

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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

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

December 4, 2017

In Advent Hope

Beloved of Centre Church,

By the time you read this edition of Tower Notes, Advent will have begun as we Light the Candle of Hope on Sunday, December 3rd. I hope that many of you will have made your own Advent Wreath at our workshop and will light the candles each week. As we explore the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love in worship, song, and activities together, my hope for us all is that we can attune ourselves to noticing the in-breaking, life-giving light of Emmanuel in our everyday lives.

To that end, I would like to invite you to join me in a daily Advent spiritual practice utilizing a tool from the Anglican Communion (the Episcopal Church). They host Advent Word 2017, a virtual Advent Calendar. If you click the link below, you will be able to sign-up to receive the daily email with the #AdventWord of the day and a short reflection from one of the Brothers at The Society of St. John the Evangelist, or you can simply visit the website daily to click and read the daily reflections.

Then if you would like, you can click one of the social media tags in the email or on the daily word page to go to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and share your own reflection and read others' reflections in images and words and engage with those in any way you feel moved. I

will be participating each day and will share my reflections on my Rev-Nancy Facebook page. I am looking forward to using #AdventWord to deepen my Advent experience. I hope you'll join me. You can sign-up and find a short video tutorial on how to participate at: <http://adventword.org>

Awaken,

Pastor Nancy

Advent

December 10, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Sermon by Rev. Nancy Rottman

Nursery – Ages 0-4

Older Children – Pageant Rehearsal

December 17, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

Paper Bag Christmas Pageant

Nursery – Ages 0-4



Christmas Concert - December 17

The Centre Church Choir will present its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m. They will perform a festive selection of Christmas music, organ prelude and postlude. During the concert, the congregation will have an opportunity to join the choirs in singing Christmas hymns.

No admission will be charged for the event, but a freewill offering will be taken. The concert will be held in the sanctuary and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

Heifer Marketplace

Our "Living Gift Market" happened on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. If you missed it and would like to purchase a Heifer International animal as a gift, you still can! Order forms and more information can be found in the narthex and Linda Ladd can answer any questions. Please make checks payable to Centre Church with memo "Heifer". You will receive an honor card for each purchase >\$10 to present to your friend. Gifting any of these Heifer International animals in your loved one's name will help a struggling family somewhere else in the world. These animals provide food, milk, wool, plowing power, fertilizer and more. Proceeds from these goods can buy education in so many countries where it's not free. It's a gift of a better life!

Shaw's Saver Stamps

If you are not redeeming them yourself, please drop any you collect into the envelope in the Missions closet. These will benefit Mission of Deeds in Reading.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Carol Roberts Cooke who died on November 20. Her funeral was held at Centre Church on November 30.

Our love and prayers are with Frank Scott upon the recent death of his father.

A Memorial Service will be held for Mage Cole in the Chapel on Saturday, December 9 at 12:00 noon. The service will be followed by a collation in the Fireside Room.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Louise Siebert who died on November 4. Her Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 11 at Centre Church.



Angel Tree

Please take a look at our Christmas tree in the narthex. It is covered with Angels displaying City Mission Boston's most-needed gift items. Take one or more Angels and return with the UNWRAPPED gift by December 10th. Gifts will be blessed in our worship service that day and delivered to City Mission for distribution before Christmas. Thank you!

Tower Day School Accepting Applications

Applications for the 2018-2019 school year at Tower Day School are now available online at towerdayschool.org. Anyone interested in applying can print the application from the website and submit to the Tower Day office with the application fee of \$75.



THIS COMING SUNDAY
Sunday, December 10, 2017

Sunrise of Lynnfield
55 Salem Street
2:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 10th, Giv² is sponsoring an All Ages Caroling Event. We will gather at Centre Church at 12:00 pm for a pizza lunch and to make some cookies. We'll practice a few carols and then head over to Sunrise of Lynnfield at 2 pm to sing carols and share cookies with the residents.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in this festive fellowship event!

This event is organized and sponsored by:



Giv² (Give Squared) is an ecumenical group of youth & adults from Lynnfield & Wakefield giving back to our communities. Together, we live out our faith through service and fellowship!

Waiting in Bethlehem



Our Advent 4 Worship on Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 am in the Chapel will be an informal worship service. Through stories, poetry, and singing, we will go deeper into the anticipation of the birth of Emmanuel. By informal, we mean come as you are (casual dress and the children are welcome in their pajamas), grab a cup of coffee on your way in, and make yourselves comfortable. There will be something for everyone of every age, so we hope you will join us for this special opportunity to experience the Christmas story in new ways.



Faith Formation

Nursery

We will provide child care EVERY Sunday during the service for children ages 0-4.

Church School

We are beginning sign-ups for volunteers for Nursery and Church School for January - June of 2018. We have teachers for each class, we just need a second adult -- nothing to prepare, just come and have fun with us after the mini-message until 11:15 a.m. The sheets will be on the table in the Narthex.

Look for more information to come on our "Transition Class" for those who are 4 or turning 4. We are looking to start programming for them in mid-January. This class will combine elements of "Whole People of God" and "Godly Play."



5:00 pm Christmas Eve
Family Candlelight Service
In the Sanctuary

11:00 pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
of Lessons and Carols
In the Chapel

Our Opportunities

<p>Sun. Dec. 10</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>10:00 am</p> <p>11:15 am</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>	<p>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</p> <p>Nursery – Library/Nursery</p> <p>Faith Formation for Older Children</p> <p>Joyful Noise Rehearsal – Sanctuary</p> <p>Caroling at Sunrise</p>
<p>Thur. Dec. 14</p>	<p>1:00 pm</p> <p>7:30 pm</p>	<p>Bible Study – Library</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room</p>
<p>Sat. Dec. 16</p>		<p>Pageant Rehearsal</p>
<p>Sun. Dec. 17</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>10:00 am</p> <p>6:30 pm</p>	<p>Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary</p> <p>Nursery – Library/Nursery</p> <p>Christmas Concert - Sanctuary</p>
<p>Thur. Dec. 21</p>	<p>1-2 pm</p> <p>7:30 pm</p>	<p>Bible Study – Fireside Room</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room</p>

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 December 18
