

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

March April 1, 2019

Here is a poem from Ann Weem's *Kneeling in Jerusalem* to stir your thoughts as we move through the 40 days of Lent.

Lent

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our
hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow

a fresh new taste of God!

Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.

Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.

Give us courage, O God,

to hear your Word

and to read our living into it.

Give us the trust to know we're forgiven

and give us the faith

to take up our lives and walk.

(Weems 1993)

In the Sanctuary

April 7

10:00 am Holy Communion

Nursery

Faith Formation Classes

April 14

Palm Sunday

10:00 am Morning Worship

Nursery

April 21

Easter Sunday

10:00 am Morning Worship

April 28

10:00 am Morning Worship

Nursery

Faith Formation Classes

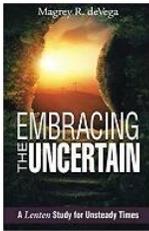


Stewardship would like to remind folks who have not returned their pledges, to please do so as soon as possible. We need accurate

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. We do important work at Centre Church, and every pledge matters! So, please submit your pledge soon.

With appreciation for your generosity,
Debbie Cotting, Stewardship Ministries



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 the final chapters for Thursday, 4/11.

MBA Dues

Our church receives administrative and outreach support through our membership in the Metropolitan Boston Association and the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC. One recent example of the support these organizations provide is the invaluable guidance and assistance they gave to our Pastoral Search Committee as they worked their way through the process of calling a settled pastor. Our Membership Dues of \$20.10 per confirmed member in our households support the work of the MBA and the Mass. Conference of the UCC. **If you receive pledge envelopes, you'll see that there is a special envelope for Membership Dues. If you don't use pledge envelopes, you can submit your dues just by putting your check in any envelope.** You can mail your check or put it in the offering plate. Please write a note on the memo line that your check is for MBA dues.

Needed:

Deacons, Ushers and Greeters

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.

Faith Formation

April Calendar:

4/7 Whole group – Faces of Easter (Godly Play)
Easter Egg hunt after church

4/9: FFMT Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

4/14: Children in Worship for Palm Sunday
Nursery will be staffed for 5 and under.

4/21: Children in Worship for Easter
Nursery will be staffed for 5 and under.

4/28: Whole Group Activity: Church School

City Reach Local Mission Trip: May 10-11.
See Linda Ladd or Larainne with questions.

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

Vacation Bible School *"To Mars and Beyond"*

August 12th - August 16th, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
We look forward to a week filled with fun and adventure! Adult and teen volunteers are needed 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.



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.

Mission and Outreach

Haven From Hunger Our "4th Monday" volunteers at Haven From Hunger for March were Phil Fisher, Linda Ladd, David & Diane Bjorkman. We helped to make and serve a meal of fruit salad followed by baked tortellini, sausage and vegetables in a creamy sauce, along with green salad and garlic bread. Then some delicious lemon bars for dessert! We also delivered the 86.6 lbs of Pasta, Rice and Beans which were donated by the congregation and blessed by Larainne and the children in worship the day before. Thank you all! Our next volunteer date is April 22. Until then, we'll be collecting peanut and other nut butters as well as jelly.

Mission of Deeds COAT Collection A nice Thank You letter was received from MOD for the 9 large bags of coats we delivered in Feb. They gave out 450 coats this year and have confirmed that they will continue this program in future years.

Heifer Muffins The Church School classes have been busy making and selling muffins during Lent. Larainne reports over \$300 has been raised to benefit Heifer International so far.

Bread & Roses We have a small but dedicated ministry team who makes and delivers a hearty meal to Bread & Roses in Lawrence once a month. Another way we can support this organization and have fun while doing it, is to attend their "Live.Love.LAUGH 2019," night of stand-up comedy on Friday, June 7th at the Merrimack Golf Club in Methuen. Learn more and reserve tickets (\$25/ea) at: <https://livelovelaugh2019.eventbrite.com>

Donation of the month



1st Annual Alyssa Rose Conte "Build- A- Bed Day"

Sat. April 20, 10 am - 1 pm

Wakefield- Lynnfield United Methodist
273 Vernon Street in Fellowship Hall.

Honoring the memory of Alyssa Conte, a 29 year old parishioner at the Lynnfield-Wakefield United Methodist Church. Alyssa had ALS and sadly passed away this past fall.

This event will help make 10 beds for 10 kids on the "Bed Wait list" through the **Bed for Every Child Program**. They will provide **ALL** items needed for this Build- A- Bed event, they just need **caring volunteers** to make it happen! ***NO SKILLS REQUIRED** and ALL ages are welcome to this multigenerational community event. (Children are welcome with adult supervision) There will be a job for everyone! **Please be in touch with Larainne if you are interested: lwilson@centre-church.org**

News from Around the Parish

Our prayers of comfort are extended to the family and friends of Edith Wendt, who died on March 31. A Celebration of her Life will be held at Centre Church on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a time to greet the family.

Our love and support are extended to Sara Mauser and her family, upon the death of her mother, Susan Fleming.

We extend our love and sympathy to Judy Johnson and her family upon the recent death of her father, Christie Harding.

Our prayers are extended to Ethel Leonard upon the death of her brother Ted. A Memorial Service will be held on April 26 in Dennis, MA.



From the Mailbox

Dear "Church"

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for Roger. I brought some to rehab and kept some at home, so we both enjoyed them. From our hearts-Thank you so much again.

Roger and Nancy Lauzon

Our Opportunities

Sun. April 7 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00am 11:00am	Holy Communion - Sanctuary Nursery – Library/Nursery and Faith Formation Coffee Hour Easter Egg Hunt
Tues. April 9	6:30pm	Faith Formation Meeting-Library
Thurs. April 11	1:00pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Library Choir Rehearsal-choir room
Sun. April 14 	10:00am	Worship Service-Sanctuary Palm Sunday Nursery
Thurs. April 18	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Sun. April 21 	10:00am	Worship Service-Sanctuary Easter Sunday Cantata Nursery-Library/Nursery

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.
Spring Break April 15-19 9am-12noon
The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of April 16, 2019



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. *******