

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940 Phone: 781-334-3050 Fax: 781-334-6463
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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

December 9, 2019

I invite you to contemplate these lovely words from the great poet Madeleine L'Engle as we continue our Advent waiting.

After Annunciation

This is the irrational season
When love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child.

Advent Peace, *Rev. Nancy*

[Click to read my Christmas letter](#)

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 **Candlelight Service**

Lessons and Carols & Holy Communion

The First Sunday after Christmas

Longing for more carol singing? Hoping for just one more great Christmas story? Desiring a little more time in our beloved Chapel? Come to worship on Sunday, December 29th! Come comfortable (PJs welcome). Come with your singing voices tuned up. Come to worship together as a family. The children will remain in worship with us for lots of carol singing and a great Christmas story or two. We hope to see you then!



Star Sunday – Epiphany, 5 January 2020

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. As we move through Advent and the birth of Emmanuel, God-with-us once again, look for the ways your Star word, and God's Word are interacting in the sacred story that is 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!

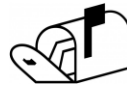
In the Sanctuary

December 15, 2019
3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Morning Worship
Christmas Pageant
Nursery Care

December 22, 2019
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Morning Worship
6:30 pm Christmas Concert

In the Chapel

December 29, 2019
10:00 am Morning Worship
Children remain in worship
Nursery Care



From the Mailbox

Dear Church Friends,
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as I recuperate from foot surgery.

The flowers Chuck delivered brightened my day. See you soon!

God Bless!
Barbara Barke

Dear Friends of Centre Church,
Thank you for the flowers that Chuck brought to me. It was very thoughtful of you to remember me.

Sincerely,
Charlotte McClure

The Angel Tree

Gifts for City Mission Christmas Shop

We are currently collecting UNWRAPPED gifts for City Mission. Gift suggestions can be found on Angel ornaments on the tree in the narthex. These will be delivered for sorting on Dec 15th.



The Great Pie Challenge
Sunday, January 12th.

Love to make pies? Have you been told you make the best pies ever? Please bring your pie/pies and your appetite to The Great Pie Challenge on Sunday, January 12th after the Service. Pies can be dropped off that morning. Signup sheets will be in the Narthex starting on December 15th.

MA DUKE'S & FRIENDS



Thank you to everyone who volunteered, brought in canned goods, paper products or made donations to help support Ma Duke's & Friends Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. At drop-off, we learned that surplus donations are donated to Danvers People to People and other local food pantries. Thank you to Annmarie Pendola for organizing and promoting this food drive.



Haven From Hunger

We collected and delivered 34 frozen turkeys totaling 368 lbs. to Haven From Hunger on Sunday, Nov 17.

On Monday Nov 25, Diane & David Bjorkman, Frank Scott and Linda Ladd served "breakfast for dinner" there: eggs scrambled with veggies and cheese, corn bread, bacon, sausage, fruit salad, green salad and blueberry pie.

Our next 4th Monday volunteer date is Dec. 23. Please sign up on the Missions bulletin board.

Through the month of January, our suggested donations for Haven From Hunger will be cereal and shelf-stable milk.



Heifer International

Linda Ladd and Barbara Langill attended a 75th Anniversary Celebration for Heifer on Nov 16th. We learned about current Heifer programs and the concern of deforestation in Guatemala and elsewhere. Centre Church was presented with a certificate recognizing our consistent support of Heifer's mission for more than 50 years. The group included Heifer Founder Dan West's daughter Jan Schrock who currently serves as an area volunteer coordinator in Maine. Together, we brainstormed ways to spread Heifer's message today.

Our annual **Heifer Living Gift Market** will take place on upcoming Sundays (12/15 and 22) after worship, for those who would like to make donations to Heifer in honor or memory of loved ones this Christmas. What says "I love you and ALL people of the earth" better than gifting Goats, Chicks, Honey Bees, Llamas, etc. through Heifer International?

Fair Trade Goods

Table sales of chocolate, coffee and tea will continue after worship services until Christmas. We also manned a table on Dec 7, Tree-Lighting Sat. to sell goods and distribute educational material about the difference between high-volume and fair-trade sales of these goods. Any proceeds of sales will benefit the Missions and Outreach budget.

Faith Formation

Upcoming Church School Sundays:

12/15: Pageant practice at 9:00am (All Ages), Service/Pageant at 10:00am/Green Wagon during offering
12/22: Church School
12/29: Children in Service very informal, PJ's welcome
1/5: Epiphany/Star Sunday/Creation Care Lesson #3 (All Ages)

Events/Volunteer Opportunities: Nursery Volunteer (1-2X/month), Christmas Pageant (12/15).

Faith Formation Ministry Team:

The next meeting of the Faith Formation Ministry Team will be Tuesday, December 10th 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) or Larainne (lwilson@centre-church.org)

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 5 and Above)

The youth group is up and running! Our next meeting will be on 12/15 @5:30pm (location TBD). Sara Mauser will be the parent host. At the meeting we will start our first project "Spread the Bread" - Lynnfield's crossing guards and a couple of folks in need of cheering up from Centre Church will be the recipients. We will also have a Yankee Swap. 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 the Pageant and around Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. Typically, we rehearse after church the week prior to sharing and then a 2nd time before church on the morning of. The time commitment is small, but the gain is HUGE! See Lauren with questions.

December Joyful Noise dates: Rehearsal will be held prior to the service on 12/15 and they will share their song during the Pageant that day.

Our Opportunities

Sun. Dec. 15 <i>3rd Sunday Of Advent</i>	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Christmas Pageant Nursery - Room 10
Wed. Dec. 18	7-8:30pm	Labyrinth Walk - Narthex
Thurs. Dec. 19	1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study - Fireside Room Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Sun. Dec. 22 <i>4th Sunday Of Advent</i>	10:00 am 6:30pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Christmas Concert-Sanctuary
Mon. Dec. 23	3-6:30pm	Serve at Haven from Hunger
Tues. Dec.24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	5:00pm 11:00pm	Family Worship-Sanctuary Candlelight Service-Chapel
Wed. Dec. 25	-----	<i>Merry Christmas</i>
Sun. Dec. 29	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Chapel Nursery – Room 10

Office Hours – 9am – 3pm

The church office will be open 9-12 on Dec. 24, 26, 27 and closed on Christmas Day.

The next Tower Notes will be on December 30

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)