

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 18, 2019

Labyrinth

I am thrilled to announce that our labyrinth has arrived. At September's meeting, Parish Council approved the purchase of a portable canvas labyrinth for use here at Centre Church. For those of you who have never walked a labyrinth, I am excited to introduce you to this beautiful spiritual practice. For those of you who have experienced a labyrinth before, I am grateful we can offer new opportunities to deepen your practice.

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used to enhance prayer and meditative practice. During Advent, the season of waiting, our journey on the labyrinth allows us to contemplate the One who we're waiting for and the hope, peace, joy, and love that cannot wait. Labyrinth walking allows us to engage our whole bodies in prayer. It is sometimes referred to as "praying with our feet."

Our labyrinth will be available in the Narthex on each of the three Wednesday evenings during Advent (December 4, 11, 18) and before, during, and after our Blue Christmas service on December 8 at 5 pm. Everyone is invited! Please make sure you have socks on or with you for your walk. No experience necessary. Just come with your curiosity.



In hope,

Rev. Nancy

In the Sanctuary

November 24, 2019

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

December 1, 2019

1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Holy Communion
Nursery Care
Caring for Creation Church School Class

December 8, 2019

2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Morning Worship
Nursery Care
Church School Classes

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Enters Exciting New Era!

Something new and joyous has happened to our annual interfaith Thanksgiving Service. For the first time in memory the clergy associations of Wakefield and Lynnfield will come together to give thanks and celebrate worship together. Come and be a part of this momentous occasion and the beginning of a partnership between our communities on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 PM at First Parish Congregational Church, 1 Church Street, Wakefield. Fellowship Time to get to know your neighbor will follow the service. Come celebrate and give thanks!

Blue Christmas
Sunday, December 8
5:00 p.m. in the Chapel

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.

Sunday, November 24
Is the Final Day To Donate



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>

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.

News from around the Parish



We rejoice with Bill and Janet Everson at the marriage of their daughter Elisabeth to Lonnie R. Mayer, on Nov. 9 in Rockport. The newly-weds make their home in Essex, MA.

We rejoice with Jacqueline (Popoloski) and Casey Carroll whose twin sons, Finley Joseph and Rory Stephen were baptized on Nov. 10.

Congratulations to Riley Harper Nikitas who was baptized on October 20. Her parents are Ryan and Kristen Nikitas.

Festival of Trees



Thank you to everyone who decorated, donated gift baskets, and made ornaments for our 8 beautiful trees. A special thank you to everyone who bought tickets! We made \$1375 to contribute to the Craft Fair. Centre Church winners were: Cameron DiGiorgio, William DiGiorgio Diana Gerbick and Jen Bayer! We're ready to think of ideas for next year's trees.

The Angel Tree

Gifts for City Mission of Boston

It's 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!



Faith Formation



Upcoming Church School Sundays:

11/24: Church School (Joyful Noise rehearsal before worship and sharing of the song during the service)

12/1: Creation Care (All Ages)

12/8: Pageant Rehearsal (All Ages)

12/15: Pageant practice at 9:00 am (All Ages), Service/Pageant at 10:00am.

12/22: Church School

Church School Registration:

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

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) or Larainne (lwilson@centre-church.org)

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 5 and Above)

The youth group is up and running! In December, there will be an opportunity to help the younger children with Caroling at Sunrise on the afternoon of Sunday, December 8th. For other middle school youth group news, please contact Larainne (lwilson@centre-church.org)

Joyful Noise

Does your child love to sing? Ms. Lauren Donadio will continue her great work with our pre-school and elementary-aged children this 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.

November dates: Rehearsal will be before worship and on the 24th and the children will share their song during the Mini Message.

December dates: Rehearsals will coincide with Pageant rehearsals (during worship on 12/8, prior to the service on 12/15).

Events/Volunteer Opportunities:

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



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.

Tis' the Season



Christmas Cookies

On Sunday, December 8th, following worship we will have a Christmas Cookie Event! This will be a fundraiser where you will be able to have a beautiful cookie platter custom made. These platters will be perfect for the holidays whether you give them as a gift, bring them to a party or just munch on them yourself or with family. We would love to see you there!

If you are interested in baking, there will be a signup sheet in the Narthex following church and please feel free to reach out to Lisa Gerbick (lisagerbick@hotmail.com) or 781-307-2931 with any questions.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Nov. 24 <i>Green Wagon</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>For Ma Dukes</i>	9:30 am 10:00 am	Joyful Noise Practice - Sanctuary Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Church School Classes
Mon. Nov. 25	3-6:30 pm	Serve at Haven from Hunger
Tues. Nov. 26	7:00 pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 1 st Parish Church in Wakefield
Thurs. Nov. 28		Thanksgiving Day
Sun. Dec. 1 <i>1st Sunday</i> <i>Of Advent</i>	10:00 am	Holy Communion – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Creation Care Class – Todd Hall
Wed. Dec. 4	8:30 am 7:00 pm	Bread & Roses – Kitchen Labyrinth Walk - Narthex
Thurs. Dec. 5	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study - Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sun. Dec. 8 <i>2nd Sunday Of Advent</i>	10:00 am 11:15 am 4:30-6 pm 5:00 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery – Room 10 Church School Classes Cookie Sale Labyrinth Walk – Narthex Blue Christmas - Chapel

Office Hours – 9am – 3pm

The next Tower Notes will be on December 3

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)



Centre Congregational Church, UCC Advent and Christmas 2019

- Sunday, December 1st**, 10:00 am **1st Advent Morning Worship**
Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope
- Wednesday, December 4th**, 7:00 pm Candlelit Labyrinth Walk, Narthex
- Sunday, December 8th**, 10:00 am **2nd Advent Morning Worship**
Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace
Christmas Cookie Sale
- 11:15 am
- 1:00 pm Intergenerational Caroling at Sunrise of Lynnfield, led by
Middle School Youth Group
- 4:30 – 6:00 pm Labyrinth available in Narthex
5:00 pm Blue Christmas Service, Chapel
- Wednesday, December 11th**, 7:00 pm Candlelit Labyrinth Walk, Narthex
- Sunday, December 15th**, 10:00 am **3rd Advent Morning Worship**
Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy
Centre Church Christmas Pageant
- Wednesday, December 18th**, 7:00 pm Candlelit Labyrinth Walk, Narthex
- Sunday, December 22nd**, 10:00 am **4th Advent Morning Worship**
Lighting the Advent Candle of Love
- 6:30 pm Centre Church Christmas Concert
Reception to follow
- Tuesday, December 24th**, 5:00 pm **Christmas Eve Family Worship**
Lessons and Carols and Candlelight
- 11:00 pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion

