

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

July 3, 2018

Embodied

Having a Christmas in July service sure is fun! It is a blessing to bring gifts of new toys and pajamas that will benefit a child in need. In doing so, we remind ourselves that their need exists all year and not just in December. Experiencing Christmas joy in July disrupts the present order of all things summer, and perhaps gives us a taste of how our Christian friends in the southern hemisphere and tropical locales always experience the holiday. Palm trees, warm breezes, and camels anyone? It sure is a delight to sing some of our most favorite hymns or carols out of season. But there is something more that Christmas in July reminds us. We are indeed an Easter people. We believe and live in the hope and truth of resurrected life, in eternal life in God that was made possible by God coming to dwell with us in the fully human, embodied Jesus of Nazareth. That he lived, and breathed, and walked among us tells us something deeply important: that bodies matter! Our bodies matter. All bodies matter. Caring about and for our human bodies, which are both strong and resilient as well as fragile and finite, is an important part of discipleship. To follow Christ is to offer God's healing love to the broken and hurting bodies we encounter, and to accept the same when we are the ones who are hurting. Celebrating Emmanuel, God-With-Us is to remind us that we are all God-bearers and Christ's embodied siblings. What a Joy to celebrate that in the summer when the earth around us is clothed in summer splendor! What a joy it is to remind ourselves that our earthly,

embodied lives matter to God and should, therefore, matter to us! Take care of you and yours!

In hope,

Rev. Nancy

In the Chapel

July 8, 2018

Christmas in July

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery Care

All Ages Church School

July 15, 2018

10:00 am Morning Worship

Nursery Care

All Ages Church School

July 22, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship

Nursery Care

All Ages Church School

July 29, 2018

10:00am Morning Worship

Nursery Care

All Ages Church School

Missions Update

Reid's Ride 2018

Reid Sacco was just days away from his Lynnfield High School graduation when he was diagnosed with sarcoma. He delayed his acceptance to Columbia University and fought this cancer, but lost the battle when he was 21 years old. Since then, his parents and friends have raised enough money through the Reid R. Sacco Foundation to open a unique cancer clinic at Tufts Medical Center which focuses on Adolescents and Young Adults. It provides resources the Saccos wish they'd had when Reid's symptoms first appeared. "Reid's Ride" is the major fund raiser for this organization, and many members of our church have supported this by "working" the event or riding on our Centre Church team. Please join us this year by registering to ride with us or donating to our team at

<https://www.firstgiving.com/team/368938>.

Haven From Hunger

People who are "food insecure" are still hungry in the Summer. Haven From Hunger serves meals all year round and Center Church helps them the 4th Monday of each month, all year. If you can just show up to help out, we need volunteers! Upcoming dates of service are: July 23, Aug 27 and Sep 24. Please contact events@centre-church.org to sign up or for more information. Thank you.

Donation of the Month:



Our New YouTube Channel

Centre Church has a new YouTube Channel and several videos posted. You can follow this link to our new Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5K0mI3mi8KLFd dpMzfDmTg> We will also be posting video links to the Centre Church Facebook page.

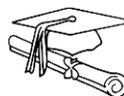
News From Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy go out to Jim Marshall and family upon the death of his wife, Shelia on June 26. Her memorial service was held at Centre Church on Sunday, July 1.

Lori Giarruso would like to express her thanks for the many prayers and cards she received during her recent surgery and recovery.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Alyssa Bjorkman and John Hanley who were married on May 26. They are living in Medford, MA.



College Graduations



Congratulations to Mia Sievers who recently graduated from Penn State University. Mia majored in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She was a gateway scholar to the Schreyer Honors College and graduated Magna cum laude. She's now doing a one year research internship at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD.

Our congratulations to William Durkee who graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Congratulations Baylee Priestley who graduated from UMass Amherst, Isenberg School of Management with a double major in Economics and Operations and Information Management. She was the Rotaract (school Rotary club) Treasurer and Treasurer of her dance team. Baylee was also Co-Manager and Operator of UMass owned "Campus Copy and Design" where the students run and operate the business on their own.

Congratulations to Kelsey Claflin who recently graduated from Babson College. Kelsey received her Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Marketing. She will be working for Wayfair.com.

Faith Formation Ministry News

Summer is here! We will worship in the chapel from June 24th until September 9th! See notes below about church school. We are looking for volunteers (teens are welcome to assist!) for Church School (see more information below).

Celebration Sunday:

Thank you all SO much for your help with Celebration Sunday. Whether you attended (or were with us in spirit!), planned, shopped, wrote thank you notes, sang, made sure your children were there --- it was a wonderful day of celebrating the children, volunteers and staff that make Faith Formation happen at Centre Church. On a personal note, thank you for welcoming me into your midst and supporting Nancy and me as we work together in ministry with all of you!

Summer Church School Needs:

We are in need 1-2 volunteers for **July 1st and 8th, August 19th and September 2nd**. If you team up with a friend, you could do it together! I will provide background for the lesson, the lesson, activity and all of the materials. Prep, running the lesson and clean up shouldn't take much more than an hour all together. I can provide the lessons in advance or give you a login to our Whole People of God website. Please refer to the schedule below for the themes.

Summer Church School Theme:

Our Summer Themed Unit is called "Recognizing and Responding" from the Whole People of God Curriculum. Over the course of the summer, we will take opportunities to recognize God's role in the lives of many important biblical figures and compare those to the role God has in our lives. In addition, we will be talking about how we should respond/act/behave because of our faith in God.

Summer Church School Format:

As summer approaches and people begin to travel, it is common for our congregation to shrink in numbers. Thus, we provide a simple

"All Ages" format during the summer. When classes combine and cover a wider age range, it is a challenge to keep all ages interested and involved. While we use a single lesson outline and format, we are also very aware that all of the children have different needs. Also, we may decide, on Sundays when the weather is good to take a "movement break" and go out on to the playground. Please speak with Larainne Wilson, Director of Faith Formation or Jill DiGiorgio, Faith Formation Ministry Team Chair if you have questions or concerns.



Clean out your jewelry boxes!

Jewelry needed for the Church Fair Nov. 3rd. There will be a box in the Church office for drop off or you can call Betsy Brown at 781-307-3904 or email betsytbrown@hotmail.com.



We will meeting on **Wednesday, July 18** at 7 pm downstairs in the kitchen. We will be working on felt Christmas ornaments. 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 (781 334 3050) for more information.



Please join us on **Sunday, July 8th** for our Christmas in July Service –Pajama/Toy Drive. This is your chance to not only sing your favorite Christmas carols but to also help the Cradles to Crayons Foundation. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or children's pajamas to put under the tree. Hope you can all join us!