

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 22, 2018

Back in November I began introducing you to resources that nourish a practice of daily prayer/devotion/contemplation. As we continue our Epiphany journey, I am mindful that not everyone has time for a longer devotion, or at least not every day. So, this week my daily devotion recommendation is **Brother, Give Us A Word**, from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, a monastic community of The Episcopal Church & The Anglican Church of Canada. You can subscribe here: <http://www.ssje.org/subscribe/> Be sure to scroll to the bottom and check the box to receive the daily devotion. They also publish a weekly sermon and a quarterly magazine, all of which are available to subscribe to. The daily word is a great point of reflection for any contemplative prayer practice. Here is an example:

Embody: Human flesh and the work of human hands is now the means by which light and life come into the world, how grace and truth come into this world. Now we embody the love and compassion of God. Now we embody the grace and truth of Christ.

-Br. Mark Brown, SSJE

I love the places this simple reflection takes me in prayer. Embodiment takes me right back to Psalm 139 and understanding ourselves as intimately known and loved by God. Being known and loved then empowers us to embody the love and compassion of God in the world.

This simple practice of a daily word for reflection can be the spark of light by which we see the signs that God is giving us along the way! It is a way of capturing our attention and keeping us present in the here and now of our daily lives. I hope you'll give it a try!

In the Sanctuary

January 28, 2018

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Nursery
Faith Formation for Older Children

February 3, 2018

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Nursery
Faith Formation for Older Children

New Member's Luncheon

On Sunday, January 28th, Rev. Nancy and her husband Mike will be hosting a luncheon at 11:30 am 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. Children are welcome! We will have kid friendly lunch items, activities, and adult care givers. We will all eat together and then the children will be able to choose between open play in the nursery or Veggie Tales in the theater. If you are interested in attending, please email Rev. Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org or call the church office at 781-334-3050 no later than Friday, January 26th so that we have a head count for lunch.

Faith Formation

Church School

(Footprints/Godly Play/Brick-by-Brick)

Dates for January: 1/21, 1/28

Dates for February: 2/4 (whole group), 2/11, 2/18

No church school: 2/25 (February Vacation)

Joyful Noise Rehearsals will be on 3/11 and 3/18 with a sharing of their song on Palm Sunday, March 25th.

First Sundays: We will continue to have large group Church School Gatherings for Preschool - Grade 5 (Footprints/Godly Play/Brick-by-Brick) on the first Sunday of the month (2/4, 3/4, 5/6, 6/3). On those Sundays, we dismiss after the mini-message and return for communion. If you have a special talent to share or would just like to volunteer, we'd love to have you participate!

From the Mailbox

Dear Centre Church Friends,

I appreciate your expressions of sympathy on the recent passing of my father. And a special thanks for the lovely poinsettia plant.

Warm Regards,

Frank Scott

Dear Centre Church Family,

Thank you to all of you who helped to assure that my husband, Tony Lucia, had a very memorable Celebration of Life Service. All of your support in so many ways surrounded myself and my family during such a difficult time.... you continue to be a true church family and I sincerely appreciate every detail that you cared for on Saturday, January 20th.

With love,

Judi Lucia

My Dad, my family & I would like to thank everyone at Centre Church for the outpouring of love, sympathy, cards, meals and well wishes that you bestowed on our family during this difficult time of losing my Mom, Edie Richard. She so loved Centre Church.

God Bless,

Doreen DiFillippo & Family

Earl Richard & Family

Missions and Outreach

Shaw's Stamp success: Thank you to everyone who contributed Shaw's Saver stamps. We collected 351 stamps which were redeemed for two beautiful Rachel Rae stoneware casserole dishes (130 stamps each) and two au gratin bakers (45 stamps each). These prize pieces will be given by Missions of Deeds in Reading to help furnish kitchens for those in need.

Donation Items

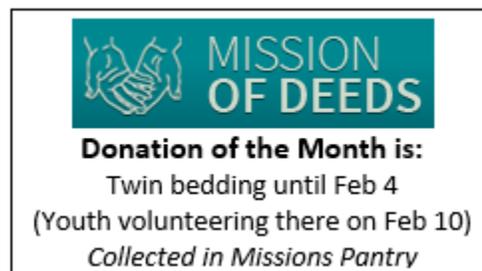
For Missions of Deeds: **until Feb 4** - new or "like-new" twin bedding for Mission of Deeds in Reading. Our youth will be volunteering there on Saturday, Feb 10.

For Common Cathedral in Boston: **until March 4** - gently used warm clothes (large sizes are most needed) as well as new socks and underwear. Our youth will be experiencing Common Cathedral's homeless education overnight called "City Reach" on March 9-10.

Theater Outing on Feb 11, 2pm

We have reserved 20 seats for ***Unveiled at Stoneham Theater*** on Sunday Feb 11, 2pm. The group ticket cost is \$15. Please see Linda Ladd to join our group and arrange carpooling from the church. In this show, one woman portrays five Muslim women in their homes, serving tea. Their compelling stories of religion, love, violence, culture, language, racism and life are revealed. In a post-9/11 world, everything has changed for these once nearly invisible women. *Unveiled* is written and performed by Rohina Malik, who drew on her own Indo-Pakistani heritage to create and embody these vivid characters. For more information see <http://www.greaterbostonstage.org/unveiled.html>

Upcoming Donation of the Month:





**2018 Trivia Night and Silent Auction
Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 6:30pm**

Trivia brought to you by Jason Cotting
Silent Auction by our wonderful Donors!
This is our biggest church fundraiser so
please join us.

Get your teams together now!
The deadline to sign up is January 29th.
Contact Chuck Cotting 781-593-3120



Live your faith, Love your Community!

Giv² (Give Squared) is an ecumenical group of youth & adults giving back to our communities.
Together, we explore our faith through SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP

High School Youth and any adult interested in chaperoning are invited to participate in
our upcoming Community Service Event at Mission of Deeds

Saturday, February 10, 2018 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Church parking lot at 8:30 and carpool to 6 Chapin Ave, Reading.
We are holding a TWIN sheet and blanket drive prior. Please bring your donations to
church on 1/28 and 2/4! (or with you on the day of the event!)

RSVP ASAP! Contact Linda Ladd or Laraine Wilson lwilson@centre-church.org

United Church of Christ
New England Women's

Celebration 

A SEAT AT THE TABLE
Come for all things are now ready.
- Luke 14:17b

SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 6 - 8, 2018
Portland, Maine



This is the fortieth anniversary of
UCC New England Women's Celebration.
Come! Celebrate with us!
There is "a seat at the table" for you!

Join hundreds of women from UCC
churches across New England.
Shopping in the "Holy Mall" Together
Sharing Communion Together
Worshipping Together
Singing Together
Dining Together

To register and reserve your room go to:
<http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org>

Our Opportunities

Sun. Jan. 28	10:00 am	Morning Worship- Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Thur. Feb. 1	1-2 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sat. Feb 3	6:30pm	Trivia/Silent Auction
Sun. Feb 3	10:00am	Morning Worship-Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation

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 next issue of Tower Notes – Week of February 5
