

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor

The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland, Pastor Emeritus

Laraine 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

November 6, 2017

A Life of Prayer

It has been six weeks since I was called as your pastor, and in a week I am about to step over another threshold when I am ordained to Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ. These major milestones are so often the ones that compel me to my knees or to my seat in prayer, seeking silence and stillness amidst the chaos of planning and new things. I know some people find a way of prayer or a spiritual practice that sustains them always, day in and day out. Others are like me and find that they need to vary their practice because life is less than routine. And still others are still searching and seeking a way of prayer, a practice that feels good and right and holy. So, over the next few months, through Advent, Christmas, winter, and Lent, I will be offering you a variety of resources that I find especially helpful to my spiritual life and practices. Some will challenge you, some will console you, some will turn things around and teach you a new way of looking at yourself, your neighbor, or the world around you. My hope is that you will take what is useful to you and leave the rest. Spiritual practice, daily devotion, and prayer are not a "one size fits all" proposition but rather a banquet of options from which you can choose what feels right for you in this time and in this place, holding onto the truth that, at some point you might need something different. I hope that you will keep an open mind, heart, and spirit as you encounter new ideas and new ways of connecting with our God, who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

I'd like to begin by introducing you to the UCC Still Speaking Daily Devotional. You can find the link to sign up below and also find past devotions there. This devotion is written by a variety of UCC clergy and laypeople and it offers a reflection on a text, typically

from the Revised Common Lectionary (the 3 year reading cycle of scripture) for the specific day it is written. Like all of us, some days you will find just the word you need for the day. Some days you will find something that challenges you. Some days you will not be particularly inspired at all. You will find that you prefer some writers over others as well. That's all good! We come to greater clarity for ourselves when we are in relationship with many others, some of whom we even disagree with. Whether you live with your phone in your hand or only check your email every day or two, this devotional delivers a moment to stop, breathe, and listen for a moment to what God might be saying to you today.

http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

In hope, *Pastor Nancy*

*Hillsborough Association
of the NH Conference, UCC
Cordially invites you to the Ordination Service
For Nancy Rottman*

*Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
First Church of Nashua, UCC
1 Concord St, Nashua, New Hampshire
Reception to follow*

In the Sanctuary

November 12, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Heifer Ark Presentation

Sermon by Rev. Nancy Rottman

Matthew 25:1-13

Nursery – Ages 0-4

Faith Formation for Older Children

November 19, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

The Baptism of Brooklyn Paciello

Sermon by Rev. Nancy Rottman

Matthew 25:14-30

Nursery – Ages 0-4

Faith Formation for Older Children

500th Reformation Anniversary to be Celebrated at Centre Church

On Saturday, November 18th, from 8:30-12, 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 and anyone who would like to offer their assistance should contact Annmarie Pendola. If you are interested in attending please visit EVENTS at www.macucc.org.

Faith Formation

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 11/12 (need an over 18, safe church trained person for this date) and 12/24 (Christmas Eve).

We are all set with help for Godly Play, but if you are interested in observing a class and/or volunteering in the New Year, please see Larainne or Jill.

We have developed a covenant in Church School about how we want to be together as a group – we have displayed our rainbows in our classroom and the large one is outside of the Fireside Room - check it out! We also have the covenant up in the Nursery, Godly Play and Brick-by-Brick spaces each week.

Young Families

We had a GREAT Halloween Party/Pumpkin Decorating following the service on 10/29 for families with young children. Almost 40 people were in attendance. Thanks to Jill DiGiorgio for organizing the efforts.

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!

Joyful Noise:

Practices: After service on Sunday November 5th and Sunday, November 12th in the sanctuary

Song Sharing: Sunday, November 19th (during service)

Upcoming Youth Activities

Help collect and carry turkeys for our Turkey Drive to benefit Haven from Hunger on Sunday, November 12th.

Christmas Caroling will take place on the afternoon of Sunday, December 10th at 2 p.m. at the Sunrise Senior Center.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Thanks to all who participated in the Yankee Candle Fundraiser. The orders have arrived and can be picked up in the chapel. Your purchases raised \$479.60 for Centre Church.

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.

For questions, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

From the Mailbox

To Centre Church Friends,
Thank you for the beautiful fall colored flowers that were delivered to my home. They lasted well and were enjoyed by many.

I noticed in church news that there was a notice of church members and when they joined Centre Church. My husband and I became members of Centre Church when we moved here in 1950 – 67 years that I have been a member here! I am very grateful for those years.

Thank you all! Barbara Ericson

Missions & Outreach News



*Help do what you can to make Thanksgiving
A Happy Day for All*

Frozen Turkeys or Turkey Breasts will be collected on November 12 (next Sunday) and delivered to Haven from Hunger in Peabody that day.

Non-perishable Thanksgiving Food will be collected through November 19 for the Ma Duke's Thanksgiving Dinner in Middleton.

Shaw's Saver Stamps: this year's stamps are redeemable for Rachel Ray bakeware. If you are not redeeming them yourself, please drop any you collect into the envelope you'll find in the Missions closet. These will benefit Mission of Deeds in Reading.

Heifer Goat Tube: Can we fill it again before we receive our Ark Award for donating \$5,000 in fiscal year 2017 on November 12th?

Haven from Hunger: meal volunteers are needed on Monday, November 27. Please sign up for that date or any other, on the Missions bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen.



Pies! Pies! Pies!

Please get your orders in by Sun. November 12.

You may send your orders

and your checks (made out to Centre Church) to the Church Office or call 781-334-3050. All pies are \$15.00.

You may pick up your order on Sunday, November 19. Your choices are Apple, Apple Crumb and Apple-Cranberry.

Chuck Cotting 781-593-3120

News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Kevin and Shelley Halloran upon the birth of a daughter, Fiona Kate on October 28. Her proud big brother is Cameron.

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Sunday, November 19 - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church.

112 Chestnut Street, Lynnfield

Join the Lynnfield community in prayer at this Ecumenical Service and Opioid Candlelight Vigil. We will offer support for all who have been affected by addiction. The service will feature personal stories and inspirational music.

"You Are Not Alone. We Remember."

Centre Church Shopping Card Program

Spending with Spirit

Our shopping card program offers you a chance to donate to Centre Church simply by doing your usual shopping. You buy prepaid shopping cards at face value. Great Lakes Scrip Center (GLSC), the organization that administers the program, buys these cards in bulk. Because of their volume buying, merchants offer the cards to GLSC at a discount. The difference between the card's face value and the discounted price goes to the church.

You can use the cards for your own shopping or give them as gifts. ('tis the season!)

All kinds of merchants and restaurants participate in this program. We have a list of the participating companies, or you can view the list by visiting the Great Lakes Scrip Center website:

<http://www.glscrip.com>

The percentage of each purchase that goes to Centre Church varies by merchant, with 5% as the average.

Please contact John Sievers if you have questions.

781-334-4390 or jsievers77@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Holiday Fair – November 3 of Next Year.

Be thinking about how you might be able to help.

Debbie Cotting and Margaret Waugh

Our Opportunities

Sun. Nov. 12 <i>Bring a Turkey For Haven from Hunger</i>	10:00 am 11:15 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Heifer Ark Presentation Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation for Older Children Joyful Noise Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thur. Nov. 16	1:00 pm -----	Bible Study – Fireside Room No Choir Rehearsal this week
Sat. Nov. 18	8:30am-12	500 th Anniversary of the Reformation Celebration - Sanctuary
Sun. Nov. 19 <i>Bring Thanksgiving Food for Ma Dukes</i>	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Sacrament of Baptism Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation for Older Children Ecumenical Prayer Service – St. Maria Goretti Church
Thur. Nov. 23		<i>Thanksgiving Blessings!</i>
Fri. Nov. 24	-----	Church Office & Tower Day Closed For Thanksgiving

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. 20
