

# 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 & Barbara Langill, Secretaries

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**October 2, 2018**

*Bless the food before us, the family beside us,  
and the love between us. Amen.*

Some of you may know and have prayed this grace before but it was new to me. I cannot remember where I saw it just a few months ago, but I loved it. Then I promptly lost track of it. Fast forward to early September when Mike and I were in Maine for the weekend. We stopped by a great shop called Farm + Table that Debbie and Chuck Cotting had recommended. And there, printed on a simple muslin table runner, was this grace. You better believe the pastor in me snatched that up, not only so I could finally remember the prayer, but for use in worship on a communion table someday. The connection between the communion table and the family table is powerful. In the early days of the church, when the followers of Jesus met in homes, the two tables were actually one in the same. Every time we break bread and share the cup together, we remember Jesus who gathered his friends around a table and gave them these simple gifts, the common food stuffs of bread and wine, to always remember him. In remembering Jesus in the act of eating and drinking at his table, we feel welcomed and nourished in God's saving love. But also the act of remembrance calls us to move beyond the table to feed those who are hungry; to offer clean water to those who thirst, just as Jesus did when he walked among us.

Here at Centre Church, we do just that. A lot. But we have been doing so very quietly of late. And that has me thinking we could do so much

more if we name and claim our ministries that feed our hungry neighbors. To that end, in October we will begin having a "Green Wagon Sunday" each month. We will be offering much more visible ways for you to know what "Donation Items of the Month" our Mission and Outreach ministry team have chosen and have more accessible places for you to drop them off. Then on the fourth Sunday of the month, our Green Wagon will be brought into worship by our children and we will bless what has been donated before it is delivered to Haven from Hunger or another of our mission partners. We hope that by making this ministry of feeding more visible, we will allow more of us to participate and thereby have a greater impact in our community. And in the months ahead, we will remind ourselves of the other ways that we bring the justice and shalom of Christ's table to the world around us.

Amen, *Rev. Nancy*

## **In the Sanctuary**

**October 6, 2018**

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Holy Communion

Nursery Care

Multi-age Church School

**October 14, 2018**

10:00 am Morning Worship

Nursery Care

Faith Formation



## Holiday Fair

Nov. 3, 2018 10AM – 3PM



Our Centre Church Craft group has been very busy making some lovely items for our fair. What a talented group! In addition to the Centre Church craft table, we have 25 outside crafters who will offer an amazing variety of crafts, including jewelry, photography, greeting cards, quilted bags and much, much more. The church will also have a jewelry table, bake table, and a fair-trade coffee and chocolate table. We need volunteers to bake, staff tables, and help with set-up. Please look at the sign-up sheets in the Narthex to see how you can help or call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.



**YANKEE  
CANDLE®**  
FUNDRAISING

Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser is underway! This is a particularly good fundraiser because the church earns **40%** of all sales. You can pick up a Yankee Candle catalog in the narthex after church or in the church office during the week. When you look through it, you'll see that it contains some wonderful candles, great gift ideas, and a lovely selection of wrapping paper. This year, the catalog has some Rubbermaid and Calphalon items as well some delicious popcorn. There is something for everyone....whether you are a candle lover or not. So please pick up your catalog after church and be sure to share it with family and friends. You and your friends can view the catalog and order on line by going to [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) and entering our group number: **990016890**. The last day to place an order is Sunday, October 14. We will receive the orders before Thanksgiving. For more information, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

## Mission and Outreach News

Food of the month:



**Haven From Hunger:** On Monday Sept 24, we delivered 94.7 pounds of food which had been collected in our Missions closet “Green Wagon”. We also helped to set up for and serve a meal of fish soup, fruit salad, beef stew on rice, green salad and chocolate mousse cake. Phil Fisher manned the dish washing station which was much appreciated!

Upcoming volunteer dates are: 10/22 and 11/26. People 13 years and older can sign up to volunteer on the bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen. During the month of October, we are collecting canned or dried beans and peas.

**Fair Trade coffee and chocolate:** Coming soon! For your Christmas shopping pleasure, the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team will sponsor an Equal Exchange fundraising sale of Fair Trade goods including coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolates. More details in the next Tower Notes.

### **“Lynnfield For Love” on Oct 13, 3-6pm**

We'll have a Centre Church table at this community multicultural event with kids' crafts and information about Centre Church. Volunteers are needed to mingle at the event, wear your Centre Church T-shirts, and staff the table. Please contact Linda Ladd or the church office for more information.

## Faith Formation

### Safe Church Training

There will be a Safe Church Training for teachers and volunteers at 11:15am on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. We will plan to meet in the downstairs kitchen.

### Church School October Dates:

Church School will be held on October 7, 14, 21 and 28<sup>th</sup>. Children will begin in Worship with their families, and will go to their class /activity after the mini-message.

Pizza and Pumpkins Our Young Families Group is sponsoring this fun fall event! Come decorate a pumpkin, share pizza with friends and help put together College Care Packages for our 1st year college students! The Pizza and Pumpkins Event is for all Centre Church Families and is being sponsored by the Young Families Group Event. We will plan to meet in

the kitchen downstairs directly after worship. Mini Pumpkins will be provided.

School Supply Drive – The deadline has been extended to **October 28<sup>th</sup>**. We are working with Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) to provide supplies for the Madison Park School in Roxbury. This is a high school, so please keep the needs of these older students in mind! Needed items: filler paper, notebooks, binders, hand sanitizer, tissues, pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, highlighters, sharpies, etc.

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Help celebrate Barbara Ericson's birthday! Barbara will be 95 years young on October 9. She would love to hear from her Centre Church friends. Please call the church office if you need her address in Saco, ME.



### **From the Mailbox**

Dear Centre Church Family,

I want to thank you very much for inviting me to celebrate my being a member for 50 years. It was a pleasure for us to be back in the church that meant so much to me and the life of my family for so many years. We have very special memories of church school, Tower day School, choir youth groups, the beauty of the candlelight services, magnificent fairs, sumptuous suppers, the countless celebrations, Country Dance lessons, auctions, and the ice cream socials, as well as the numerous pastors we bonded with. Over the years, my family and I connected with many dear friends who make up this vital church, who always thought of service to others as well as enjoyed the camaraderie.

It was a joy today, to peek into the Tower Day rooms, see old friends in the choir and greet others who were so familiar but sad to remember the many who have passed away. Even though we have been gone for twenty years, I keep Centre Church and the friends we loved in my heart. I wish Pastor Nancy and all the dedicated members life's blessings as they maintain the life of the church and its missions.

Sincerely,

Dorene Lengyel.

