

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

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

January 8, 2018

The Season of Epiphany

With the celebration of the visit of the Magi to the newborn king and his parents, we begin the season of Epiphany, the historical roots of which date to the ancient Christian church and predates our celebration of Christmas. Epiphany means "revelation" and is often associated with light and with signs and with a growing understanding of who Jesus is for us and for the world. It begins with the Magi following a star-sign to the place where the Light of the World was born, and ends with Jesus, transfigured before his disciples on a holy mountaintop. Throughout, we are invited ever deeper into the wonder and mystery of our God, who came to us in the person Jesus. We are invited to pay attention to light, and signs, and allow ourselves to see and hear and imagine where and to what we are being led.

Throughout the season, we'll be exploring the crossroads of revelation and discipleship and imagine the ways we are being invited to participate as stewards of God's creation. Which roads lead toward wholeness and fullness of life? How do our individual journeys of faith and our communal lives as the body of Christ come together for the good of the world? How do our individual epiphanies intertwine to reveal our way forward?

I look forward to journeying in this season of revelation with you!

In the light of Christ,

Nancy

In the Sanctuary

January 14, 2018

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery

Older Children in Church

January 21, 2018

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation for Older Children

Deacons Breakfast – January 21st

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before church on Sunday, January 21, 2018 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.

New Member's Luncheon

On Sunday, January 28th, Rev. Nancy will be hosting a luncheon after worship for those who are interested in learning more about membership at Centre Church. This is a no pressure, informational opportunity for fellowship and conversation about our life at Centre Church.

If you are interested in attending, please email Rev. Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org or call the church office at 781-334-3050.

Faith Formation

Church School News: We will resume Sunday School Classes (Preschool Transition, Godly Play and Brick-by-Brick) on January 21st.

Volunteer - We are in need of volunteer assistants (each class has a lead teacher) for the Nursery, Preschool Transition and Godly Play. Even volunteering once in the winter and/or spring is helpful! You don't have to be a parent to volunteer -- everyone is welcome! Please sign up in the Narthex at the FFMT table or see Larainne.

Joyful Noise - We are planning 2-3 opportunities for sharing music with the congregation between February - June.

CPR/First Aid: Faith Formation is planning to host a CPR and First Aid class for the Lynnfield Community. More information will be forthcoming.

Faith Formation will host the conference's Christian Education Certification Class on March 3rd from 8:30 - 12:30 on the Old and New Testament. This class is open to all, not just folks in the CE Certification Program!

Safe Church/Volunteer Training: February 11th after church at 11:30 for all new and potential volunteers.

Next Faith Formation Team Meeting is on January 16th at 7 p.m.

News From Around the Parish

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Louise Siebert who died on Nov. 4. Her Memorial service will be held at Centre Church on Sat., January 13 at 11:00 a.m.

Our love and sympathy go out to the Lucia family upon the death of Anthony "Tony" Lucia on Dec. 29. His Memorial Service will be held at Centre Church on Sat., Jan. 20 at 11:00 a.m.

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Edith "Edie" Richard who died on Dec. 31. Her funeral will be held at Centre Church on Fri., Jan. 12 at 11:00 a.m.

We extend our love and prayers to the family of Roger Lummus who died on Dec. 31. His funeral will be held at Centre Church on Sat., Jan. 13 at 3:00 p.m.

You Can Help: Meals Needed

Dotty Whittier is in treatment for cancer which has traveled to her brain. She has endured radiation, drug therapy and surgery. She is in recovery but not able to use the kitchen. Can you help provide meals? Here is a link to coordinating meals for Dotty and Gage: <https://mealtrain.com/4d6712>

Non-processed foods are preferred: fresh vegetables, fruit and unbleached flour, with preferences for spaghetti squash, chicken or vegetarian meals. You can contact Linda Ladd for more info about this: ladd@neb.com. Thank you!

Missions and Outreach

Angel Tree Donations: We collected 388 items totaling almost \$3,600 according to City Mission Society's tally and valuation sheet. Well done Centre Church families! You helped to make Christmas enjoyable for many givers and receivers. Thank you also to Larainne and the Cotting School who helped us reach this total.

Haven From Hunger: Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve a meal on Monday, January 22. Work is from 3-6:30pm at 71 Wallis Street in Peabody. Please sign up on the Missions & Outreach bulletin board or contact Linda Ladd.

Shaw's Saver Stamps: **LAST CALL** for this year's stamps which are redeemable for Rachel Ray bakeware. We are collecting them in an envelope in the Missions closet.

Heifer International: . Our Heifer Marketplace raised \$2,135 for Heifer to distribute goats, a llama, an alpaca, shares of heifers and water buffalos, rabbits, chicks, ducks, honeybees, and tree seedlings. These gifts will help struggling families in all parts of the world.

Upcoming Donation of the Month:



Spotlight on CCC Young Adults

In what we hope will become a recurring feature in Tower Notes, we are focusing the spotlight on a young adult member of CCC and their involvement in mission and outreach in the world. First up is Mia Sievers, daughter of Heather and John Sievers. We hope you will be inspired to surround Mia with your prayerful intention.



Read on for her story:

Hi, my name is Mia Sievers, and throughout middle and high school, I was heavily involved at Centre Congregational Church. Currently, I am a student at Penn State University, majoring in Biochemistry. Besides the time I spend in classes and working in my lab at school, I also spend a lot of time working on my and others' health and fitness. I am on the Exec team of my university chapter of CHAARG, which is an all girls' health and fitness organization that strives to empower women to "find their fit" through trying out different forms of exercise.

My position on CHAARG's exec team is actually the position of primary liaison between this organization and the Penn State IFC/ Panhellenic Dance Marathon, or THON. THON is a yearlong fundraising effort that culminates in a 46- hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon held every February. As the largest student run philanthropy in the world, our mission is to provide emotional and financial support to families, spread awareness, and ensure funding for critical cancer research- all in pursuit of a cure. Since THON's beginning in 1973, we have raised over \$146 million dollars, For The Kids!

Helping people through church has always been a huge part of my life, so I knew that when I graduated high school and left Centre Church to go to school, I wanted to get involved with helping people in some way. Thus, I decided pretty quickly to get involved with THON during my first year at Penn State. I have been increasing my involvement each year, so this year, when CHAARG got involved in THON for the first time, I was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to spearhead this effort by being CHAARG's first THON Chair. I have been working tirelessly, along with the other members of my organization, to fundraise and spread awareness, and I would greatly appreciate any time you might be able to spend learning more about this cause or any support you might offer. You can learn more about THON here: <https://thon.org/why-we-thon> and my THON journey here: <https://thon.donordrive.com/participant/MiaSievers>.

Thank you so much for your help and support! One day, I hope that we will be able to dance in celebration of finding the cure to this terrible disease. But until then, we will dance for a cure!

*Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*
~from "Lord of the Dance" by Sydney Carter

Where are you being Christ's hands and feet in the world? We hope to feature other CCC young adults in the future, so if you are a young adult, or know a young adult whose Christian faith has inspired your/their connection and outreach to the wider world, please let us know by emailing Rev. Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org.



Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Please Save the Date:
Saturday February 3, 2018 @ 6:30 PM

Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting
 Silent Auction brought to you by our wonderful Donors!

This is our biggest fundraiser and we are looking for
Donations of Silent Auction items!

Want to donate something?? Please contact Chuck Cotting!
 @ 781-593-3120 or chuck@thecottings.com

THANK YOU!

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan.14	10:00 am	Morning Worship- Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Older Children in Church
Mon. Jan.15	----	Office Closed-MLK Day
Thur. Jan. 18	1-2 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sun. Jan. 21	8:30-9:45 10:00am	Deacon’s Breakfast-Kitchen Morning Worship-Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Thur. Jan.25	1-2 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room 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 – 9am-3pm Mon-Fri

*The office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15
 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday*

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of Jan 22.