

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Nancy Rottman, Pastor (pastor@centre-church.org)

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Larainne Wilson, Director of Faith Formation (lwilson@centre-church.org)

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

October 10, 2017

On Titles, Stoles, and Other Minister Stuff

I thought I would take this opportunity, a month out from my Ordination, to explain a bit about titles, vestments, and the process through search and call from the minister's side. As I've said to my home church (First Church Nashua) folks frequently, this is a very cool thing we're doing together! They have "raised me up" as a minister, offering me opportunities for leadership as a lay leader and then as a member in discernment, and they have been support, sounding board, and discernment partners. I am so very grateful! With their support and the growth and nurture among the good people of Hancock UCC in Lexington, I have moved through the discernment process, the search process, and been called by you, the congregation of Centre Church.

In our denomination, a member in discernment who is approved for Ordination is not ordained until they are called by a church or other calling body. Since I have not yet been ordained, I do not yet use the title "Reverend." While in the UCC we do not have denominational mandates around wearing vestments or other clerical garb (robe, clerical collar, liturgical stole), our Associations' Committees on Ministry set the expectations for their churches and ministers. This is because each Association is autonomous in the UCC, just as each church is autonomous. Here in New England in the UCC, it is widely accepted that ministers do not wear stoles until they are ordained. That is why I am not yet wearing a stole with my robe during worship. But we do typically wear a robe, and are often able to wear a clerical collar. I have been wearing a robe since my first day as a student minister, and I wear a collar for public ministry or other situations where it is helpful to be known as a minister; such as at a graveside service when I would not wear a robe. I introduce

myself as Pastor Nancy because it describes who I am and what I am called to do. After my ordination, my title will officially be The Reverend Nancy J. Rottman, but it will still be perfectly fine to call me Pastor Nancy or just Nancy.

That brings us to the specifics of my ordination! I will be ordained on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 2:00 pm at First Church Nashua, 1 Concord Street, Nashua, NH 03064. Everyone from Centre Church is invited to attend! There will be members of the Search Committee that will have a part in the ordination service in the way of representing the congregation of the calling body. There will be a reception to follow. I hope that many of you will attend and participate in the joy of this significant day in my journey that is made possible by you! I will be surrounded by my family, dearest friends, my colleagues from seminary and ministry, and hopefully many of my beloved lay people from First Church, Hancock Church, and Centre Church.

No matter titles or clothing details, we have been called by God and each other into covenant. A few months after my ordination, I will be installed as your pastor. That's when we will speak the vows of covenant, joining our efforts together in mutuality toward the ministry God calls us to in the here and now. But between now and then, we will be, and have already begun this work together and I couldn't be more pleased. God's Holy Spirit is moving powerfully through this place and in and among us as we learn about each other, about God, and about the cycle of life, death, and resurrection within God's creation. I am honored and humbled to be your pastor and be called to journey with you.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Nancy

In the Sanctuary

October 15, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Sermon by Pastor Nancy Rottman

Philippians 4:1-9

"Deep Peace"

Nursery for Infants – Age 4

Faith Formation for Older Children

October 22, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Sermon by Pastor Nancy Rottman

Matthew 22:15-22

"Who and Whose?"

Nursery for Infants – Age 4

Faith Formation for Older Children

Nursery/Church School

We will provide child care EVERY Sunday during the service for children ages 0-4. We are looking for volunteers in the nursery on 10/22 (need an over 18, safe church trained person for this date), 10/29, 11/12 and 12/24.

We are still in need of two volunteers for Brick by Brick. We will not be able to run this crucial program for boys in Grades 3-5 otherwise. We also need assistants for Godly Play on 10/25, 11/5, 11/12 and 12/10. Please see Larainne with questions.

We will have another "Parent Orientation" on September 15th after worship in the kitchen. All parents of children Grades K-5 should plan to attend a Parent Orientation session.

We have developed a covenant in Church School about how we want to be together as a group – we will be displaying it soon. Look for our rainbow!

Volunteer/Safe Church Training

The Faith Formation Ministry Team will host a Volunteer and Safe Church Training facilitated by Larainne. If you haven't been trained, but would like to be OR if you plan to have a role with our youth, this is a good opportunity for you! The date is TBD, but please let Larainne know if you are interested so that she can plan dates based on your schedule



Deacons Breakfast

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before church on Sunday, October 15th, 2017 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.

Young Families

We will be hosting the Lynnfield Moms Group for a Trunk or Treat in our parking lot on October 22nd at 3:30 p.m. Please see Nancy if you'd like to help with the church's "trunk".

We will have a Halloween Party/Pumpkin Decorating following the service on 10/29 for families with young children.

We will have "Open Play and B-Y-O Picnic Lunch" each Sunday after worship on the playground for families with young children. Fellowship for the parents, fun for the kids!

Youth Group:

We have TWO youth group opportunities for children in grades 5-12 this month:

- Assembling College Care Packages for 1st Year college students on October 22nd after the service (in the kitchen) (Parents of these youth --- please send Larainne their addresses.)
- Pumpkin Carving and Decorating (10/28 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. We will have pizza, drinks and some decorating supplies. Please hollow out your pumpkin BEFORE you come and bring any additional carving supplies you might need.

Giv2 Ecumenical Youth Group

We are going apple picking at Connemara House Farm in Topsfield on Saturday, Oct. 14. Anyone 13 and older is encouraged to attend. Please meet at Centre Church parking lot at 9 a.m. to carpool. We start gleaning at 10, so it is important for us to leave as close to 9 as possible! We will return by 1:30 pm. Please sign up with Larainne,

Reformation Small Group Study

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

To help us brush up on this significant event in our church history Pastor Nancy will be offering a 4-session class for adults, using a study guide prepared by the UCC Still Speaking Writer's Group. **Join her on Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29, and November 5, at 11:30 am to participate in some lively discussion.** You can sign up and arrange to pick up a book by speaking with or emailing Pastor Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org or calling the Church Office. (781-334-3050)

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to our Nursery Provider, Alicia Dwyer upon the recent death of her father, John McHatton, Jr. His funeral was held on October 5.

Our congratulations to the following people who were honored as 50 Year Members of Centre Church at this year's Annual Meeting: Peggy Batchelder, Henry Flickinger, Sally Flickinger, Alan Foulds, Barbara Horwood and Ronald Horwood.

From the Mailbox: "To my Centre Church Friends, God's love and appreciation for the lovely altar flowers delivered to me by Perry Hayden. This act of kindness helps me to recover better than all my physical therapy!
- Dorsey Holappa

Lynnfield's Multicultural Celebration

Centre Church will have an information table at this great event being hosted by *Lynnfield for Love* on Oct 14 at the Middle School from 4-6:30pm. Please come to learn about the many cultures of Lynnfield, to enjoy musical and dance performances and treat yourself to some delicious food.

Volunteers to staff our table are needed. Please contact Linda Ladd if you could spare 30 minutes to help children with a craft, or just smile and talk about our church!

Save the Date – Tuesday, Nov. 7

**Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza in Reading
20% of dine-in and carry out sales
will be donated to Centre Church.**

Mission and Outreach



Disaster Relief Update: Leaves are really flying! A whopping \$1500 has been collected which allowed us to donate \$3000 (with our Missions and Outreach match) to the UCC Emergency USA Fund for relief efforts in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. Well done everyone! Missions and Outreach will continue to match contributions as long as there are leaves on our donation tree. Please remember that rebuilding after such disasters will take a long time and continued support.

Haven From Hunger Volunteers: Phil Fisher, Judy and Al Johnson and Linda Ladd helped to make and serve a delicious dinner of ham & cheese melt sandwiches with fruit, pasta and green salads on Monday, Sept 25. Upcoming volunteer dates are Oct 23 and Nov 27.



Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser is winding down. This is a particularly good fundraiser because the church earns 40% of all sales. 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. You and your friends can also view the catalog and order on line by going to:

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.

Ma Duke's 11th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Last year this group provided over 2,000 homemade Thanksgiving dinners to individuals who otherwise would not have one. To help in this effort, during October and early November we are collecting non-perishables such as boxed stuffing, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, etc. etc. There is a collection box in the Missions Pantry.

Please contact Annmarie Pendola 617-549-9164 for more information or to volunteer your help.



On Sunday, October 22 at 3:30 pm, the Lynnfield Moms Group is hosting their first Halloween Trunk or Treat and Costume Parade. Centre Church is hosting this event in our parking lot and all Centre Church families with children ages 1-6 are invited to attend. The event begins at 3:30 pm on the Lynnfield Common for a kids' costume parade and then will proceed to the Centre Church parking lot to kick off Trunk or Treating. Since the parking lot is reserved for the event, everyone is requested to find a legal parking spot elsewhere nearby. The event is free but pre-registration via Eventbrite is required so the organizers can plan enough treats for everyone. Please bring a container for your child to collect treats. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-trunk-or-treat-costume-parade-tickets-37971526859?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=escb&utm-source=cp&utm-term=listing>



Pies! Pies! Pies! Revisited
Still \$15.00

Sunday November 19, 2017
APPLE Pie Sale – Fund Raiser

A team of Centre Church bakers will be making pies on **Wed.** Nov. 15, **Thurs.** Nov. 16, & **Friday** Nov. 17, for sale on **Sunday, November 19th.**

Please send your orders and your checks in to Susan Spear at the Church office! [781-334-3050]
To volunteer to help peel and core apples, make crusts or assemble pies;
please contact Chuck Cotting [781-593-3120]

Centre Church Pie Sale Order Form

All pies are unbaked [\$15]:

Apple: _____ Apple Crumb: _____ Apple-Cranberry: _____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 15	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Deacons Breakfast – Richards Hall Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation for Older Children Adult Faith Formation - Pastor's Ofc. Parent Orientation - Kitchen
Thurs. Oct. 19	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sat. Oct. 21	8am-4pm	Super Saturday - Framingham
Sun. Oct. 22	10:00 am 11:30 am 3:30 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation for Older Children Youth Group(Care Pkgs) – Kitchen Adult Faith Formation – Pastor's Office Trunk or Treat – Parking Lot
Mon. Oct. 23	3-6:30 pm	Volunteer at Haven from Hunger
Tues. Oct. 24	7:00 pm	Missions/Outreach Comm. - Library
Thurs. Oct. 26	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sat. Oct. 28	5:30-7 pm	Youth Pumpkin Carving - Kitchen

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 23.
