

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Email: Office@Centre-Church.org Web Site: www.Centre-Church.org

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

February 5, 2018

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a journey with a particular pace and clear destination. In Lent, we slow down and we practice being humans living in the light of the gospel as we journey toward the empty tomb, the hope and sign of eternal life. We begin this season with perhaps one of the most important and inarguable statements in all of scripture: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is a stark reminder of our mortality. This statement, and hearing it as ash is imposed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, grounds us. It places our feet firmly on the earth from which we are formed as we begin our journey toward Jerusalem, toward the empty tomb and the promise of eternal life. All along the way, with our feet firmly in this earthly life, we are invited to reflect and to repent, to practice and to pray, to walk and to sit, to remember and to learn.

We will worship with ashes and Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. I hope you will leave behind any previous notions you might have about this experience and open yourself to being transformed. And then, on the following five Wednesday evenings in Lent at 7 pm you are invited to join me in the Chapel to consider together who we are and how we encounter God made flesh in Jesus the Christ. Through a 5-part series on "*Sensing the Gospels*," we are invited to think about how Jesus makes God known to us in tangible, sensory ways: through touch, sight, taste, hearing, and smell. Beloved, I hope you will come, taste and see!

Lent

By Ann Weems

Lent is the time to take the time
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

Let's be on our way,

Pastor Nancy

In the Sanctuary

February 11, 2018

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation

February 18, 2018

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation

Faith Formation

Church School

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

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

No church school: 2/25 (February Vacation)

Our Church nursery is open every Sunday for infants through age 3. Experienced staff and volunteers are on hand to welcome children for story time and play.

Special Guest in Worship



On Sunday, February 11th, we will have a special guest joining us for worship. Rev. Nancy's friend, Amir Orly, is a fourth generation Israeli Jew. He is a New Testament scholar and has been a tour guide for over 30 years. He travels extensively in the US teaching in Christian

churches and Jewish synagogues and welcomes tour groups, families, and individuals to the Holy Land. Amir was the tour guide for Rev. Nancy and her mom on their visit to Israel in the fall of 2010. Their deep spiritual friendship was evident immediately and Amir became a critical partner in discerning Rev. Nancy's call to ordained ministry. Together they will be preaching on this Transfiguration Sunday!



Sensing the Gospels

During the Lenten season, Rev. Nancy will be offering a worship series on "Sensing the Gospels" on Wednesday evenings, Feb. 21 and 28, and March 7, 14, and 21 at 7pm in the Chapel. Together we will think about how Jesus makes God known to us in tangible, sensory ways: through touch, sight, taste, hearing, and smell. These services are "come as you are," and will offer opportunities for quiet reflection, engagement with one another, and encounter with a variety of media. Come, taste, and see!

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. 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. For more information see <http://www.greaterbostonstage.org/unveiled.html>

Super Saturday

Super Saturday is a collaborative effort between the Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences of the UCC. It is a day of worship, workshops, and networking. It is held twice a year and this Spring's opportunity is on Saturday, March 17th. Larainne and Nancy will be attending and would love to have some of you come along. If you are interested and would like to learn more, or if you already know you would like to register, please contact Rev. Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org or call the church office. We receive a discount on our registration fees if we register 5 or more together. Check out what workshops will be offered at <https://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/super-saturday-march-2018-9985355>

From the Mailbox

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the "meal train" and cards. Love, Dotty Whittier

The Chapel Cushions Are In!

The next time you are at church, please visit the chapel and try out the new pew cushions. A huge thank you to our generous cushion donor.

Haven From Hunger:

Meal volunteers are needed on Monday, February 26. Please sign up for that date or any other, on the Missions bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen.



Trivia Olympics and Silent Auction –THANK YOU!

A HUGE Thank You to all of those who attended, donated their time and effort, donated food and prizes, and bid on and/or donated Silent Auction items. We are very grateful to the following businesses for their Silent Auction donations. When you visit these businesses, please thank them for supporting Centre Church! We had over 100 people sign up to play Trivia and bid on the Auction Items valued at \$8,000! All of your time and efforts helped to make this our best fundraiser in recent history.

Much appreciated,
Membership Ministries

Many Thanks to our BUSINESS DONORS.

Please patronize these establishments and thank them for their generosity.

Andrew Brown - Keller Williams Realty Showcase Properties,
Angelica's Restaurant – Angelica's Restaurant 49 S. Main Street, Rte. 114 Middleton
Baubles Jewelry - Baubles Fine Jewelry, 1 Post Office Square & 495 Broadway Lynnfield
bisou by Melissa, 10 Centre Court Lynnfield
Boloco Globally Inspired Burritos – Boloco at Market Street, 425 Market Street Lynnfield
Big Y Supermarkets – Saugus and West Peabody
Centre Court Pizzeria – 2 Center Village Lynnfield
Cervizzi's Martial Arts Academy - 5 Post Office Square, Lynnfield
Christine's Café and Confections - 618 Salem Street, Lynnfield
Davio's Northern Italian Restaurant – 1250 Market Street, Lynnfield
DeSantis Painting & Construction - 4 Fernway, Lynnfield
FT Fitness Together – 10A Post Office Square, Lynnfield
Frame Shack - 339 Salem Street, Wakefield
Gaslight Restaurant – 1100 Market Street, Lynnfield
Greater Boston Stage Company [formerly Stoneham Theatre] - 395 Main Street, Stoneham
Gregory's Flower Shop and Garden Center - 329 Vernon Street, Wakefield
Harrington's Restaurant – 17 Water St Wakefield
Hart's Hardware - 442 Main St, Wakefield
Harrow's Chicken Pies – 6 Locations – one near you
JP Licks - 800 Market Street, Lynnfield
Kowloon Comedy Club – 948 Broadway [Rt. One North] Saugus
Learning Express - 115 Market Street, Lynnfield
Middleton Golf Course – Route 114, Middleton
Muisse Paint Bar - Play Yoga at The Mansion – 187 Lake Street, Peabody
North Shore Music Theatre – 62 Dunham Road, Beverly
Paper Source – 520 Market St Lynnfield
Parker Florist - 9 Lincoln Street, Wakefield
Peabody-Essex Museum – East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem
Play Yoga at The Mansion – 187 Lake Street, Peabody
Quannapowitt Players – 55 Hopkins Street, Reading
Sagamore Springs Golf Club - 1287 Main Street, Lynnfield
The Clubhouse Golf & Entertainment - 220 South Main Street, Middleton
TJ Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods – Everywhere near Lynnfield
Town of Lynnfield Golf – King Rail and Reedy Meadow in Lynnfield
Trenoi Salon, 146 Lowell Street, Wakefield
Village Pharmacy – 590 Main Street, Lynnfield
Wahlburgers – 930 Market Street, Lynnfield
Warner River Produce – 119 Dustin Road Webster, New Hampshire
Yard House Restaurant - 340 Market Street, Lynnfield

Our Opportunities

Sun. Feb. 4	10:00 am	Holy Communion- Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Wed. Feb. 7	8:30am	Bread 7 Roses- Kitchen
Thur. Feb. 8	1-2 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sat. Feb 10	8:30-12:30	Youth-Mission of Deeds
Sun. Feb 11	10:00am	Morning Worship-Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Wed. Feb 14	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service-Chapel
Thurs. Feb 15	1-2pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sun. Feb 18	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 Church Office will be closed on
Monday, February 19 for President’s Day.
Tuesday, Feb 20 to Friday, Feb 23: the office hours will be 9-12***

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of February 19