

# 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*

**September 23, 2019**

## Accompaniment

And just like that, we're off. Another year has begun. Last Sunday, we welcomed everyone to a new year. In worship we blessed backpacks, work bags, and hiking packs. Our choir once again enriched our worship experience. Our children went off to three different age-specific programs to engage with the stories of our faith. Our youngest ones were welcomed into our transformed nursery space in Room 10. And after worship, we had a time of fellowship, catching up with each other, and meeting those who joined us for the first time.

On Sunday evening, September 22, the Lynnfield Community came together to offer support to those impacted by substance use. We walked together, listened together, and participated in a lighting ceremony together, to share hope and strength in community. Because, as my friend the Rev. Sandi Albom says, "Community is a healing thing. Isolation feeds addiction. Community leads us away from addiction." Rev. Albom is an Episcopal Priest and she leads the Recovery Ministry of the Episcopal Church of NH. Recovery from substance use is not the only struggle that can be positively impacted by accompaniment, by the unconditional love and acceptance found within a community committed to radical welcome, inclusion, and companionship. Substance use and the anxiety, depression, and trauma that can lead to substance use, are but a few of the "potholes" that cause our lives to unravel.

Sometimes, when life shakes us, blinds us, stops us on our path, when we fall into potholes created by others or even of our own making... Sometimes, when all of our plans come unraveled, God gives us others, often the most unlikely or those we don't even deserve, to lead us, welcome us, walk with us on a new path. As we begin this new year and begin to celebrate our 300<sup>th</sup> year, let's focus on all the ways we are accompanying one another; the ways we are already a community of intentional welcome and inclusion, AND the ways we are called to do better. Jesus shows us over and over how wide we are to draw the circle of God's healing love! Jesus sees. Jesus listens. Jesus includes. Jesus reaches out. Jesus pulls in. Jesus accompanies. Jesus loves. That we, The Centre Church in Lynnfield, might follow him, I pray.

In faith, *Rev. Nancy*

---

## In the Sanctuary

**September 29, 2019**

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

**October 6, 2019**

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

**October 13, 2019**

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

---

## *Help Fill the Green Wagon!*



Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser is underway! This is a particularly good fundraiser because the church earns 40% of all sales. You can pick up a Yankee Candle catalog in the narthex after church or in the church office during the week. When you look through it, you'll see that it contains some wonderful candles, great gift ideas, and a lovely selection of wrapping paper. There is something for everyone....whether you are a candle lover or not. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, you'll want to check out the Kindle Candles



Be sure to share the catalog with family and friends. Your friends can view it and order on line by going to [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) and entering our group number: **990016890**. The last day to place an order is **Sunday, October 13**. We will receive the orders before Thanksgiving. For more information, call Debbie Cotting at 781-593-3120.

### **Mental Health Referral Service** ***INTERFACE***

**a confidential mental health referral service  
now available free of charge  
to any Lynnfield resident in need.**

The INTERFACE helpline run by Williams James College helps you find a mental health provider near you that matches your health insurance, your schedule, is available for services within a reasonable time frame, and specializes in the area you need: anxiety, depression, family problems, isolation, behavior management issues with your child, and more. Reading and Wakefield residents can also take advantage of this free service. Call 1-888-244-6843 or connect to [interface.williamjames.edu](http://interface.williamjames.edu)

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

Congratulations to Ariel Bjorkman and Joao Fidencio upon the birth of their son, Tristan Romao Bjorkman Fidencio on September 10. Proud grandparents are David and Diane Bjorkman.

The Weaver home is bursting with joy upon the birth of Avery Roux Wilder Léinn., son of Kathryn (Denise's daughter) and Erin Léinn on September 13.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Jill Couillard upon the death of her father, Ralph Knowles on August 4.

### **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. This is an 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!

### **Faith Formation**

We thank you for your continued prayers as Larainne recovers from a concussion. Please contact Jill ([jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com](mailto:jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com)) or Nancy with any Faith Formation related questions or issues.

The Faith Formation Ministry Team, Larainne, and Rev. Nancy extend our sincere apology for omitting Carol MacKendrick's name from the team of people who volunteered to make our Vacation Bible School a success. Thank you, Carol, for your time and talents shared!

Faith Formation Ministry Team: Our next meeting is on Tuesday October 8th at 6:30 p.m. We are looking for new members for our team. If you are interested in joining us, please let Jill know. ([jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com](mailto:jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com)).

### **Faith Formation News**

We had a great start to the church school year on Welcome Back Sunday! Many children and congregants brought their backpacks, work bags or hiking packs to be blessed during our mini message. Sunday programming began and is in full swing with the children participating in Nursery, Footprints, Godly Play and Brick by Brick.

Registrations forms went out in an email and are also available at the Faith Formation table in the narthex. Please pick up a blue folder with the family information packet at the table if you have not already done so.

**We will have a Parent Information Session on 9/29 at 11:30 a.m. in the kitchen.** Please get your registration form in as soon as possible so we can assure we're doing our best to meet your child's needs.

### **September Sundays:**

9/29: Service Sunday/All Ages: Families with Young Children bring Coffee Hour Treats, and the children will prepare them during worship!

### **October Sundays:**

10/6:

All Ages/Communion/Creation Care Class

10/13:

Church School

10/20:

Church School (a.m.)

Youth Group (5:30 p.m.)

10/27:

Church School

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

We are in need of a few more folks to assist Ms. Alicia in Nursery with our littlest ones. This position doesn't involve any planning, just come & enjoy! 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 Jill:

([jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com](mailto:jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com)).

### **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.

### **Middle School Youth Group Forming** **(Grades 5 and Above)**



Our first meeting will be Sunday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m.! If your child is in Grade 5 or above, they are welcome! This group will meet once monthly on Sunday evening.

The group will brainstorm service projects and other ways to help their community. We may also have some youth from other churches (St. Pauls, UMC, OLA, SMG) 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. Deb Biggar is the parent host for our first meeting in October.

### **Trunk or Treat** **Save the Date!**

We are partnering with the Lynnfield Moms Group to host the community Trunk or Treat event on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>! The rain date is Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>.

We are creating a "trunk" and welcome your creative minds and hands! Contact Jill ([jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com](mailto:jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com)) if you're interested!

## Holiday Fair – Saturday, November 2 – 10am-3pm

We are hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 2 from 10-3. If you can help staff a table or bake for the bake table, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Debbie Cotting. We could also use help for set-up and clean-up. Please note that even if you are unable to do any of those things, you can still help by coming to the Fair and telling your friends about it. The crafters and the Holiday Fair committee would love to see lots of people mingling about on Nov. 2. The church will have a bake table, craft table, and a jewelry table. Plus, there will be a Festival of Trees raffle in the Narthex. You'll see beautifully decorated trees with gifts underneath. Take a chance and you might win the decorations and the gifts! With your support, we will have another successful Holiday Fair!

One of the most popular parts of our fair is the **Festival of Trees**. The narthex will be filled with beautifully decorated trees, each with a theme. The tree raffle generated over \$1000 for the church last year!

We need people to sponsor our trees. Even a small donation will enable us to purchase decorations and supplies to make our trees beautiful and provide gift baskets under the trees. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mark it specifically for the Festival of Trees. If you have ideas for the theme of a tree, please let us know.

If you would like to help make decorations, gift baskets or volunteer on Nov. 2nd, please contact Margaret Waugh at [mcwaugh@aol.com](mailto:mcwaugh@aol.com) or 781-334-4031.



**Clean out your jewelry boxes!** Jewelry needed for the Church Fair Nov. 2. There will be a box in the Church Office for drop off or you can call Betsy Brown at 781-307-3904 or email [betsytbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:betsytbrown@hotmail.com)

The craft group has been very busy, meeting each week to make crafts for the church table at the Holiday Fair. We have several types of handmade ornaments, handcrafted necklaces and cat and dog toys. If you have felt ornament kits that you took home to work on, please return them completed to the church office by October 22. Our last two craft nights will be October 8 and 22.



## ***Our Opportunities***

<b>Sun. Sept. 29</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> 11:30 am	<b>Morning Worship - Sanctuary</b> Nursery - Room 10 Church School - Service Sunday Church School Parent Orientation
Tues. Oct. 1	7:00 pm	Parish Council - Pastor's Outer Ofc.
Wed. Oct. 2	8:30 am	Bread & Roses - Kitchen
Thurs. Oct. 3	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
<b>Sun. Oct. 6</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion – Sanctuary</b> Nursery - Room 10 Church School Classes
Tues. Oct. 8	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Faith Formation Ministry Team Craft Night
Thurs. Oct. 10	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study - Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
<b>Sun. Oct. 13</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship – Sanctuary</b> Nursery - Room 10 Church School Classes

## **Office Hours – 9am – 3pm** **The next Tower Notes will be on October 8**

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)