

# 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

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Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

Susan Spear & Barbara Langill, Secretaries

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

**May 27, 2019**

## Summer Reading

Now that spring is finally springing and the Memorial Day weekend is behind us, I know our thoughts and hearts are turning toward the summer ahead and all we have planned. For many of us, that means lazier days, beach days, lake days, hiking, biking, and swimming days...and summer reading for adults and kids alike. So, I thought I'd share with you some of the titles I'm currently reading or hope to read over the summer months – interspersed with some great fiction, of course, because who doesn't need an opportunity to escape into another world, into someone else's story now and then?

I'm currently reading [Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship](#) by Gregory Boyle. Father Greg Boyle is the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation, and reentry program in the world. This is his second book, the first being [Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion](#), which many of you may have already read. Both books will have you laughing, crying, and learning the deep truths of the power of compassion and kinship to redeem us all in the midst of our everyday lives.

I found Nora McInerny through her TED Talk on grief. I have begun listening to her podcast, "Terrible, Thanks for Asking." Her new book is [No Happy Endings: A Memoir](#). I'm going to read [No Happy Endings](#) because I find Nora engaging and deep and funny and want to

hear more from her on life after life has fallen apart. Maybe you will, too!

In June the UCC will gather for General Synod 32 in Milwaukee, WI. This year the keynote speaker is author Matthew Desmond. In preparation for Synod, the UCC has suggested a denomination-wide read of Desmond's book, [Evicted](#). I have had this book on my shelf for a few years because of a friend's high recommendation. I am going to take it off the shelf and read it this summer. I believe it has the power to transform our thinking about eviction and poverty and how both affect our neighbors and our communities.

For children, Matthew Paul Turner, author of [When God Made You](#) has a new book out titled [When I Pray For You](#). It is absolutely precious and perfect for our small ones, and even our "not-so-small" ones! I'm going to add both to my children's book collection. It would make a great gift for so many of life's milestone occasions.

There are others as the books on my bedside table, my office shelves, my Audible account, and my wish list are always piling up, up, up. I'm certain you all have many great books to recommend, too. I hope you'll send me a note or an email and tell me about the best reads you've enjoyed and learned from!

Happy Summer Reading,

*Rev. Nancy*

### In the Sanctuary

**June 2, 2019**

10:00 am Holy Communion - Sanctuary  
Sacrament of Baptism  
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children  
*Special Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary*

**June 9, 2019**

10:00 am Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
*Celebration Sunday/Pentecost*  
Make your own Ice Cream Sundaes

**June 16, 2019**

10:00 am Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
Sacrament of Baptism  
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children

**June 23, 2019**

10:00 am Morning Worship – Chapel  
Sacrament of Baptism  
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children

**June 30, 2019**

10:00 am Morning Worship – Chapel  
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children

### Mission and Outreach

Haven From Hunger: Thank you for the 97.3 pounds of food we blessed in worship on Sunday, May 26. We delivered it to Haven From Hunger when we were there to help serve a Memorial Day barbeque with all the fixings, on Monday, 5/27. Our upcoming volunteer dates are 6/24, 7/22, 8/26, 9/23 (just to get on your calendars). Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Fireside Kitchen.

### Donation of the Month



### Faith Formation

- 6/1: Pride Day at Faneuil Hall noon to 5pm, Rain or Shine, Free and Open to the public. Music, activities and other family fun!
- 6/2: Whole Group Practice for Celebration Sunday, Joyful Noise practice at 11:15 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!)



Vacation Bible School: We are on a mission "to Mars and Beyond!" this summer!

August 12-16th, 2019 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Children

ages 4 - Grade 4 are welcome to join us. It will be open to the community!

Registration is open for VBS now. Forms will be available on Sundays throughout the summer! Register early, spots are limited!

See Kristin Kadera or Lisa Gerbick with questions.



### Celebration Sunday

On Sunday, June 9th during worship we will celebrate Pentecost and showcase our learnings from our Worship and Sacraments Class. During this special service we will honor children, teachers and volunteers. Please join us for ice cream sundaes following service!

**Centre Church Parents:** Larainne or a member of FFMT (Faith Formation Ministry Team) will be in touch with you regarding roles for your children for Celebration Sunday. Practices are 6/2 during service and 6/9 at 9:15 a.m. Joyful Noise Practice is 6/2 after worship at 11:15 a.m.

## News from Around the Parish

Our congratulations to Dan Johnson and Emily Hudspeth who were married in Charlotte, NC on May 11. They will make their home in Charlotte. Dan is Al and Judy Johnson's son.

Congratulations to Jennifer and Robert Small on the birth of their son Michael James Small on May 18. Proud grandparents are Robyn and Michael Biagioni and Great-Grandmother is Barbara Becker.

Congratulations to Hal S. Holappa III who graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. His proud grandmother is Dorsey Holappa.



### **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.



### **Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed**

Each Sunday after worship we offer a time for fellowship in the Fireside Room. We are hoping to expand the pool of volunteers who sponsor coffee hour. We are willing to provide training for those who have never used our coffee makers before. And summer Sundays with their lighter attendance are the perfect, low-key time to get acquainted with this easy way to participate in our life together and get to know someone or two you haven't met yet. If you'd be willing to volunteer (singles, couples, friends, families, etc.) won't you contact the office (781-334-3050) to let us know. We'll make sure someone with experience is available to guide you through your first time. As always, many hands make light work!

## Special Congregational Meeting

After Worship  
On June 2, 2019

Presentation of 2019-2020 Temporary  
Operating Budget

### **Stewardship Reminder**

Do you usually pledge, but haven't submitted your pledge card yet? Stewardship Ministries hopes that you continue to value and support the ministry of Centre Church and that you will submit your pledge at your earliest convenience. Our budget team relies on pledge data when developing our budget for the new fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2019. If you haven't pledged in the past, but would like to pledge this year – there's still time! If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office.

Debbie Cotting  
Stewardship Ministries

### **Flea Market and Bake Sale – THANK YOU!**

We had another very successful Flea Market and Bake Sale – we made around \$1,350!

This was truly a full congregation event. Lots of people brought in lots of treasures for the Flea Market and donated wonderful baked goods to the Bake Sale. We also had some direct cash donations to this event! **THANK YOU to ALL!** Special Thanks to Lisa Gerbick for hosting the Bake Sale and for her many wonderful treats! We had people coming in all day to buy things and received some very positive feedback on our event!

**THANK YOU** to the folks who volunteered to help set up for the event and to those who worked during the day to sell!

Special Thanks, also, to Denise and Bruce Weaver who stayed on Sunday after church to clean up Richards Hall to donate left overs to Mission of Deeds and Savers in Danvers.

All of your help was very much appreciated!

Debbie and Chuck Cotting

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. June 2</b>	<b>10:00am</b> 11:00am	<b>Holy Communion - Sanctuary</b> Nursery-Library/Nursery Faith Formation Classes Special Congregational Meeting
Wed. June 5	8:30am	Bread and Roses - Kitchen
Sat. June 8	4:00pm	BBQ/Potluck Supper
<b>Sun. June 9</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service – Sanctuary</b> <b>Celebration Sunday</b> Nursery – Library/Nursery Ice Cream Sundaes
Tues. June 11	6:30pm	Faith Formation Ministry Team- Library/Nursery
Thurs. June 13	1:00pm	Bible Study – Library/Nursery
<b>Sun. June 16</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</b> Nursery & Church School
<b>Sun. June 23</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel</b> Nursery & Church School
Thurs. June 27	1:00pm	Bible Study – Library/Nursery
<b>Sun. June 30</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Chapel</b> Nursery/Church School

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 these groups. (781-334-3050)

***Church Office Hours – 9-3 Mon.-Fri.***

***Beginning June 10 Hours will be 9-12 Mon.-Fri.***

***The next issue of Tower Notes – Week of June 25***

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