

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

May 13, 2019

Letters to Myself

In order to get to my point today, I must begin with a confession. I watch *Survivor*. The producers of the show are forever tampering with this game/social experiment and there was a moment in this week's episode that connected to a thread that I've just been pulling on. Let me explain:

As I was thinking about what I wanted to say to you, I was reading a wide variety of reflections by others to see if any sparks went off for me. When I was still staring at a blank word document, I decided to go back and visit my younger self in my own writing. As I perused files of sermon thoughts, spiritual reflections, etc. from my time in seminary and student ministry, I opened one document titled "farewell reflection." It was the final reflection I wrote to Rev. Dana Allen Walsh as my supervisor at the end of my first year of student ministry. It also happened to be on the occasion of her leaving Hancock Church to become Senior Pastor of South Church in Andover. What struck me most is what always strikes me when I look back: the collapsing of time. As I read, it felt like forever ago and only a breath in the past, all at the same time! Here we are, 5 years later and I am now a settled pastor and I live less than a mile from the church that Dana was called to.

So, back to *Survivor*. Some of the contestants were given letters they wrote to themselves before the game began. In their own writing, time collapsed and their own words were a balm to their game-weary selves and exactly the encouragement they needed to continue. While I didn't write my final reflection to Dana as a letter to myself, it ended up functioning in that way this morning. And in the simple act of reading it, I received the gift of *Kairos*, of God's time, which is circular, sacred, and for me, hopeful. It helps me tap into the holy truth that God's ways are not our ways. It helps me trust in, as Pierre Teilhard de Chardin calls it, "the slow work of God." It helps me to notice this precious moment but not cling to it too tightly, because if I cling, I'll miss what God is up to next.

Over the coming 18 months, we as Centre Church will be engaging in the process of reflecting on our past, engaging with the present, and anticipating our future. We'll seek and find the letters we wrote to ourselves over 300 years. I hope there will be many "kairos moments" when we will see the threads of our common life and maybe even catch a glimpse of the great circle they are weaving on God's time.

Blessed be,

Rev. Nancy

It's Not Too Late!

Our Flea Market/Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, May 18 – 8am-2pm. We still would love your help. Can you donate your treasures by Friday, help set up, clean up, bake goodies (individually wrapped), OR come and be a customer? We'd love to see you.

Chuck Cotting, 1-339-440-1819

In the Sanctuary

May 19

10:00 am Morning Worship - Sanctuary
Nursery

Faith Formation for Children

300th Anniversary Committee - Sanctuary

May 26

10:00 am Morning Worship – Chapel

Green Wagon Sunday

Nursery

300th Committee

The next meeting of the 300th Committee will be Sunday, May 19th following worship in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome, even if you didn't make it to the first meeting in March. Come with your creative ideas and hopes for participating in our efforts to honor our past, celebrate our present, and anticipate our future as Centre Congregational Church.

Mission and Outreach



Stamp Out Hunger Thank you to everyone who left food by their mailbox on Saturday! Annmarie Pendola, Linda Ladd and Frank Scott spent time at Haven From Hunger, sorting and organizing it all. What an operation! This is just the first sort to weed out expired food and box it by type. More volunteers will go through it later to organize everything by expiration date to ensure it's put on the pantry shelves in proper order. So much is about the expiration date! Please check that before donating food.

Haven From Hunger: Our next volunteer date is on Memorial Day 5/27. We will bless food to be delivered then in the worship service on 5/26. Centre Church volunteers will continue to help at HFH each fourth Monday of the month throughout the summer. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Fireside Kitchen.

City Reach: Laraine, Kyle and Corinne represented our youth group at Common Cathedral's overnight program on homelessness this past Fri-Sat. They delivered the clothes, totes and personal care items collected here and by the Wakefield-Lynnfield United Methodist church. We also sent food and other supplies to stock shelves and to serve during the program. Thank you for all donations!

Donation of the Month



News from Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are extended to the Nasson, Look and Crowther families upon the death of their father, Joseph Nasson. A Memorial Service was held at Centre Church on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

We extend our love and prayers to Barbara Langill and her family upon the death of her father, Alfred McKinstry of Chicopee, MA. Funeral plans are incomplete at this time.



From the Mailbox

To Friends at Centre Church,
Thank you for remembering me with such a beautiful plant. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Best wishes, Charlotte McClure

Dear Friends,
Thank you very much for all the encouraging cards, meals and other acts of kindness you have extended to Jack and me. Thank you to Perry for taking time to deliver the wonderful flowers from a church service. They lasted a long time and were so pretty. I had hoped to never have to deal with cancer again after 23 years clear but here we go again. It means so much to have a church family like Centre to be by our side.

Blessings and Love, Donna Marino



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

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 next craft night will be Tuesday, May 21 at 7pm. All materials will be provided. Come join the fun and fellowship.

Like hand stitching? We have made up felt ornament kits for people to complete at home. All materials are included to stitch up a cardinal, chickadee or bluejay ornament.

Call Barbara Langill at 781-334-3050

Faith Formaton

- 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!)

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!

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!

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.

Special Congregational Meeting

After Worship

On June 2, 2019

Presentation of 2019-2020 Temporary Operating Budget

Our Opportunities

Sat. May 18	8am-2pm	****Flea Market/Bake Sale**** Richards Hall
Sun. May 19	10:00am 11:00am	Worship Service-Sanctuary Nursery-Library/Nursery Faith Formation Classes 300 th Anniversary Comm.-Sanct.
Tues. May 21	6:30pm 7:00pm	FFMT- Pastor's Outer Office Craft Night - Library
Thurs. May 23	1:00pm 7:30pm	Bible Study-Library Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
Sun. May 26	10:00 am	Worship Service – Chapel Green Wagon Sunday Nursery – Library/Nursery Faith Formation to Plant Flowers
Mon. May 27	----- 3:30pm	Church Office Closed Haven From Hunger-Peabody
Tues. May 28	7:00pm	Parish Council- Pastor's Outer Office
Thurs. May 30	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Library 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.
Closed, Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day

The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of May28.
