

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Nancy Rottman, Pastor

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

October 24, 2017

Remembering the Saints

It just dawned on me that there is a reason that I am not much of a Halloween or All Hallows' Eve enthusiast. It's because I'm more of an All Saints enthusiast. I'm sure many of you know the history of our celebration of Halloween, but I'll hit some highlights here to get us all on the same page. Halloween has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in) which marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter and less daylight. People lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off ghosts, because they believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth at this time when the boundary between the living and the dead became more permeable.

In the 7th century Pope Boniface IV established the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day and Pope Gregory III broadened it to include all saints and moved the observance to November 1st. With the spread of Christianity to Celtic lands, All Saints Day was blended with the older traditions and in the year 1000, the church made November 2nd All Souls Day to honor the dead, probably trying to replace the Celtic festival of the dead. All Saints Day was also called All-Hallows or All-hallowmas, and so the night before, the traditional night of Samhain, became All-Hallows Eve, which we now call Halloween. There is much more to the story of how we got to our very secular Halloween celebrations which you can read about at:

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>.

Growing up in the Roman Catholic Church I always went to mass on All Saints Day. And while I'm sure I complained, upon reflecting now, I'm much more appreciative of the deeper rituals we

evoke in our honoring the saints in our lives than I am the whole consumer driven celebration of Halloween. Don't get me wrong. I'm not opposed to Halloween. It's just that we have few opportunities to ritualize our remembering, honor our grief, and thank God for the saints in our lives. We are too often forced to shut off our grief; close down our honoring and remembering, lest it get too morbid, scary, or dark. And in the face of that, we have All Saints Day, just when our days are getting shorter and we are worried for ourselves and our loved ones and how we'll all get through another winter full of short days and long, dark nights. Will that grief that we shut out with sunlight and summer fun resurface and choke us? It doesn't have to if we honor it. If we allow the saints of our lives to bless our living. If we bring their light into our worship of God together, recalling their goodness and giving thanks to God for all they gave us.

For some, your loss may be fresh and your journey through the valley of the shadow unfinished. Come light a candle and let the light and love of the God of new life break in. Let the love of your siblings in Christ hold you. And for those who have moved through and found the joy the holds together with sorrow, bring your joy with you and multiply the joy and light that we'll share together.

On Sunday, November 5th, everyone will have an opportunity to remember the saints of their lives in worship. We'll have candles to light and other ways for you to share the blessings they have bestowed on you. And we'll come together to be fed at Christ's table, bringing to mind all of the saints across and beyond time that are bound with us in Christ's eternal love.

In hope,

Pastor Nancy

In the Sanctuary

October 29, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

Sermon by Pastor Nancy Rottman

“The Heart of the Bible”

Matthew 22:34-46

Nursery – Ages 0-4

Faith Formation for Older Children

November 5, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion – All Saints’ Day

Sermon by Pastor Nancy Rottman

“Across Time and Beyond Time”

(See Pastor Nancy’s Reflection for details on Honoring the Saints in our lives during Worship.)

Nursery – Ages 0-4

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 10/29, 11/12 and 12/24 (Christmas Eve).

We are looking to hire an adult Teacher for Brick-By-Brick. The rate will be \$50/Sunday. Please see Laraine or Nancy if you or someone you know might be interested.

Youth Group

Pumpkin Carving and Decorating is on Saturday, 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. .

Young Families

We will have a Halloween Party/Pumpkin Decorating following the service on 10/29 for families with young children. Children may wear costumes to church!

Bible Study

The Bible Study group that has been meeting together for years has regathered with Pastor Nancy and have agreed on a new day and time to meet. They will gather in the Fireside Room on Thursdays from 1-2 pm. They will be working through Volume I of the **Exploring the Bible** series from the Massachusetts Bible Society. Volume I is titled, *What is the Bible?* Newcomers are welcome and invited to contact Pastor Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org or call the office at 781-334-3050 to obtain a book and to ask any questions you might have. Won’t you join us?

Mission and Outreach

Giv² Gleaning Trip: Centre Church sponsored Lynnfield’s Giv² ecumenical youth group to go apple picking with the [Boston Area Gleaners](#) on Saturday, October 14. Together we picked 1680 pounds of apples which equals 6720 servings of fresh produce! Our apples will be distributed among 500 hunger relief agencies.

Haven from Hunger: Peggy & Roger Batchelder, Perry & George Hayden and Linda Ladd volunteered to make and serve dinner at Haven From Hunger on October 23. Volunteers will be needed again on November 27. Please sign up on the Mission & Outreach bulletin board.

For Haven from Hunger: Frozen Turkeys or Turkey Breasts will be collected here at Centre Church on Sunday, November 12 and delivered to Haven in Peabody. Youth group members will help collect and carry them.

Heifer Update: Congratulations! On Sunday, October 22, the Goat Tube was found to be full! That means we can send \$120 to Heifer International to provide a goat for a needy family!

Lynnfield’s Multicultural Celebration: Debbie Cotting, Annmarie Pendola and Linda Ladd staffed our table at this recent *Lynnfield For Love* event at the Middle School. What a celebration it was! The room was filled with tables where organizations displayed information about their heritage and community interaction. People stopping by the Centre Church table enjoyed a scratch-off rainbow heart craft and learned about our youth and outreach programs.

Disaster Relief update: Another \$450 of donations have been received since we matched our first \$1500

and sent \$3000 to the UCC Emergency Relief Fund. Please remember that rebuilding after recent disasters (which now includes wildfires!) will take continued support. Every dollar donated will be matched by Centre Church



News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to Ginny Richardson upon the death of her husband, Dana on October 8. Pastor Rottman officiated at the funeral service, which was private.

Giv2: Next Service Event

Saturday, Nov. 4, we are joining EPIC (Empowering People for Inclusive Communities) for "Boston Serves". Please meet at Centre Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to the school. Support EPIC via our team by giving at:

<https://www.firstgiving.com/Team/359349/Donation>

Permission slips for youth have been sent out via email and are also available at the Faith Formation Team Table in the Narthex.

School Supply Drive: You can also support our "Giv2 Boston Serves Team" through our School Supply Drive. We are putting together appreciation bags for the teachers at the school (There are 50 teachers!) and we hope to help them get their school year off to a great start! Needed items are: pens, pencils, highlighters, rules, sticky notes, dry erase markers, small organizational bins, notebooks, construction paper, tissues, hand sanitizer etc...

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Thanks to all who participated in the Yankee Candle Fundraiser. It's not too late to place an order on line. Simply visit www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter our group #990016890. Your on-line order will be sent directly to you. Thank you, Debbie Cotting

Reformation Anniversary - Celebrated here

On Saturday, November 18th, Centre Church will host the combined fall gathering of the Northeast and Metro Boston Associations of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC, to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. [The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti will be speaking](#) on **Conscience and Credit Cards, Rockstars and Revolution: Living with the Reformation Today**. Our Deacons will be hosting along with Pastor Nancy. Anyone who would like to offer their assistance should contact Annmarie Pendola. Register at www.macucc.org/events.

Plans for Advent

In the next Tower notes our plans for the season of Advent will be shared. But for the sake of everyone planning ahead, this year the 4th Sunday of Advent is actually Christmas Eve. We will have worship that morning at 10 am, but it will be in the Chapel and have a bit of twist from our usual Sunday morning worship. You won't want to miss it! And Sunday evening we'll have two Christmas Eve worship services. Our Family Service will be at 5 pm and at 11 pm we'll have a traditional candlelight service of Lessons and Carols.

Save the Date!

Centre Church Fundraiser!

Tuesday November 7, 2017 – All Day!

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, 48 Walkers Brook Drive, Reading will donate 20% of all food and beverages **eaten in or taken out** on Tuesday November 7, 2017 – All Day.

Please tell your server that you are dining to support
Centre Congregational Church

November Donations

***Focusing on Thanksgiving Fixings
Ma Duke's 11th Thanksgiving Dinner***



"Ma Duke's & Friends" provides a Thanksgiving dinner for individuals who otherwise would not have one. Last Thanksgiving they served over 2,000 homemade dinners of turkey, baked ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes and various casseroles. This year their goal is 2,500!! The event will be held at the American Legion Post 227, 69 River Street, Middleton, MA 01949. To help in this effort, we are collecting appropriate non-perishables until November 19th.

Items such as boxed stuffing, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, beverages and paper products can be left in the box labeled "Ma Duke's Thanksgiving Dinner", located in the Missions Pantry. Monetary donations can be made online at: <https://www.gofundme.com/madukethanksgiving2017>. To volunteer your time to this wonderful cause, please contact Annmarie Pendola (617) 549-9164.

*The Hillsborough Association of the
New Hampshire Conference,
United Church of Christ
Cordially invites you to the*

***Ordination Service For
Nancy Rottman***

Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 2:00 pm

*First Church of Nashua, UCC
1 Concord Street, Nashua, New Hampshire*

Reception to follow

*Clergy and Members in Discernment
participating in the procession are invited
to arrive at 1:30.*

Our Opportunities

Sun. Oct. 29	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation for Older Children Halloween Party – Younger Families Adult Faith Formation - Library
Wed. Nov. 1	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses – Kitchen Council – Pastor’s Office
Thurs. Nov. 2	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sat. Nov. 4	8:00 am 	Giv2 Group to Mattapan School <u>Before Retiring</u> <u>Set Clocks BACK One Hour</u>
Sun. Nov. 5	10:00 am 11:30 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation for Older Children Adult Faith Formation – Library
Tues. Nov. 7	All Day	Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza Fundraiser
Thurs. Nov. 9	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Fri. Nov. 10	-----	Church Office & Tower Day Closed Veterans’ Day
Sat. Nov. 11	2:00 pm	Pastor Nancy’s Ordination - Nashua

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 – – Week of Nov. 6



APPLE Pie Sale – Sunday November 19

A team of bakers will be making pies on **Wednesday - Friday** November 15-17, to be picked up on **Sunday, November 19th**

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]:

Please send orders and checks to the Church office [781-334-3050]

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

Name _____ Phone: _____