

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

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

April 3, 2018

Living the Paschal Mystery, Part Two

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Here we are on the other side of the cross, thrust into the realization of an empty tomb and the hope and possibility of new life in Christ! We certainly greeted Easter morning with awe and joy. I'll take a moment here again to say thank you to everyone who participated in making our Maundy Thursday and Easter morning worship experiences deep and rich! We are blessed to be church together.

On Easter morning I asked the question, "What now?" I suggested that, guided by the story as told in the Gospel of Mark, we are invited to find ourselves in the surprising sense of dislocation that arises at the empty tomb. Imagine how quickly Jesus' disciples moved from love and joy to concern and then horror; from loss and deep grief, to shock and fear and puzzlement. They must have been reeling! It is no wonder the women's response was to run away in fear and tell no one initially. Have you ever known something that seemed so preposterous you knew no one would believe you? I'm sure the women needed time to remember that Jesus had predicted all of this, had told them all what would happen. They needed time and space to remember that and to follow the command to "Go, Tell!"

The first step of living the spirituality of the paschal mystery is naming your deaths. Are you acknowledging the death of your youth, of your wholeness due to injury or illness? Perhaps you need to acknowledge the death of your dream of a certain job, a particular place to live, or a better relationship with a friend or family member. I

encourage you to take some time to reflect and name the death(s) that you are currently experiencing.

The next step is to claim your births, or name the new life you have received. For example, if you have named the death of your youth, resurrection has already happened and you can claim the life of a fifty- (or sixty or seventy) year-old that you are living. And this new life has its own special riches of wisdom, freedom, and experience. Resurrection has already happened. Claim your births.

Then we move into the forty days. This is a time of readjustment in which we grieve what was and accept what is new. This is where the spiritual practice of lament can be especially helpful. In order to grieve what was, we need to be brutally honest with ourselves and with God. Lament is language that does just that. Getting real with God and sharing our darker emotions of fear, anger, jealousy, or rage is spiritually cleansing and as the lament psalms show us, nearly always turn us toward praise and thanksgiving to the God who is with us through it all (See Psalm 102 as an example). If Jesus can name his feelings of forsakenness and abandonment by God to God, we can name those feelings and more to the God who already knows all that we are, all that we feel, and all that we do. This step is not to be rushed. Forty days is symbolic and means that it takes what time it takes. If you take the time you need for this period of readjustment you will be able to move on to the letting go, which comes next. We'll explore that on the other side of our forty days.

Blessed Eastertide,

In the Sanctuary

April 8, 2018

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Sermon by Andrew Harris
Nursery
Faith Formation for Children

April 15, 2018

10:00 am Morning Worship
Baptism
Nursery
Group Activity for children

With Deep Gratitude

For the past nine years, Barbara Becker has done the important work of acknowledging all memorial gifts that are given to Centre Church. Communicating with the friends and loved ones of someone who has died requires compassion and great attention to detail. Barbara attended to this ministry with both in abundance. On behalf of a grateful staff, Parish Council, and membership of Centre Church, thank you Barbara for your good work! And we welcome Marcia Stevens into this role. Thank you to you both for your willingness to serve.

Installation

On Sunday, April 22nd at 3:00 pm Rev. Nancy will be installed as our Senior Pastor with a reception of celebration to follow. Come and join in as we covenant together as Christ's church here in the center of Lynnfield



“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

~2 Corinthians 9:

There's still time!! If you haven't returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a pledge card, just contact the church office.

With gratitude,
Debbie Cotting, Stewardship

The Sanctuary was so alive with color on Easter Sunday! The Flower Committee is so grateful to all who made this happen. We thank Joe Gallo of Plantscape Designs for supplying the gorgeous plants and those who donated them. We appreciate the team of volunteers who delivered the plants to those who are shut-in and bereaved in our church family.

With gratitude,
The Flower Committee

Mission and Outreach News

Haven From Hunger: Reverend Nancy, Doreen DiFillippo, Phil Fisher and Linda Ladd prepped and served a meal on March 26th. Nancy received compliments on her particularly beautiful blessing before the meal (no surprise there!) Next opportunity to serve at HFH is on April 23rd.

Upcoming Donation of the month:



Stamp Out Hunger: We'll be helping to sort food donations collected by the US Postal Service on May 12th at Haven From Hunger. They can use help starting at 10am but will be most busy 12-3pm. Sign up on the M&O bulletin board.

Walk for Women! Heifer of New England is organizing a 5K walk to benefit female farmers around the world. We'll be walking as a group after church on Sunday, May 6th around Lake Quannapowitt. Stay tuned for details on walking and how to support our team in this unique and fun way to raise funds for Heifer.

Open Mosque Day – April 8th This Sunday, April 8th is Open Mosque Day in Massachusetts. The Islamic Society of the Northshore mosque at 35 Lynnfield St. in Lynn will be open to the public from 1-5pm. For more information or a ride, please see Linda Ladd.

Faith Formation Ministry Team:

Faith Formation has met with Chuck Cotting to discuss our evacuation plan in the event of a fire or other emergency. We plan to practice this with classes before the end of the church school year. On the day of the practice, parents will be notified in church. We are starting with individual classes and will have a whole group practice/drill in the fall.

Young Families Group: Sarah Crosbie has sent out a survey via Survey Monkey to our Young Families Group asking about activities for the Spring and what times might work best for families. We will use this information to plan our outings! If you didn't get the link, let Larainne or Sarah know! Please respond by Friday, April 6th, so we can put together the responses for our next meeting.

CPR/AED- We are looking at dates to offer a CPR/AED training. More information will be coming!

Volunteers: Nursery and Footprints (Preschool) volunteers are needed in April and May! Please see Larainne or sign up on the sheets on the FFMT table in the Narthex.

Faith Formation Team: If you are interested in joining the Faith Formation Team in the fall, please let Jill or Larainne know!

Super Saturday: Larainne attended Super Saturday (a UCC, one-day mini-conference held twice a year) in Wilbraham last weekend. There is Children's Programming available if anyone is interested in going next time (Save the Date: Saturday, October 20th) It is low-cost and the next one will be closer -- Framingham! It is a fun and easy way to get involved with the denomination.

Joyful Noise, our children's choir, will rehearse during Faith Formation on April 15 and at 9:45 on Sunday, April 22. They will share their song with the congregation on April 22 during worship as well as in the afternoon for Rev. Nancy's Installation.

VBS: We are exploring the possibility of having Vacation Bible School in the Summer of 2019. More on this to come!

Next Faith Formation Team Meeting Date:
Tuesday, April 10 at 7pm.

April Schedule for Faith Formation

4/8: Nursery/Church School (Footprints, Godly Play and Brick by Brick)
4/15: Nursery/Whole Group: Lauren Gerbick will lead whole group singing and a craft
4/22: Nursery/Church School (Footprints, Godly Play and Brick by Brick) Children singing.
4/22 Installation Nursery will be open. Children will sing at installation.
4/29: Nursery/Whole Group: Larainne will lead whole group in preparation of coffee hour for "Service Sunday" parents should donate easy to prep goodies.



Centre Church will be holding a Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, November 3, 2018. The church will be renting space to local crafters and we will also have our own bake table, jewelry table and craft table. We are planning on holding monthly craft nights to work on crafts that we will sell at our table. Our next craft night will be Tuesday, April 24 at 7pm. All materials will be provided. Come join the fun and fellowship. Call Barbara Langill at the church office for more information.

Reminder Just a quick reminder to everyone, if you have not sent in your contribution for MBA Dues (the orange envelope in your envelope packet), please take the time to do so. This reflects our commitment and covenant to support the Metropolitan Boston Association (MBA) of the United Church of Christ in their work. The dues amount is **\$20.10 per member** (adults and children who are confirmed and members of the church) Checks should be payable to Centre Church. For anyone who does not receive envelopes, please make a contribution to the church with "MBA Dues" in the memo line. Thank you.



Spotlight on CCC Young Adults

The second young adult in the Spotlight is Raden Sorli Hawk, daughter of Jeannine Hawk and Roy Sorli. Read on for her story:

Raden has been an active church member here at Centre Church since her confirmation and currently serves on the Board of Deacons. Many Sundays you can find Raden helping with church school as an assistant in one of the classes, ushering, or helping her father out with recording the worship service. Her other activities

throughout high school have included participating in mission trips, attending the UCC National Youth Event and General Synod in 2017. Raden also participated in the musical "Footloose" on stage at Lynnfield High School in the fall.

Raden is a member of the Lynnfield Destination Imagination team "Punbelievable." Destination Imagination's stated purpose is to be a leading educational nonprofit dedicated to teaching students the skills needed to succeed in school, their careers and beyond. They develop project-based learning programs that blend STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education with the arts and social entrepreneurship. DI teaches students invaluable skills including: creative and critical thinking, team building, problem solving, risk taking, project management, perseverance, and self-confidence. Punbelievable won first place at the DI State Championship in the secondary level and now will be heading to Globals in Knoxville, Tennessee. Raden feels blessed to be able to attend Global Finals as a graduating senior.

"Punbelievable" has started fundraising to help cover travel expenses, room & board, and other fees. The group will be hosting an electronics drive on May 12th as well as holding a Flamingo Flocking fundraiser from now through May 19. The team has also set up a GoFundMe page. Please visit www.tinyurl.com/lynnfieldmadi to donate. Any donations made at the GoFundMe page will directly support Raden's individual costs. Participation in the other two fundraisers will support the whole team. Feel free to contact Raden at radensorlihawk@gmail.com with any questions, comments or concerns. Thank you for your support!

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.

Centre Congregational Church Flea Market and Bake Sale Saturday May 12th 8AM to 2PM



Membership is sponsoring a **Flea Market and Bake Sale** on **Saturday, May 12, 2018**. Profits will go to the Church Budget.

The event will take place on the front lawn of the Church. In the event of rain, indoor space will be available.

Flea Market tables may be rented by Church Members at a reduced rate of \$25. Please contact the Church Office [781-334-3050].

We are looking for **volunteers** to provide individually-wrapped goodies for the **Bake Sale!** A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex.

We are also looking for **Flea Market volunteers** to help set up in the morning, staff the church tables throughout the day and help clean up after the event. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Please bring your Flea Market **TREASURES** to the church between **Sunday, May 6 and Saturday, May 12**. Please place them in the Narthex Closet. Unfortunately, we will not be able to save any items. They will either be given away or disposed of.

Thank you! Membership Ministries

Our Opportunities

Sat. April 7	2-6pm	Lynnfield for Love event- Todd Hall
Sun. April 8	10:00am	Sunday Worship Holy Communion- Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Tues. April 10	7pm	Faith Formation Team - Library
Thurs. April 12	1-2pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-Choir room
Sun. April 15	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation-group activity
Thurs. April 19	1-2pm 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
9am-12noon April 16-20 School Vacation Week

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of April 16
