

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463

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

March 18, 2019

An Update and a Recommendation

After what has felt like an eternity but was merely four months, I finally have the surgery to treat my cancer scheduled for Friday, March 22nd in the afternoon. I am confident in my surgeon and the team at Mass Eye and Ear. What I hope for is your prayerful intention, directed toward the operating room and all of us in it on Friday. I believe so very much in the power of prayer and the hope and healing offered to us in it. While I expect an excellent outcome, no matter what, I know that I am never alone. Praise God, who is our ever present help and hope!

I will be recovering at home for two weeks, during which I am planning to rest and heal not only my body but my heart and spirit from the long and frustrating process of the last year. I have heard that binge-watching Netflix and reading for pleasure are good for that! Mike and our kids are ready for caregiving through surgery and recovery, for which I am deeply grateful. I will arrange for someone to cover pastoral emergencies in my absence. Please call the office with any need and Susan and/or Barbara will connect you.

As I have been on this slow approach to diagnosis and treatment, I have had an excellent resource shared with me by several trusted friends and I would like to recommend it to you. Many of you may have encountered this book as much of its wisdom was honed right here among the medical community in Boston. It is a book by Peggy

Huddlestone called *Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster*. It is a guide to Mind-Body Techniques that have been clinically shown to help surgical patients feel calmer, have less pain, use less pain medication, recover faster, and strengthen their immune systems. The techniques can be used for medical tests and other procedures and treatments as well. Her book is recommended by Brigham and Women's Hospital and other hospitals across America. If you or someone you love is approaching surgery and/or treatment, perhaps it will bless you as it is blessing me and so many others. As always, I am grateful for your love and support!

Lenten blessings,

Rev. Nancy

In the Sanctuary

March 24

10:00 am Morning Worship

Andrew Harris preaching

Nursery

Faith Formation Classes

Green Wagon Sunday-

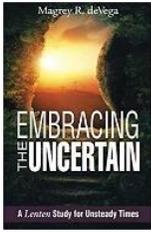
Bring your food items for Haven from Hunger

March 31

10:00 am Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation



Lenten Study Update

Due to Rev. Nancy's two week medical leave, the Wednesday evening Lenten Study is canceled. Those of you who purchased a book are encouraged to read through it over the next 3

weeks. When Rev. Nancy returns, an opportunity to gather and discuss will be scheduled with those interested in participating.

Thursday Bible Study will read Chapters 5 and 6 for Thursday, 3/21 and the final chapter for Thursday, 4/11. The group will not meet on 3/28 or 4/4



Stewardship

Stewardship Ministries extends a BIG thank you to the many folks who have submitted their pledges. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. We need accurate pledge data to develop the budget for the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1. If you have misplaced your pledge card, just call the church office and a new card will be mailed to you. Our pledges reflect our support for the ministry of Centre Church. The work we do matters, and our pledges indicate that we value that work.

With appreciation for your generosity,

Debbie Cotting, Stewardship Ministries

NEEDED : GREETERS, USHERS AND DEACONS

The Diaconate is looking for people to serve as Sunday Greeters, Ushers or Deacons. No experience needed. Ushers and Greeters need only to arrive 15-30 minutes before worship. If you are interested in becoming a Deacon or volunteering as a Greeter or Usher on either a regular or fill-in basis, we would love to have you join our team. Please contact Annmarie Pendola (617-549-9164) if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.



Holiday Fair 2019

Plans are underway for the 2019 Holiday Fair scheduled for November 2, 2019. The fair committee wants to reach out to the folks in our congregation who knit or crochet to see if they would like to create items to donate to the church craft table. Given our space limitations, it might be best to focus on smaller items like mittens, hats, and scarves for children and adults. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting for the fair, please contact the church office so we can allocate appropriate space on the church craft table.



The Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019. 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 first craft night will be Tuesday, March 26 at 7pm. All materials will be provided. Come join the fun and fellowship. Call Barbara Langill at the church office for more information.

Mission and Outreach

The Mission and Outreach ministry team will be brewing coffee and hosting our church fellowship time on March 24th. If you have ideas on where our congregation's help is most needed in the world today, please talk to a member of our team. Find our names on the Mission and Outreach bulletin board, across from the Fireside kitchen.

Donation of the month



Our March Green Wagon donation items are Pasta, Rice and Beans. These will be blessed in worship on

March 24th and taken to Haven From Hunger when our volunteers help to serve a meal there on the fourth Monday in March - March 25th.

Faith Formation Updates

March Calendar:

3/24: Footprints, Godly Play

Lenten Muffins: 3/17: Godly Play, 3/24: Brick by Brick

3/31: Service Sunday! FFMT, Families and Children Prepare and Serve Coffee hour.



Lenten Muffins: Faith Formation Ministry Team and Mission and Outreach are co-sponsoring the Lenten Muffins Program again this year! We will work together to support Heifer International. Each week during Lent, a Sunday School Class will prepare the muffins during worship and they will be warm and ready to purchase (any amount of donation is welcome!) after worship. This will be a SWEET time for our church community!

City Reach Local Mission Trip: May 10th and 11th: We have the adult chaperone we need! See Linda Ladd or Larainne with questions.

Save the Date for Children's Sunday, June 9th (Pentecost)

MACUCC Christian Education Class: There will be a "Theories of Religious Education" class here at our church on Saturday, March 30th from 8:30 - 12:30. This is an opportunity to learn more about our denomination and connect with others who are interested in Faith Formation. All are welcome at this informative class! You can find more information and register at: <https://www.macucc.org/certification>

Vacation Bible School: The Faith Formation Ministry Team is holding VBS the week of August 12th - August 16th, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Our tentative theme is "To Mars and Beyond" and we look forward to a week filled with fun and adventure! We will be looking for adult congregants and teen volunteers to share a talent, skill, craft (i.e. reading to the children, making art with them, singing/teaching a song etc...). Lisa Gerbick, Kristin Kadera and Larainne Wilson are the planning team members, let us know if you have questions or are interested in helping.



Easter Plant Order



I would like to order for \$8.25 each:

___lilies ___tulips ___daffodils ___hyacinth ___kalanchoe

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 the 10 a.m. Easter Service on April 21.

___ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter, April 21.

A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.

Thursday, April 12 is the deadline for placing orders.

Our Opportunities

Sun. March 24 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am 11:00am	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation Coffee Hour Heifer Muffins prepared by Church School
Mon. March 25	3-6 pm	Volunteer at Haven from Hunger-Peabody
Tues. March 26	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Craft Night- Library Parish Council- Pastor's Outer office
Thurs. March 28	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal-choir room
Sun. March 31 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am	Worship Service Nursery Church School Service Sunday
Wed. April 1	8:30am	Bread & Roses- kitchen
Thurs. April 4	7:30pm	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, and the Essex Society of Genealogists. Please call the church office if you would like more information about any of these groups. (781-334-3050)

Church Office Hours – 9 am-3 pm Mon.-Fri.

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of April 1, 2019
