

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

May 9, 2018

Pentecost: A Spirituality of the Paschal Mystery, Part 4

We have reached the final movement of living a spirituality of the paschal mystery: Pentecost. First, we name our deaths. Next, we claim our births. Then we move into a time of grieving what we have lost and adjusting to the new reality we are living in, remembering that this phase takes as long as it takes, a wilderness period of "forty days." Beyond the wilderness, we remember not to cling, but rather let the old, the "what was," "the way things were," ascend and give us its blessing.

When we have journeyed from death, through grief, to ascended life, it is time to "accept the spirit of the life that you are already living" (Rolheiser, 1999, 148). This revelation astounded me. It is so very obvious when you think about it, but therein lies the problem. Too often we're too busy stuck in missing what was and clinging, that we can't recognize the reality that we're already living beyond what was. The task then is to open the eyes of our heart to see this new reality and awaken to the spirit that this new life offers us.

On Pentecost, Jesus' disciples received the spirit of the resurrected, ascended Christ, which empowered their ministry, their sharing the good news. Imagine if they hadn't accepted the spirit, the life force of their mission and ministry! Would WE have ever heard the good news living two thousand years later? Would Christ's beloved community, the Church, ever have come to be if those gathered had failed to accept the spirit of the life they were already living as the witnesses of Christ's life, death,

resurrection, and ascension? But they did, Praise God, and we do! We experience this cycle over and over, often daily, with situations, relationships, and more. If we can learn to recognize it and be attentive and intentional about our experiences of it, we can live with more joy and less anxiety. It is my deepest hope for us all!

Christ's peace be with you,

Rolheiser, Ronald. *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*. Doubleday, 1999.

In the Sanctuary

May 13, 2018

Senior Recognition Sunday

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation for Children

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday/New Members

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation for Children

Celebrating 60 years!

On May 25th, Centre Church's Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. Mark Freeman Strickland will celebrate 60 years of ordained ministry! It would be fabulous if we could cover him with prayers of thanksgiving and inundate his mailbox with cards. If you would like to participate, the Strickland's mailing address is Box 252 West Falmouth, MA 02574.

Congratulations, Rev. Strickland!



Deacons Summer Kickoff BBQ/Potluck Supper

You're invited to our Summer Kickoff

BBQ/Potluck Supper on **Saturday, June 16 at 4:00 PM.** Bring your beach/lawn chairs, favorite pasta salads, potato salads or sandwiches and enjoy some heavenly food and fellowship. Tables and chairs will be available. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Signup sheets will be in the Narthex starting May 20th.

Mission and Outreach News

Haven From Hunger: Our next opportunity to serve a meal at HFH is on May 28th which is Memorial Day. Please sign up to volunteer on the M&O bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen. By that date, their kitchen renovation will be complete! Centre Church supported this effort with a \$3000 donation from the Mission and Outreach budget as well as 1/2 of the offering from Nancy's installation. Thank you all for supporting the good work of Haven From Hunger!

Heifer Walk Wrapup Hot dogs and popcorn prepared by fabulous Chef Cotting were a big hit on Sunday. Thank you for the great lunch, Chuck! Unfortunately, the damp weather did deter outside activities and only a small hearty crew made the actual walk around Lake Quannapowitt, but donations can still be made at <http://fundraise.heifer.org/CCwalkers>.

With Mother's Day in mind, you might want to donate in honor of your mother whether she's an actual female farmer or a true empowered women, we're sure Mum likes supporting women's efforts to provide for their families around the world.

Donation of the month:



City Mission: As all who were in church on Sunday now know, Rev. June Cooper is a dynamic preacher and dedicated to caring for those who need assistance in the Boston area. Your donations given to City Mission during Sunday's service will be combined with \$3,000 from the Mission and Outreach budget to support the good work of this organization. Thank you for your donations directly to City Mission, as well as for your pledged contribution for our missions outreach budget.

Farm volunteers needed: On the morning of Saturday June 9th, we'll be volunteering at The Food Project farm in Lincoln. This event is for ages 14 and up. TFP's goal is to engage young people in personal and social change through sustainable agriculture. Food from TFP farms is distributed through community supported agriculture programs and farmers' markets, and also donated to local hunger relief organizations. Email events@centre-church.org for more information.



Join us for craft night on Tuesday, May 15 at 7pm. We will be making sand dollar snowmen. All materials will be provided. The crafts are to sell at the upcoming Holiday Fair in November. Come join the fun and fellowship. Call Barbara Langill at the church office for more information.

New Members Joining

On Pentecost, Sunday, May 20th we will again be covenanting with those who are interested in becoming members of Centre Church. If you are interested, please reach out to Rev. Nancy at pastor@centre-church.org, or call the Church Office at 781-334-3050.

News From Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Sean and Ashli Pyburn upon the birth of their son, Gunner James Pyburn on May 3. He is the great grandson of Jeff and Marcia Stevens and Elaine Pyburn.

Help Wanted – Financial Planning

Do you have financial planning or investment experience? If so, we need your help! Parish Council is creating an investment team who will review the current church investment status, evaluate possible new investments and then present their research to the congregation, offering suggestions to enhance our financial growth. If you have any interest in becoming a member of this group, or want additional information, please contact me or a member of Parish Council at your earliest convenience. I can be reached through the church office, or call me at 781-334-4341.

Email - bcweaver@verizon.net

Bruce Weaver

Photos from Reverend Nancy's installation at Centre Church can be found at www.facebook.com/centrechurchucc/ and also on our www.centre-church.org Picture Gallery. What a great celebration for all of us as we covenant in ministry together with our chosen Senior Pastor – Rev. Nancy J. Rottman.

Centre Church Safety

For the last six months Centre Church has been engaged in preparing an evacuation procedure. This is just one part of planning for our safety and security here at Centre Church. Over the next several Sundays, we will practice evacuating each of our Church School rooms. The schedule is Footprints: 5/13, BXB: 5/20, Nursery: 5/27 (Memorial Day Weekend) and Godly Play: 6/10. These are learning opportunities and all Church School parents will receive an email from Larainne with details. In addition, Rev. Nancy and several Centre Church lay leaders have attended several trainings regarding House of Worship safety. These trainings have included our Lynnfield First Responders. One of the first steps we are taking is increasing our ability to communicate during

Sunday morning worship. To that end, Rev. Nancy will have her cell phone with her on the chancel every Sunday and Larainne will carry her phone throughout the morning as well.

Faith Formation Ministry

Church School:

- Church School remaining dates: 5/13, 5/20 and 6/10
- All Ages Church School on 5/27 (Flower Planting) & 6/3 (Practice for Celebration Sunday)
- Church School Celebration Sunday is June 17th. The Faith Formation Team will be in touch with parents regarding roles. Joyful Noise will share a song! Practices on 6/3 (During Service), 6/10 @ 9:45 and 6/17@ 9:30 -- Mark Your Calendars!
- All Ages Church School begins on June 24th -- We will have programming ALL summer for K-5 and the nursery is open every week! We are using the Whole People of God Curriculum and the theme of our unit is "Recognizing and Responding".

Events:

- Sunday May, 13th: Senior Sunday - Join us to celebrate our seniors that have confirmed their attendance: Monique Law, Andrew Seelig, Raden Sorli-Hawk, Caitlin Timmons and Margrett "Maggie" Weaver. Their bios will be featured in the next Tower Notes! They are going places!
- CPR: We will be hosting a CPR Class for Parents and Caregivers with the Lynnfield Moms Group on **June 9th from 11:30 - 2:30**. Please let us know if you are interested in this important class! See Lauren Donadio with questions.
- Boston Pride Parade and Festival: June 9th. See Larainne if you are interested in going! She's happy to pick up folks from the church on her way or meet you there!
- The Young Families Group will take a hike to "Harold Parker" after church on 6/10. Meet at the playground after church for directions. If it is raining, we will postpone.

Our Opportunities

Sat. May 12	9-2pm	Flea Market and Bake Sale Yard Sale
Sun. May 13	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary Recognizing High School Grads Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Tues. May15	7pm	Craft Night-Library
Thurs. May17	1-2pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal-Choir room
Sun. May 20	10:00am	Sunday Worship-Sanctuary Pentecost/New Member Sunday Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation
Thurs. May 24	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

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of May21

“Lobsta” Roll Super Sunday

Sunday June 3rd, 2018



Only \$12.00 Each

Pre-order lobster rolls by noon on Monday May 28th

Check to Centre Congregational Church with form.

Pick up on Sunday June 3rd

after morning worship, around 11:30 AM.

Name _____

How Many? _____

WITHOUT Mayo? YES