

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor

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

**April 29, 2019**

## The Privilege of Holding Stories

It has been another season of loss at Centre Church. Over the last few weeks, 4 of our nonagenarians have died. We thank God for the lives of Edith Wendt, Charlotte Orrall, Carmine Ciampa, and Bruce Gist. We give thanks for all of the ways they blessed our individual lives and our shared life as Centre Church; some of those ways known and some carried out without notice. I count among the greatest privileges of my life and ministry the gifts of learning and holding others' stories. Some are learned directly from the person them self in the wide variety of settings in which we encounter one another. Some are gifted in the midst of caregiving during life's challenges. And others in the reflections of the loved ones of those who have died. Every one of these occasions is precious! And without fail, I am impacted by the stories I receive.

Some of you are no doubt familiar with StoryCorps on NPR. Their mission is, "...to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world." As Christians charged with both sharing the Good News and with the commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, sharing our stories with one another is at the heart of how we do both. Sharing our stories builds bridges across the things that separate us. In the sharing we discover that our shared humanity outweighs and diminishes any of our differences. Sharing our stories, whether over a cup of tea, while breaking bread together, while serving together,

or at the bedside or the graveside, is the truest form of evangelism I have both experienced and witnessed.

There are so many informal opportunities to share your stories with one another. What I hope is that you take the time to notice and cherish what you receive from one another in that sharing. Beyond that, there are opportunities for you to engage more formally. Our Care Team has been struggling because many members of the team are in the midst of their own challenges. We need new team members who are willing to make phone calls and/or visits or provide other practical support to the members of our congregation in need of care and connection. A few hours per month of your time in exchange for the riches of stories and connections. Let me know if you're interested. What I know for sure is that you will be blessed in being a blessing!

Easter tide blessings,

*Rev. Nancy*

## In the Sanctuary

**May 5**

10:00 am Holy Communion  
Nursery  
Faith Formation for Children

**May 12**

10:00 am Morning Worship  
Nursery  
Faith Formation for Children



The Flower Committee would like to thank all those who helped on Easter Sunday. A special thank you to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Designs who provided the plants. They made our Sanctuary come alive with color on Easter morning. Also, thanks to those who donated and to the team of volunteers who delivered the plants to the shut-ins and bereaved in our church family.



### **Deacons' Summer Kickoff BBQ/Potluck Supper**

You're invited to our Summer Kickoff BBQ/Potluck Supper on **Saturday, June 8th at 4:00 PM.** Bring your beach chairs, favorite pasta salad, potato salad or sandwiches and enjoy some heavenly food and fellowship. Table and chairs will also be available. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Signup sheets will be in the Narthex starting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.



### **Stamp Out Hunger on May 11<sup>th</sup> US**

Postal workers will be collecting food donations on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, when bags of new canned and dry goods can be left by your mailbox for pickup when your mail is delivered. Easy peasy! Donations will be sorted that day at Haven From Hunger. If you're interested in helping, a signup sheet is on the M&O bulletin board and please also register on line: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/s7Ohx--Vkn8NsSIrv0-mKQ](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/s7Ohx--Vkn8NsSIrv0-mKQ)

### **Volunteers Needed for Lights Out**

Centre Church needs your help. We are looking for volunteers for our Lights Out Program. The responsibilities are to go through the church after the last activity to make sure all of the doors are locked, lights are out, doors are closed and everything looks good. This is for a week, about four times per year. Contact Chuck Cotting with any questions. Join the Team.

### **Mission and Outreach**

The next Missions & Outreach meeting is on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, after church.

Haven From Hunger On Monday, April 22, volunteers Frank Scott, Diane and David Bjorkman and Linda Ladd served hamburgers, French fries, coleslaw, green salad, watermelon and Easter cake at Haven From Hunger in Peabody. Much of this was donated by Gordon College after a year-end celebration. Our next volunteer date is Memorial Day, May 27<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we'll be delivering the Green Wagon food blessed in church the day before. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Fireside kitchen.

### **Donation of the Month**



### **News from Around the Parish**

Our love and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Bruce Gist who died on April 16. A Memorial Service was held at Centre Church on Sat. April 27.

Our prayers are extended to the family and friends of former member, Jean Hall who died February 27 in Cornish, ME.



### **From the Mailbox**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the lovely tulip plant on Easter. It brightens my apartment and reminds me of my memories of Centre Church over the years.

Love, Dottie Holden

**Pride Day at Faneuil Hall: Saturday, June 1st, Noon - 5, Rain or Shine, Free and Open to the public. Music, activities and other family fun!**

### Faith Formation

- 5/5: Worship and Sacraments Class
- 5/12: Church School
- 5/19: Church School
- 5/26: Church School/Flower Planting (Memorial Day Weekend)
- 6/1: Pride Day at Faneuil Hall (see below!)
- 6/2: Whole Group Practice for Celebration Sunday, Joyful Noise practice at 9:30 a.m.
- 6/9: Celebration Sunday/Pentecost, Children/Families arrive at 9:15. Joyful Noise and Service Practice.
- Sundays from 6/16 – 8/25: Summer Whole Group Activities. Our theme is "Love Overflowing". We hope that parents and others will each sign up to help one summer Sunday. Story. Materials and activities are provided!
- 8/12 - 8/16: VBS (see below!)

**Heifer Muffins** Thank you to all who bought the delicious muffins baked by our church school classes during Lent. The profits from their bake sale efforts totaled \$473. This will all be added to our church's donation to Heifer International.

**Young Families Group** is planning an end-of-the-year/beginning of summer Endicott Park Outing: Date and Time TBD. Let Jill know if you are interested or have preferences for dates!

**The 1st Annual Alyssa Conte "Build-A-Bed"** was held last weekend at the UMC in Wakefield. It was a wonderful event where 50 volunteers worked for 2 hours and built 10 beds for children in need! Larainne and Autumn Wilson lent a hand!

**Summer School Curriculum:** We will be using Whole People of God Curriculum this summer to engage children ages 4 – Grade 6. We will have a whole group approach and children will be invited to the table space in the library to learn with and from rotating teachers. If you are interested in teaching one Sunday this summer, let us know.

### 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.

**Vacation Bible School:** "To Mars and Beyond" August 12th - August 16th, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. We need volunteers for check-in/registration tables, running stations/activities (these will be pre-planned) and leading groups. Please let us know if you have questions or are interested in helping.

### **Giv2: Fri. May 10<sup>th</sup> to Sat. May 11<sup>th</sup>**

City Reach: we are still in need of a few items to make our mission a success! We have to bring several things with us including:

**Food items:** peanut butter, jelly, fluff, bread, juice, sodas (no caffeine), individually packaged snacks, a large can of coffee, hot chocolate mixes

**Clothing:** socks/underwear/bras in adult sizes (these must be new), other men's or unisex clothing items (these can be gently used)

**Other:** travel size toiletries, tote bags, backpacks, blankets, sleeping bags

*These items can be brought to church on Sunday mornings OR to the church office, Monday - Friday, 9-3 before Friday, May 10th.*

## *Our Opportunities*

Wed. May 1	8:30am	Bread & Roses-Kitchen
Thurs. May 2	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal-choir room
<b>Sun. May 5</b>	<b>10:00am</b>  11:30 am	<b>Holy Communion-Sanctuary</b> Nursery-Library/Nursery Faith Formation Classes Mission/Outreach Meeting
Thurs. May 9	1:00pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Library Choir Rehearsal-choir room
<b>Fri-Sat. May 10-11</b>		Giv2 Group - City Reach Local Mission Trip
<b>Sun. May 12</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service – Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation Classes
Thurs. May 16	1:00 pm	Bible Study Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
<b>Sat. May 18</b>	8am-2pm	<b>****Flea Market/Bake Sale****</b> in Richards Hall

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.

***Church Office Hours – 9 am-3 pm Mon.-Fri***  
***The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of May13, 2019***



## **Centre Congregational Church Flea Market and Bake Sale Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> 8AM to 2PM**



Profits will go to the Church Budget. The event will be held in Richards Hall.

We are looking for **volunteers** to provide individually-wrapped goodies for the **Bake Sale!** A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex.

**Flea Market volunteers** are also needed to set up in the morning, staff the church tables throughout the day and help clean up after the event. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Please bring your Flea Market **TREASURES** to the church between **Sunday, May 11 and Friday, May 17.** Please place them in the Narthex Coat Room.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to save any items. We will donate what we can.