

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

Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

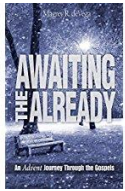
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear & Barbara Langill, Secretaries

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

November 13, 2018

Advent Study



This Advent, I invite you all into a different experience of the Gospels. Both during Thursday Bible Study and on Wednesday

evenings, we will be exploring the themes of Advent through the four gospels, using Magrey R. deVega's book *Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels*. The Advent and Christmas story we know is really a story woven from the strands found in each of the gospels. The author separates those strands to explore a fuller understanding of what each gospel writer is telling us about Christ's coming into the world. It is the way of uncovering the tension between the past and the future and how Christ is with us in this present moment. I will be ordering the books for everyone, so if you plan to attend, please RSVP to Rev. Nancy by calling the Church Office or emailing her at pastor@centrre-church.org. Meetings will be on Thursdays 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20 at 1:00 pm in the library and/or Wednesdays 11/28, 12/5/, 12/12, 12/19 at 7:00 pm in the Pastor's Outer Office. All are invited.

In hope, *Rev. Nancy*

Interfaith Thanksgiving

We have all been invited to participate in the Wakefield Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which will be held at the Wakefield-Lynnfield United Methodist Church at 273 Vernon Street. The service will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 20th.

In the Sanctuary

November 18, 2018

10 am Morning Worship
A "Green Wagon" Sunday
Nursery Care
Faith Formation

November 25, 2018

10 am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
All Ages Activity

Lynnfield Clergy Association invites you all to attend this very important event on Sunday, November 18th. Rev. Nancy will be there and hopes you will join her to hear Scarlett's message.

Scarlett Lewis

Jesse Lewis
Choose Love
Movement

Sunday, November 18, 6:30 pm
Saint Maria Goretti Church 112 Chestnut Street, Lynnfield
Sponsored by the Lynnfield Clergy Association

Scarlett Lewis's son Jesse was a victim of the 2012 Sandy Hook tragedy. In a true act of courage and love, he used his final moments to heroically save six of his classmates while he stayed by his teacher's side.



Deacons' Breakfast December 9, 2018

Join us for bacon, eggs, pancakes, fruit salad, juice and coffee before church on Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 8:30-9:45 am. We will be serving up our delicious breakfast to raise money for the Organ Maintenance Fund. The suggested donation is \$10/person or \$25/family.



From the Mailbox

Thank you for the gift of the flowers from the altar. We're enjoying them very much.

Ruth & Don Hyer

I would like to express my sincere "Thank You" to the members of the Centre Congregational Church, Rev. Nancy, Susan Spear, Barbara Langill, and especially Doug Hodgkins and my beloved choir member family. It has been very emotional for me to leave my church family and choir after 36 years. I was overwhelmed with the outpouring of love I received from all of you during the service on my last day, Sunday, October 21. I cherish the memories, friendships, and love that I have experienced with all of you over the years. As my husband, Tom, and I settle into our new life and home in East Longmeadow, MA, you will always be with me.

Sincerely,
Jean Cintolo

Dear Centre Congregational Church,

Thank you for welcoming us again this year to use the church parking lot for the kid's Halloween Trunk or Treat. The little princesses, cowboys, and Paw Patrol dogs loved the Trick or Treating experience during daylight and in a safe, closely contained area. Cente Church says it's welcoming to All, and indeed you are!

Many thanks also for actively participating with the very creative "Noah's Ark" trunk. So clever and such an appropriate theme!

With gratitude,
Lynnfield Moms Group

GET TOGETHER WHEEL PARTY

We will be having our Christmas Party on Tuesday Nov. 27 at 1 pm in the Fireside Room at the church. We will be having light refreshments, a game or two and then a Yankee Swap. Please bring a gift to exchange with a value of about \$5.

The Get Together Wheel is a woman's group that meets a few times a year. It is open to all women of the church. Come party with us.

If anyone is available to help pick up a couple of the ladies, it would be greatly appreciated. Please give me a call if you are coming or if you would like more information.
Donna Marino 781 581 2022

Festival of Trees

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Festival of Trees raffle at the Craft Fair, either by donating or decorating a tree or buying raffle tickets. We had 6 beautifully decorated trees in the Narthex to greet our Craft Fair customers. Our tree raffle brought in \$1275 to Centre Church!

Special thanks to our Tree Sponsors: Tower Day School - The Teaching Tree, Boy Scout Troop#48- Exploring the Outdoors, Annmarie Pendola, Joanne Popolosky and Kristin Robinson – Let's Go to the Beach, Lisa Gerbick, Perry Hadyen and Barbara Langill – The Baking Tree, Kathi Martin, Lisa Gerbick, Dotty Whittier and Jill DiGiorgio – Wine and Song Tree, and Linda Ladd Missions/Outreach – Fair Trade Tree.

We also want to thank Barbara and Mike Nickerson, Dotty and Gage Whittier, Annmarie Pendola, Laraine Wilson and Margaret Waugh for loaning their trees to decorate.

The raffle winners were: Pat Hanson and Sue Gustavsen from Centre Church, Two of our Craft exhibitors and two Craft attendees from Lynnfield.

It is not too early to think of ideas to decorate more trees next year!

Holiday Fair

Thank you to the huge group of volunteers that made our Holiday Craft Fair a big success. Members of the planning committee and craft group began work several months ago to work out details, solicit crafters, plan the Festival of Trees raffle, make items for the craft table, and collect jewelry for the jewelry table. Then, at least 40 folks signed up to work on the day of the fair, and countless people baked delicious items for the bake table. Another crew, including the Boy Scouts, helped with set-up and clean-up. It truly was an all-church event! And, it seemed like our customers viewed it as an all-community event as they met up with friends and spent time chatting with folks as they ate lunch at the tables in the kitchen. We received very positive comments from our crafters including the following:

“Everything was wonderful including the space, the assistance, and the attitude of both the crafters and the church folks; the mood was very upbeat.”

“It was a fun and productive day. The Boy Scouts were a huge help.”

“I have never met a more wonderful group of people. I’ve never enjoyed every aspect of a craft fair the way I did on Nov. 3.”

And for all the folks who donated to the Bake Table, one customer commented,

“Your church has some of the best bakers!”

Not only was the day fun and exciting, it was also profitable. We estimate that the church netted about \$4700! Good job, Centre Church!!

MA DUKE’S 12th ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER



“Ma Duke & Friends” provides a Thanksgiving dinner for individuals who otherwise would

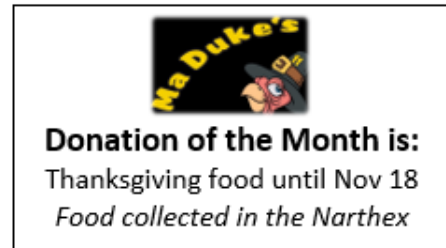
not have one. We are collecting non-perishables until Sunday, November 18th. Items such as boxed stuffing, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables and paper products can be left in the box located in the Missions Pantry.

Monetary donations can be made online at <https://www.gofundme.com/madukes2018>.

To volunteer for this event please contact Annmarie Pendola at (617) 549-9164

Mission and Outreach News

Food of the month:



Haven From Hunger We collected and delivered 22 frozen turkeys (316 lbs!) to Haven From Hunger on Sunday. Thank you! These will be given to patrons of the food pantry or cooked and served at HFH on Thanksgiving Day. Our next opportunity to help with food preparation and meal-serving there is Nov 26. Please sign up on the Mission and Outreach bulletin board, across from the Fireside kitchen.



Fair Trade Shopping

The Missions and Outreach Ministry team is selling Equal Exchange “Fair Trade” coffee, tea, cocoa and high-quality chocolates. We’ll have order forms in the narthex after church. Equal Exchange helps small farmers in developing countries to consolidate operations and sell their goods internationally, without the large-company middleman. “Fair Trade” certifications ensure safe and healthy working conditions, a fair price and environmentally-friendly farm practices. And - these delicious treats make great Christmas gifts!

Christmas Gifting Opportunities

Mark your calendar and “gifts-to-buy” list with the following opportunities: Heifer Living Gift Market on Dec 2 and Angel tree donations for City Mission during Advent until Dec 16. Please stay tuned for more information on these upcoming opportunities.

Green Wagon Donation Our Green Wagon donation until November 18 will be Thanksgiving food for “Ma Duke & Friends” Thanksgiving dinner.

Faith Formation

November Church School Dates: The nursery is open EVERY week for children ages 0-4. There will be Footprints, Godly Play and Brick by Brick on 11/18 for PreK-Middle School. Sunday, November 25th is a holiday weekend due to Thanksgiving. There will be an all ages activity offered at the table in the library.

Joyful Noise Second Practice: 11/18 at 9:30! See you there!

Thanksgiving Cards: We would love for children and families to make Thanksgiving Cards for those who will gather at "Ma Dukes" for their Thanksgiving Meal and Meal Deliveries. They serve over 2,500 people in need for this important holiday. Cards can be brought to church. There will be a basket on the Faith Formation table in the Narthex to collect them. See Larainne or Annemarie with questions! We need to collect these cards by Sunday, November 18th.

Advent Workshop: will take place after worship on the first Sunday in Advent (12/2) in Richard's Hall. There will be crafts and activities for children and adults. Lunch will be served.



SAVE-THE-DATE for Caroling: Giv2 and Young Families Group are cosponsoring an ALL ages Caroling event at Sunrise on Sunday December 9th! We are asking folks to gather at the church for a pizza at 12:30, rehearsal at 1 and we will head over to Sunrise around 1:45 for a 2:00 p.m. caroling session with the seniors. Sunrise has invited us to stay for cookies and hot chocolate as well! If you can't make the pizza and rehearsal and would like to meet us there at 2, that is fine as well!

Christmas Pageant: More information will be coming, but we want you to save this date as well! Sunday, December 23rd is the pageant. We will practice during Church School on December 9th and December 16th. We will also have a practice on Saturday, December 22nd from 9:30 - 11:00. Please see Larainne or Jill if your child would like to participate.



POINSETTIA ORDER

I would like to order: ____ red poinsettia(s) at \$9.00 each

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

These flowers have been given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- I will take my plant(s) home after one of the services on Christmas Eve.
- I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

***Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 16.
A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.***

Thursday, December 6 is the deadline for placing orders.

