

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

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

November 5, 2019

SAVE THE DATE

HOLY LAND TOUR 2020

November 15-22, 2020 - In the Footsteps of Jesus

Dear Centre Church,

We are planning a tour of the Holy Land in celebration of the church's 300th birthday! In November 2020, we will fly to Israel for eight days where we will be led by Amir Or-ly, an amazing teacher and tour guide, and my dear friend! The logistics of our trip are being handled by Keshet Educational Journeys, a well-known tour group that specializes in quality educational tour programs. This is an opportunity for your knowledge and understanding of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures to explode with all the layers of personal experience – the sights, tastes, sounds, and textures of the Holy Land.

Highlights of the tour include: Caesarea where St. Paul was arraigned before being sent to Rome for trial; Tiberias where we will stay on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and visit Capernaum, which was Jesus' home base for his ministry, the Mt. of Beatitudes where the Sermon on the Mount teachings were given, Nazareth, and more; Ein Gedi, where we will visit Masada, and Qumran to learn about the Dead Sea Scrolls; and then up to Jerusalem, where we will visit Mt. Zion, David's Tomb, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and other important locations in Jewish and Christian history. All along the way, we will be learning about modern day life in Israel as well. This tour includes eight full days of travel and education with ample time for self-guided side outings and personal prayer and reflection. There is a fair amount of walking (up and down as well; not all surfaces are level) so if you really want to go but have concerns

about your ability to participate in all the activities, let's talk.

Based on a tour group of 15-20 people the base fee for each participant will be less than \$3,000 not including airfare. Airfare adds another \$1,200 or so. The deadline for signing up for this tour is mid-March 2020. Please contact our trip coordinator, Randy Russell to express your interest in joining the group or to ask any questions. He can be reached at randallhrussell@gmail.com or 781-799-8397.

In the Sanctuary

November 10, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship
Sacrament of Baptism
Nursery & Church School

November 17, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship
Turkey Drive
Nursery & Church School

November 24, 2019

10:00 am Morning Worship
Green Wagon Sunday
Nursery & Church School



Holiday Fair

Thank you to the huge group of volunteers that made our Holiday Craft Fair a big success. Members of the planning committee and craft group began work several months ago to work out details, solicit crafters, plan the Festival of Trees raffle, make items for the craft table, and collect jewelry for the jewelry table. Then, many folks signed up to work on the day of the fair, and countless people baked delicious items for the bake table. Another crew, including the Boy Scouts, helped with set-up and clean-up. It truly was an all-church event! And, it seemed like our customers viewed it as an all-community event as they met up with friends and spent time chatting with folks as they ate lunch at the tables in the kitchen.

We appreciate the fabulous artisans who participated and the following people who took charge of the Centre Church tables and events:

Barbara Langill, Lisa Gerbick
and their team of crafters
Betsy Brown and the Jewelry Table team
Lisa Gerbick and the Centre Church bakers
Kathi Martin, Laurel Caputo
and the kitchen crew
Linda Ladd and Mission & Outreach
for the Fair Trade table
Margaret Waugh & the Festival of Trees
teams including Tower Day School and the
Boy Scouts

Not only was the day fun and exciting, it was also profitable. We estimate that the church netted about \$4,600. Good job, Centre Church!

Star Words



Last year on the Feast of the Epiphany we each chose a “Star Word,” or more accurately, let a word choose us. The hope was that we would carry that word in our hearts for the year and see what our contemplation on our word brings into our lives. If you placed your Star Word somewhere so you’d see it all the time and now you find that you are overlooking it, try moving it somewhere new so you see it again. Begin thinking about what epiphanies, big or small, your word has brought to your life. On Epiphany Sunday in January, you will be invited to share in worship about your journey with your word, and then we’ll all pick our new star words for 2020!

PPRC

At the Annual Meeting in September the congregation voted to establish the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. The members of the committee are Sarah Crosbie, Gary Muise, and Margaret Waugh. A *Pastor Parish Relations Committee* is a small group of church members who provide support for the pastor and offer a regular channel of communication between the pastor and the congregation. There are two main reasons to have a PPRC:

1.) The first reason to have a PPRC is to provide focused, consistent support for the pastor. The PPRC is a way in which a congregation is intentional about providing support for its pastor and family. The PPRC helps interpret functions, roles, and the needs of the pastor to the congregation. The committee will be responsible for encouraging the pastor to plan time for recreation, relaxation, family needs, and solitude. The Committee may conduct a formal performance review of the pastor and be an advocate for personnel policy, continuing education, and sabbatical leave. The formation of a PPRC was written into Nancy’s *Call Agreement* in 2017, per conference guidelines, as best practice for supporting our new Pastor.

2.) The second reason for a congregation to have a PPRC is to serve as an advisory group - sharing ideas, hopes, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the Pastor. This committee will take the lead in seeking to improve communication and cultivating an open, affirmative and creative relationship between the pastor and congregation. If needs arise, the PPRC will serve as mediators to assist with negotiation and resolution.

PPRC is a confidential committee that requires a high degree of trust among members, the pastor, and congregation. The committee will meet regularly and will provide an annual report to the congregation. If you would like to contact the PPRC, you may do so by speaking to Sarah, Gary, or Margaret in person; by picking up a contact form and envelope in the PPRC mailbox at the bottom of the stairs to the office, completing the form and placing it back in the mailbox; or by emailing pprc@centre-church.org

From the Mailbox

Dear Friends at Centre Church,

I want to say Many Thanks for the flowers with fall colors. . They are still in full bloom in my front window. I have been at Lahey Hospital and am now home. I have help 5 days a week until I’m better. I appreciate your cards. Fondly, Gladys Carter

Faith Formation



We thank you for your continued prayers as Larainne recovers from a concussion. She is grateful for the prayers of the congregation and the

commitment of the Faith Formation Ministry Team in her absence. Please contact Jill:

(jilldigiorgio@yahoo.com) or Larainne (larainne.wilson@gmail.com) with any Faith Formation related questions or issues.

Upcoming Church School Sundays:

11/10: Church School
11/17: Church School - Joyful Noise rehearsal 11:30
11/17: Middle School Youth Group @ 5:30 p.m.
11/24: Church School (Joyful Noise rehearsal before worship and sharing of the song during the service)
12/1: Creation Care (All Ages)

Church School Registration:

Please take a blue folder and fill out a registration form for your child(ren). This will help to ensure that we are meeting their needs!

Faith Formation Ministry Team:

The next meeting of the Faith Formation Ministry Team will be Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. We have recently had a couple of folks step down, so we'd love to welcome another member or two. Much of our planning is done remotely, but we meet in person once per month.

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).

*****November Joyful Noise Dates:** Rehearsal on the 17th after worship and on the 24th before worship. Sharing of the song will be during the Mini Message on the 24th.

Events/Volunteer Opportunities:

Nursery Volunteer (1-2X/month), Turkey Drive (11/17), Caroling (12/8), Christmas Pageant (12/15).

Middle School Youth Group

Grades 5 and Above

The next meeting will be held on November 17th at 5:30 p.m. Deb Biggar will be the parent volunteer. The Turkey Drive will also be held on the 17th, in the morning. In December, there will be an opportunity to help the younger children with Caroling at Sunrise on the afternoon of Sunday, December 8th. We will also possibly host a Middle School Christmas Party/Swap on Sunday, December 22nd.

Blue Christmas

On Sunday, December 8th at 5 pm in the Chapel we will gather for Blue Christmas.

Blue Christmas is a worship service during which we remember that for many, this is a season of sadness and longing, loneliness and mourning. The service offers peaceful music, sacred story, heartfelt prayer, and communion. Know that it is never necessary to share why you might need to be there. It is enough to simply come and seek comfort.

Trunk or Treat

A big thanks to Chuck Cotting, Larainne Wilson, Jill DiGiorgio, Nancy Rottman, Sarah Crosbie, Lauren Donadio, Kamden Mauser and the Middle School Youth Group who all had a hand in this successful event on Saturday October 26th! The CCC "trunk" was ocean themed. The decorations, ocean/water themed music, bubbles, magnetic fishing and water beads sensory bins were all a great hit!

Ma Duke's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

"Ma Duke & Friends" provides a Thanksgiving dinner for individuals who otherwise would not have one. The event will be held at the American Legion Post 227, 69 River Street, Middleton, MA 01949.

To help in this effort, we will be collecting appropriate non-perishables until Nov. 24.

Donated items such as boxed stuffing, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, beverages and paper products can be left in the box labeled "Ma Duke's & Friends Thanksgiving Dinner", located in the Narthex.

To volunteer your time at this wonderful cause, please contact Annmarie Pendola at (617) 549-9164. Monetary donations can be made online: <https://www.gofundme.com/madukes2019>



POINSETTIA ORDER

I would like to order: ____ red poinsettia(s) \$9.00 each

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to Centre Congregational Church.

These flowers have been given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

___ I will take my plant(s) home after one of the services on Christmas Eve. (5 pm or 11 pm)

___ I wish to donate my plant(s) to the hospitalized, bereaved or shut-in.

Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 15.

A list of donors will be printed in the bulletin on that day.

Thursday, December 5 is the deadline for placing orders.

The Season of Giving

Bring a Turkey to Church

A frozen one, that is. On Nov. 17th, youth will be in the church parking lot to collect turkeys of all sizes for Haven From Hunger. Frozen whole turkeys or turkey breasts are in great need for distribution to our neighbors who are food insecure. Thank you!

Fair Trade Chocolate, Coffee, Tea?

Just in time for holiday gift giving, Outreach Ministries is partnering with Equal Exchange to bring you "Fair Trade" goods. Buying this organic chocolate, coffee and tea supports small farm communities by skipping middle man markups. Appropriate wages are paid directly to farmers, allowing their children to attend school rather than work in the fields. Organic farming benefits our bodies and our earth. It's the right way to farm! This holiday season, enjoy some delicious chocolate for yourself or tie a ribbon around a few bars to bring as a gift. These chocolates, coffees and teas will not disappoint. Please look for them on sale in the church narthex after worship services. Catalog orders will be accepted through November for pre-Christmas delivery.

The Angel Tree – Gifts for City Mission of Boston

The Season of giving is approaching! But there are many who can't afford gifts or even warm clothes. We'll be collecting gifts for City Mission of Boston, under our Angel Tree in the church narthex December 1-15. The tree will bear Angel tags asking for clothes of a certain size or games for a certain age. The idea is to take a tag and return the UNWRAPPED gift by December 15th. If you're already starting your holiday shopping, most needed items are: Winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts in large adult sizes as well as hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. Socks and underwear as well as gift cards to Target, Walmart, Kohl's, CVS, Marshalls and Walgreens. Any of these items put under, or hung on the tree will be much appreciated! Thank you!

Our Opportunities

Sun. Nov. 10 <i>Sacrament Of Baptism</i>	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Church School Classes
Mon. Nov. 11	-----	Office Closed for Veterans Day
Tues. Nov. 12	6:30 pm	Faith Formation Ministry Team – Fireside Room
Thurs. Nov. 14	1:00 pm	Bible Study-Fireside Room
Sun. Nov. 17 <i>Turkey Drive For Haven from Hunger</i>	10:00 am 11:30 am 5:30 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Church School Classes Joyful Noise Practice - Sanctuary Youth Group – Fireside Room
Thurs. Nov. 21	1:00 pm	Bible Study - Fireside Room
Sun. Nov. 24 <i>Green Wagon Sunday For Ma Dukes</i>	9:30 am 10:00 am	Joyful Noise Practice - Sanctuary Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 10 Church School Classes

Office Hours – 9am – 3pm

The next Tower Notes will be on November 19




Donation of the Month is:
 Frozen Turkeys on Nov 17
 Thanksgiving food until Nov 24
Food collected in Missions Pantry
Turkeys in the parking lot

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)