High School Community Service Event at Mildred Avenue School in Boston (<https://www.epicleaders.org/bostonserve>)

### NAME TAGS Are Back!

We will begin using Name Tags again on Sundays to help our new Pastor, Nancy Rottman, and Faith Formation Director, Larainne Wilson get to know peoples' names.

Please check in at the name tag tables in the narthex. If you do not find your Name Tag, please ask a Deacon [Red Name Tag] or fill out a Name Tag request form and we will make one for you.



### Pumpkin Carving

Join us for Pumpkin Carving on Saturday, October 28th from 5-7 p.m. Youth of all ages are invited! Parents of young children should plan to stay with them. Older children, who can carve independently, can be dropped off. Please bring an already hollowed out pumpkin to carve.

On Sunday, October 29th the pumpkins will be displayed and our members will vote with their dollars to benefit Haven from Hunger in Peabody.

(<http://www.citizensinn.org/haven-from-hunger/>)

### Super Saturday

**For UCC churches of MA, CT, and RI Conference October 21 8:00-3:45 at Keefe Technical High School in Framingham** – an event to assist local churches – 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: (<http://www.macucc.org/supersaturday>)

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! Volunteer to attend and bring back the treasure!

For more information contact [lwilson@centre-church.org](mailto:lwilson@centre-church.org).

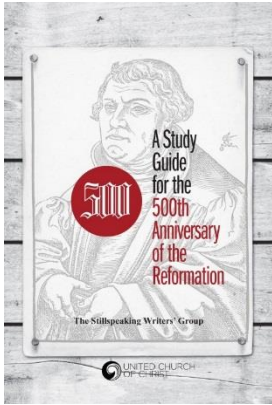


## **Deacons Breakfast – October 15th**

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before church on Sunday, October 15th from 8:30-9:45 am.

We will be serving up our delicious breakfast to raise money for the Organ Maintenance Fund. The suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family.

**Adult Education:**  
**Reformation Small Group Study**



On Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Centre Church will be hosting a fall gathering of the Northeast Association and the Metro Boston Association of the UCC to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.

Leading up to that event, Pastor Nancy will be offering an adult faith

formation opportunity to learn more about our Reformation heritage.

Join her on Sunday, October 15, 22, 29 and Nov. 5 at 11:30 am to participate in some lively discussion. We will be using a study guide prepared by the UCC Still Speaking Writer's Group. You can sign up and pick up a booklet in the narthex or email Pastor Nancy at [pastor@centre-church.org](mailto:pastor@centre-church.org). And stay tuned for more details about the gathering on November 18<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss special speaker, Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, who just happens to be one of Pastor Nancy's favorite seminary professors.

**Missions and Outreach**

Our bulletin board is across from the Fireside kitchen. Please sign up there to help at Citizens Inn (formerly Haven from Hunger) where we volunteer one Monday afternoon each month. It's a great bonding opportunity for couples, or parents with middle school and older children. Upcoming dates are October 23 and November 27.



**Centre Church Has Helped in the Past**

Mission and Outreach invites the congregation to be a force in Hurricane Relief. The youth group years ago went to Tarboro, North Carolina where a hurricane had hit and left a large path of flooding. There were still signs of devastation and hurt to a community even 5 years after the fact.

Hurricane Katrina caused so much damage the rebuilding efforts required 5 or more years of recovery including 5 trips from our youth and young adults and it still was not complete. There were walls with water marks up over our heads and the rebuilding still had years to go.

We will need to provide help for the long term. To do that, might we suggest smaller but lasting donations? We have a Giving Tree in the Narthex. On it are leaves displaying dollar amounts. Please take a leaf and drop that amount in the donation box, or send it to the church office noted for "Relief". Every donation is helpful. **The Missions team will match your donations dollar for dollar and forward to the UCC Emergency USA Fund.**

--Jeff Langill for Mission & Outreach

**Yankee Candle Fundraiser**



Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser is underway! This is a particularly good fundraiser because the church earns 40% of all sales.

You can pick up a Yankee Candle catalogue in the narthex after church or in the church office during the week. 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. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, you'll want to check out the Kindle Candles. They are a safe and neat way to start a fire – no more messy newspaper! So please pick up your catalog after church and be sure to share it with family and friends. You and your friends can view the catalog and order on line by going to [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, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. Oct. 1</b>  <b>World Communion Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>  11:15 am 5:30 pm	<b>Holy Communion - Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Children’s Group Activity – Todd Before returning for Communion Deacons Meeting – Pastor’s Office Giv2 Youth– Methodist Church
Wed. Oct. 4	8:30 am	Bread & Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. Oct. 5	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
<b>Sun. Oct. 8</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</b> Children may worship with families
Mon. Oct. 9	-----	Office Closed - Indigenous Peoples’ Day
Thurs. Oct. 12	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

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 Center. Please call the church office if you would like more information about any of these groups. (781-334-3050)

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

***The next issue of Tower Notes – October 10***

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