

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

June 24, 2019

The Joys of Summer

Finally – Summer! School's out, the thermometer has climbed into the 80s, and people have begun traveling for vacation, whether for a few days, a month, or the whole season. The older I get, the faster it goes, especially when our work demands that we think ahead to what comes next. And all of this planning can make me feel like summer is over before it has even started. To be honest, perhaps it is more poignant than ever for me this year because last summer was eaten up by our move. What I have discovered helps the most when I feel hurried is to be very intentional in slowing down, paying attention, and resting in the moment not just when I'm on vacation, but in the every day.

What is it that you LOVE about summer? I relish locally grown fruits and vegetables. I adore an evening when the day's light is still fading at 9 pm and the temperature is perfect. I crave a quiet cup of coffee on the patio, deck, or porch. I love an evening walk, alone or with a loved one, and the silence or quiet conversation at day's end. I adore a supper that requires the grill and not the oven. I cherish our more casual worship in the Chapel. Summer is a season of abundance! It is the time to "fill-up" on all good things! It is a time to breathe deeply, stroll casually, eat joyously, and share generously. And a time to dwell – in the present blessing and in the delightful memories that come unhindered.

I pray that each of you are blessed with time to savor summer and the particular delights it holds for you. Whether in small moments or long, lazy weeks, I hope you are able to partake of the abundant blessings of God's creation in this season of light and abundant life.

Sunny days,

Rev. Nancy

In the Chapel

July 7, 2019

10:00 am Holy Communion - Sanctuary

July 14, 2019

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

July 21, 2019

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

July 28, 2019

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

Due to remodeling in the library, the Nursery and Faith Formation Activities will be held in Room 11 during the summer.

Summer Church School: Love Overflowing!



As summer approaches and people begin to travel, it is common for our congregation to shrink in numbers. Thus, we provide a simple “All Ages” format during the summer. When classes combine and cover a wider age range, it can be a

challenge to keep all ages interested and involved. While we use a single lesson outline and format, we are also very aware that all of the children have different needs. On Sundays when the weather is good we might decide to take a “movement break” and go out on to the playground.

Our theme this Summer is "Love Overflowing". The passages we have chosen for focus during the summer all speak about love overflowing – God’s love for us, our love and thanksgiving to God, love and compassion shown to the poor and needy, and “love without limit” as Paul reminds us that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, slave and free or any person, regardless of their gender. We are **ALL** God’s children. In our logo, God’s love is symbolized in the glorious gift of water, being received by all God’s children, and passed on to the flowers and offered to others. The joy and thanksgiving for this gift is so obvious on the faces of the children. During this unit we will read stories of God’s overflowing love demonstrated in healing and restoration.

We hope that parents and others will each sign up to help one summer Sunday. Story and materials and activities are provided, so don’t be afraid to sign up! Please speak with Larainne Wilson, Director of Faith Formation or Jill DiGiorgio, Faith Formation Ministry Team Chair if you have questions or concerns.



We are hiring for Church School Assistants for the 2019-2020 School Year. Two of our faithful assistants are on to other adventures. Please let Larainne or Jill know if you have recommendations of anyone local who might be interested.

Special Summer Fun Ahead!

The next Faith Formation Ministry Team meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10th at 4:30 pm.: Young Families Group Cookout/Potluck at the home of Kristin & Chad Kadera, 4 Reedy Rd. Lynnfield .

Sunday, August 11th: Orientation and Setup for VBS beginning after the service at 11:30. All VBS volunteers are required to attend. See Lisa or Kristin for more information.



8/12 - 8/16 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 is open to the community! Invite friends! Registration is open now! We have 8 spaces left! Forms will be available on Sundays throughout the summer. See Kristin Kadera or Lisa Gerbick with questions.

News from Around the Parish

We rejoice with Nicole and Allison Messuri-Swan whose daughter Callianne Frances Messuri-Swan was baptized on June 2.

We rejoice with Alexander Krisak and Elizabeth Botticelli upon the baptism of their daughter, Virginia Nancy Krisak on June 16.

Congratulations to Eamonn Drew Kadera who was baptized on June 16. His parents are Chad and Kristin Kadera. His big brother and sister are Landon and Addison.

We extend our love and support to Courtney and Adam Kushmerek upon the baptism on their daughter, Harleigh Gray Kushmerek on June 23.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Parker Holloway who died on May 25. His funeral was private.



Please join us on Sunday, July 28th for our Christmas in July Service –Pajama/Toy Drive. This is your chance to not only sing your favorite

Christmas carols but to also help the Cradles to Crayons Foundation. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or pajamas that Sunday to put under the tree. Hope you can all join us.

Why Celebrate Christmas in July?

Some questions to ponder:

- Do I reflect on the birth of Christ only in December?
- How might my life change if I celebrated the birth of Christ year round?

Read [Luke 1](#). Consider how you can celebrate Christmas throughout the year.

Dear Lord, help me to remember to celebrate You throughout the year. Grant me innovative ways to weave the story of Your life throughout my ordinary day-to-day routines. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Mission and Outreach

Haven From Hunger: We helped to prepare and serve a meal on Monday 6/24. Anyone 14 years or older can be involved, making this a great Summer Monday activity to do with your teenagers! Upcoming dates are: 7/22, 8/26, 9/23. Please email events@centre-church.org to confirm when you can join us. –Linda Ladd for the Mission and Outreach Team.

Food donation item for the Summer is: Pasta, canned tomatoes and sauce.

Reid's Ride 2019 will happen on 7/21. You can join The Centre Church Cyclers Team, donate or get more info at: <https://www.firstgiving.com/team/391063>

Lost and Found

We have found a laptop computer in the church library/nursery. If this might be yours, please call the church office.

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the beautiful flowers sent from Centre Church for my father's funeral service. I would also like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, love and support. Your kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy are so comforting during this difficult time.

With heartfelt gratitude, Barbara Langill

Centre Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely vase of flowers delivered to our home on Mother's Day. Thank you also to the nice couple who helped arrange them. Sorry we didn't get to chat. We enjoyed the flowers for many days.

With appreciation and Love, Lillian Foulds

Host Families Needed for International Students. Share your love with the nations.

Lynnfield High School, in partnership with Educatius Group, will welcome international student scholars to the school and to the community for the upcoming school year. Students come from all over the world and take classes alongside their American peers, while living with host families in town.

We have a young man from Brazil ready to be matched with a local host family. Victor will be in the 11th grade at LHS. At home in Brazil, he lives with his parents and his younger brother. Victor loves helping his parents cook; especially desserts! He also enjoys playing soccer and basketball and is looking forward to trying out for these teams at LHS.

Students come with their own spending money and medical insurance. They speak English very well. Host Families are asked to welcome a student into their home as a member of the family, providing room and board. In exchange, host families receive a monthly stipend to offset the costs of hosting a teenager. Please contact Barbara Langill, the local Educatius coordinator for Lynnfield for more information at ba.langill@verizon.net or 617-686-0751.

Did you know that Centre Church has long been a satellite location for the New England Pastoral Institute (NEPI)? At both the primary clinic location in Salem, NH and a second location here at Centre Church, NEPI promotes wellness and healing of mind, body, heart, and soul through the resources of faith and psychotherapy. The Institute serves persons of all backgrounds and is committed to an integrated approach that serves the whole person including the individual's values that give purpose and meaning to life. With the retirement of Laurence Heckscher, LPP, LMHC from active practice with NEPI, a new counselor was needed to staff the NEPI office here at Centre Church. To that end, Victoria Torres-Vega, LICSW, has begun seeing clients here and is dividing her time between the Salem and Lynnfield offices.

Victoria Torres-Vega, LICSW, graduated with her master's degree in Social Work from Boston College School of Social Work, and is independently licensed in the state of Massachusetts. As a psychotherapist, Victoria specializes in working with families, adolescents, and children who may be experiencing or have experienced depression, anxiety, identity issues, and trauma. She also works with adults who suffer with persistent mental illness. Victoria is in Lynnfield every other Monday, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and can be reached via email at Torres-Vega@nepastoral.org or phone 978-238-0936. She is currently accepting new patients, and if you would like more information about her you can find her on www.psychologytoday.com or <http://www.nepastoral.org/about/staff.html>. The NEPI Counseling Office is located on the second floor directly across from the elevator. We are excited to welcome Victoria and to partner with NEPI to offer this valuable resource in spiritual and mental health to the residents of Lynnfield and surrounding communities.

Our Opportunities

Sun. June 30	10:00am	Morning Worship - Chapel Nursery-Room 11, Faith Formation Activities-Rm 11
Wed. July 3	---	No Bread & Roses this month
Thurs. July 4	---	Church Office Closed
Sun. July 7	10:00am	Holy Communion – Chapel Nursery – Room 11, Faith Formation Activities
Mon. July 8	7:00pm	Pastor Parish Relations Committee
Tues. July 9	6:30pm	Faith Formation Ministry Team- Library/Nursery
Wed. July 10	4:30pm	Young Families Cookout/Potluck, at the Kadera's
Thurs. July 11	1:00pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room
Sun. July 14	10:00am	Morning Worship – Chapel Nursery – Room 11, Faith Formation Activities–Rm 11
Sun. July 21	10:00am	Morning Worship – Chapel Nursery – Room 11, Faith Formation Activities–Rm 11
Mon. July 22	3:00pm	Serve at Haven From Hunger
Thurs. July 25	1:00 pm	Bible Study – Fireside Room
Sun. July 28	10:00am	Morning Worship – Chapel <i>Christmas in July</i> Nursery – Room 11, Faith Formation Activities-Rm. 11

Summer Office Hours – 9-12.

The next Tower Notes will be on July 29.

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 for more information about any of these groups. 781-334-3050