

# 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](mailto:Office@Centre-Church.org) Web Site: [www.Centre-Church.org](http://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*

**August 26, 2019**

At this time last year, Mike and I were still getting settled in our new home in Andover and I wrote about milestones in life. And this year, we have just passed yet another huge milestone. Our youngest, our daughter Colleen, has just moved across the country – to the “wrong” coast – to Seattle to begin her life and work as a physical therapist. I was so very fortunate to drive with her across 13 states in 7 days! What an amazing journey! More on that another time. As for milestones, here Mike and I are, settling into this new thing, this new time, this new way of being. Not only are we now true “empty-nesters,” but we are adjusting to the reality that one of our kids lives a day’s travel away and a three-hour time difference. In my Mama’s heart I feel the push and pull of pride and longing! I am forever grateful that we live in the era of communication that we do. She doesn’t feel nearly so far away when we can talk, video chat, and text whenever we want. But the truth still remains that life is different now. Our house echoes again with some of that emptiness. But what I’m trying to resist is the urge to fill up that emptiness too quickly. In this age of instant gratification, we too often (I too often) try to fill up any emptiness we feel. Fill a moment of silence with a word, fill 5 minutes of waiting with mindless social media, fill a moment of sadness with online shopping. Instead, I’m trying to cultivate my ability to wait; to sit with the emptiness. To wonder about it. To ask what it might be trying to teach me. To truly imagine what life-giving, soul-filling, long-lasting force could fill it up.

Whenever we reach milestones, whether ones we have set for ourselves or ones we stumble upon, we are presented with an opportunity for reordering our lives; even just a little bit. But in order to go about that reordering, we benefit from a period of reflection on what was and where we have been and a spirit of openness, patience, and imagination about what can be. When we rush through this process, it is more likely that we will find ourselves continually unhappy, unsettled, and unsure. The more we rush, the less likely we are to invite God into our discernment about what’s next. If we can open a space for silence and wondering in ourselves, we open a space in which the Holy Spirit can move, inspire, and fill us. In that space and silence, we can look at possibilities, turn them around, look at them from all angles, and imagine what might actually fit into that empty space, that new beginning, that re-ordered life that lies beyond the threshold of this milestone.

As you face whatever milestones you are approaching or have just stumbled over, I hope for you time and space to allow the Spirit to inspire.

In hope,

*Rev. Nancy*

### **A Night of Hope**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm to join our Centre Church group participating in A Night of Hope. A Night of Hope is a community gathering to show support for those impacted by substance use. We will walk together, listen together, and participate in a lighting ceremony together to share hope and strength as a community. Rev. Nancy and our other Lynnfield Clergy members will be leading the lighting ceremony and blessing. Stay tuned for opportunities to sign up to participate.

### **Holiday Craft Fair**

Plans are underway to prepare for the Centre Church Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, November 2 from 10 – 3. We have over 20 outside crafters joining us, and Centre Church will have a craft table, a vintage jewelry table, and a bake sale. Please contact Debbie Cotting (781-593-3120) if you can volunteer to help at the Centre Church tables or in the kitchen for morning coffee or lunch.

### **Festival of Trees**

We are planning to have a Festival of Trees again this year in conjunction with our Craft Fair on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last year, we had 6 themed trees decorated with ornaments and gifts. The ornaments and gifts were raffled at the end of the Fair. Set in the Narthex of the church, it made a beautiful entrance to our Fair, and the raffle proceeds were outstanding! If you would like to help by loaning an artificial Christmas tree for us to decorate or would be interested in sponsoring a themed tree, please contact Margaret Waugh at 781-334-4031.



We will meeting on **Tuesday, September 17** at 7 pm in the Fireside Room to continue preparing for the upcoming Holiday Fair in November. Come join the fun and fellowship. Call Barbara Langill at the church office (781 334 3050) for more information.

### **In the Chapel**

#### **September 1, 2019**

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

#### **September 8, 2019**

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

### **In the Sanctuary**

#### **September 15, 2019**

10:00 am Morning Worship –Sanctuary  
Welcome Back Sunday  
Blessing of the Backpacks  
Nursery & Faith Formation for Children

### **Donation of the Month:**



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

We extend our love and sympathy to Marilyn McCarthy and family upon the death of her son Bill on August 13. A celebration of his life will be at Sagamore Spring Golf Club in Lynnfield on October 20 from 6-8.



### **From the Mailbox**

To all my friends in this wonderful faith community,  
My family and I want to say **thank you** for your continued support over the past months. We appreciate all of your cards of encouragement and love during this difficult time. I so value my time with you here at Centre Church,  
Blessings, Susan Spear

### **Save the Date:**

Deacon's Breakfast  
Sunday, September 22, 8:30 -9:45 am

## **Faith Formation Ministry Team News**

**Vacation Bible School:** Twenty-one Centre Church children and friends from the Lynnfield community went to “Mars and Beyond” for Vacation Bible School (VBS) during the week of August 12th. We are grateful to Kristin Kadera, Lisa Gerbick, Lauren Donadio, Sarah Crosbie, Raden Sorli Hawk, Sheri Wilson, Jennifer Stevens and Emma and Claire Connors for volunteering. Many members of the Lynnfield community shared their children with us for the week and we had a BLAST!

**Young Families Group** Several of families gathered on the playground after VBS. It was a great time to connect with families that were new to our church. Afterward, a few families went to the Middleton Richardsons for ice cream. Our children went beyond with kindness by cheering for mini-golfers they were watching on the course! Thanks to Jill DiGiorgio for organizing our Young Families Group!

### **Church School 2019 – 2020:**

We are gearing up for a great church school year! Footprints, Godly Play and Brick-by-Brick teachers are getting excited. We will be putting together groups for the fall, so please see Larainne with questions/feedback about classroom assignments.

### **Church School Registration and Parent Information Sessions:**

Registration for Church School will start on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> with Registration Forms available in the Chapel. Larainne will also be emailing the forms to current parents. Our parent information sessions will take place after church on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. They are both the same, so you only need to attend one. The location is TBD.

### **Welcome Back Sunday:**

September 15th is also “Welcome Back Sunday” and our first day of Church School for the 19-20 year. We invite all children (and adults!) to bring their backpacks, briefcases, work bags or hiking packs to be blessed during our mini message.

**Faith Formation Ministry Team:** Our next meeting is on September 10th at 6:30 p.m. We are looking for new members for our team. If you are interested in joining us, please let Jill or Larainne know!

## **Church School Assistant(s) Volunteers:**

We are in need of a few more folks to assist our teachers in the Church School classrooms. Having a second adult present is critical for meeting the diverse needs of our children and to comply with best safe church practices. This position doesn’t involve any planning, just come & enjoy! Typically, Church School is held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month (excluding holidays and special events). We plan out the calendar for the year, so you will know ahead of time when the dates are. Our priority is to find several folks to commit to one Sunday per month. One-time opportunities are also still available. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an assistant, speak with Larainne or Jill. We will be offering two opportunities for staff and volunteer orientation: September 8th and 15th at 9 a.m. (sharp!). Spread the word!

**Joyful Noise:** Does your child love to sing? Ms. Lauren Donadio will continue her great work with our pre-school and elementary-aged children next year. They will share their songs at Thanksgiving, Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day. Typically, we rehearse after church the week before and before church the morning of. The time commitment is small, but the gain is HUGE! See Lauren with questions.

**FFMT and the “300<sup>th</sup>”:** The FFMT plans to partner with the community for the Trunk or Treat event in October and a Disability Awareness event in April. If you are interested in helping with either of those events, please let us know. We are putting together a group of folks for each event!

**Middle School Youth Group:** Is your child in Grade 5 or above? We have a few families at Centre Church who are interested in starting a MS Youth Group. This group will meet once monthly on Saturday or Sunday evening. The group will brainstorm service projects and other ways to help their community. We may also have some youth from the Methodist Church interested in joining us. We need a parent host for each month who will provide the “goodies” for the group and be the second adult in addition to the Faith Formation Team Member who is present.

## *Our Opportunities*

<b>Sun. Sept. 1</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Morning Worship - Chapel</b> Nursery-Room 11 Faith Formation Activities-Rm 11
Mon. Sept. 2	---	Labor Day – Offices Closed
Wed. Sept. 4	8:30 am	Bread and Roses
Thurs. Sept 5	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Room 10 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
<b>Sun. Sept. 8</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion – Chapel</b> Nursery – Room 11 Faith Formation Activities– Rm 11
Tues. Sept. 10	7 pm	Faith Formation Ministry Team- Fireside Room
Thurs. Sept. 12	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Room 10 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
<b>Sun. Sept. 15</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</b> Nursery – Room 10 Faith Formation - Blessing of Backpacks
Tues. Sept. 17	7:00 pm	Craft Night –Fireside Room
Thurs. Sept. 19	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Room 10 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

**Office Hours – 9am – 3pm**

**The next Tower Notes will be on September 10**

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)