

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

March 22, 2021



Palms and Easter Bag Drive-through Pick-up

On Saturday, March 27 from 11:30 – 12:30 we will be distributing Palms to all who would like to have them for Palm Sunday's Cantata and worship. We will have both traditional palm fronds and Eco-palms. Rev. Nancy will be there to make palm crosses for any and all who would like one. Faith Formation will also have Easter Bags to distribute for all of our children. We hope you'll come by and say Hi!



Maundy Thursday Parking Lot Tenebrae

We'll be gathering in our parking lot for Holy Communion and

Tenebrae on Thursday, April 1 at 6:30 pm. Please sign up by completing this [google form](#) or calling the church office at 781-334-3050. We will have communion elements for all who attend so please let us know if you need a gluten free option.



Easter Sunrise Service

Join us at 5:45 am in the parking lot at Newhall Park (Suntaug Lake) to greet the sunrise and proclaim the good news of Christ's Resurrection.



Easter Virtual Worship

Our Easter morning service will premiere on our YouTube Channel at 10 am. There will not be fellowship following on Easter morning. We hope you will enjoy time with family and friends, whether virtually or safely gathering.

Dear Centre Church,

It is with both sorrow for ourselves and joy for him that we share the news that The Reverend Mark Freeman Strickland, our Pastor Emeritus, died peacefully at home on March 10, 2021 after a valiant journey with dementia. To know that he crossed the threshold into God's embrace while surrounded by Nancy, Alison, and Matt brings a measure of comfort, and yet we grieve nonetheless. You may follow this [link](#) to read Mark's obituary. You are encouraged to share your memories of Mark's time here as Senior Pastor with each other and your sympathy with his family. We lift our praise and thanks to God in gratitude for Mark, his leadership, his discipleship, and his friendship. Contributions in Mark's memory may be made to the Kendrick/Remick/Siladi Fund for Generosity and Faith Development of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ at [SNEUCC.org](#). Private family graveside services will be held, and a memorial service at First Congregational Church, UCC in Falmouth at a later date.

Rev. Nancy

News from Around the Parish

Our love and sympathy are with the family and friends of Charlotte McClure who died on Feb 28. A graveside service will be held on March 24.

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Friends,
Thank you for thinking and praying for me during my stay at the hospital and recovery at home.

Paul Harrington



Faith Formation Ministry Team News

March 21

Godly Play: Faces of Easter

March 28, Palm Sunday

Godly Play: Faces of Easter

April 4, Easter Sunday

No Church School, Worship at 10am

April 11

Godly Play, Mystery of Easter

April 18

No Church School, School vacation week

Children's Sunday

We will hold Children's Sunday on **June 6, 2021**.

We will be talking through possible themes and more information will follow.

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. Any interested parent is welcome to join us. We typically meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Youth Group:

March 20th at 11:30 a.m.

Put Together Easter Bags

March 27th at 11:30 a.m.

Distribute Easter Bags & Palms (w/Rev. Nancy)

Young Families Group: We are planning a Spring Event! We are thinking about a bring-your-own-picnic on the church lawn. Keep your eyes peeled for details!

WEEKLY Parent Support Group:

Most Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. - Contact Jill DiGiorgio or Larainne Wilson for Zoom Link.

Mission & Outreach

“Bare Necessities” for Citizens Inn

Thank you to so many people who dropped off toiletries, socks, underwear and more at our March 6th drive-through collection, or during the week before. Our collected items combined with those of Tower Day School and the other primary schools in town were delivered in four loaded SUVs to Peabody. Citizens Inn operates multiple shelters as well as the Haven From Hunger food pantry and community meal program there. Your

Missions pledge supports Citizens Inn with \$300 each month as well as funds to match church members' personal donations, which have averaged about \$100/month for this organization. More information and a link to online donations can be found at www.citizensinn.org.

Matching donations

Outreach Ministries is using your Missions pledge to match member donations to local organizations hard hit by the pandemic. You can double your impact by submitting copies of your direct donation receipts to the church office for matching. Since starting this in April of 2020, we have matched \$6,590. Organizations we have given the most help to are: [La Colaborativa](#) of Chelsea, [Citizens Inn](#), [Bread & Roses](#), [City Mission](#), Ma Duke's Thanksgiving Dinner, [My Brother's Table](#), [Wakefield Food Pantry](#), [Greater Boston Food Bank](#) and [The Food Project](#). Today, we'd like to introduce you to another fine organization - [Beverly Bootstraps](#). Please read below.

Beverly Bootstraps

Located on Park St in Beverly, this organization was established in 1992 as a Food Pantry in the basement of the First Baptist Church. In 1995, they started a community outreach program to address the root causes of local hunger and assist clients in achieving self-sufficiency. With the generous support of donors, volunteers, and the community at large, Beverly Bootstraps has grown to be a leading social service agency on the North Shore.

In response to COVID-19 and limits on the number of people in their building, prepared bags of food are now being given to individuals and families in need. You can find more information and an online donation link at www.beverlybootstraps.org. Food donations may be made at their 35 Park Street facility or through grocery store collection boxes in Beverly at Stop & Shop (224 Elliot Street, or 37 Enon Street) or Shaw's (71 Dodge Street).

Beverly Bootstraps also runs a Thrift Shop (located at 198 Rantoul St). Gentle used clothing, household items and décor, furniture and books are all items that can be donated there. All proceeds help fund their important programs.

Spring Cleaning Celebration – April 3



On the day before Easter, Saturday, April 3rd from 9am-noon, we will be socially distanced in the parking lot, accepting your donations, shredding your personal papers, selling Equal Exchange goods, and celebrating EARTH MONTH! Read on for more information about this fun.

April is Earth MONTH!



“Earth Day” is becoming “Earth Month”! Of course, preserving our planet needs to be in mind 365 days of the year, as it is our bad habits that are causing the current climate crisis we’re in and, as we all know... habits are hard to break! During the month

of April, we’ll be suggesting videos to watch before Sunday so that we can spend a short time commenting on them in Fellowship. If you didn’t get to watch the video beforehand, our conversation should impart the message of it, and you’ll feel as if you did. The videos will be educational about climate ideas or concerns such as: Small scale farming, Fair Trade, Recycling, Climate Change and Advocating for environmental policy change.

We’ll be publishing movie ideas and free video links in each Centre Church weekly email which is usually sent out on Thursday. You might have to search for the movies on whatever streaming service you use and they might cost something to rent but usually less than \$5. Some are appropriate for the whole family such as “The Biggest Little Farm” which is about sustainable small farming.

Spring Cleaning Donations

We will be collecting new and gently used items for [Mission of Deeds](#) during our **Spring Cleaning Celebration** on Saturday April 3, 9am-noon. A list of requested items can be found at www.centre-church.org. Gently used small Kitchen, Household and Children’s items, as well as NEW (only) Bedding is needed to help MOD set up living situations for clients who have nothing.



Spring Clean Paper Shredding Profits Going to *Change is Simple*

This is a great time to clean out and discard all of those old sensitive documents. Load the documents into your car at home, drive over to Centre Church, and we will do the rest. This is a secure shredding event with cameras inside the truck to capture the shredding. All shredded material is 100% recycled. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per bag or \$10 per bankers box. There is a 5 box limit per person. ***Change is Simple*** is an early education program teaching environmental stewardship.



Spring Cleaning Tips

Since it’s Earth Month, we’d like to remind you of the golden rule (of climate preservation) – “Reduce, Re-use, Recycle”.

After donating small household items and shredding years of paper, you may have other used but still useful items that you no longer need. Someone else might be able to use these things. Please see www.centre-church.org for some tip sheets showing where you can donate such items including clothing and furniture. Some organizations will even come to you for pickup!



Equal Exchange – Support Small Farming

The next order of EE goods will be placed on March 26 and delivered before Easter. A link to the order form can be found at www.centre-church.org. All goods are Fair Trade certified and organically sourced. Almonds, Cashews and Coconut Oil join the regularly offered varieties of Coffee, Tea and Chocolate on this “Easter” order form. Please peruse shop.equalexchange.coop and send suggestions of items to add to the form to events@centre-church.org. Our aim is to pass on wholesale prices for these Fair Trade goods. You’ll note prices are even lower than on our “Valentine’s” order form. If you ordered last month at higher prices, you can claim credit towards this order! Equal Exchange orders will be available for pickup during the **Spring Cleaning Celebration** on April 3, 9am-12pm.

Centre Church Gathering Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28 will be celebrated on our YouTube Channel at 10 am with a Cantata by the choir. Subscribe to our channel at www.youtube.com/c/centrecongregationalchurch/
Don't forget to pick up a palm on Saturday at a drive-through event.

Maundy Thursday, April 1 will be held as a Service of Tenebrae with Holy Communion in the parking lot.

Easter, April 4. There will be a Sunrise Service at Newhall Park (Suntaug Lake) at 5:45 am followed by a YouTube service at 10 am.

- **Church School takes place via Zoom on most Sundays at 10 a.m.** Please see the latest email for the link OR contact Larainne at: larainne.wilson@gmail.com
- Zoom Fellowship hour: **Sundays at 10:30 am**
- Midweek Prayer and Support Gathering: **Wednesdays at 4pm** with Rev. Nancy.
- Parent Support Group: **Thursdays at 7:30 pm** with Ms. Larainne and/or Jill DiGiorgio. Contact Larainne for the link

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Church office hours are 9am to 12 pm, Mon.-Fri.

Tower Day School is in session Monday to Friday, 8am-3pm.



Centre Congregational Church

Think Spring Golf!

2021 Golf Tournament Fundraiser at The Thomson Club

Monday June 28th starting at 1 PM!



Save the date of **Monday, June 28th** for the 14th Annual Centre Church golf tournament. The net proceeds go to our Operating Budget. This will be a **best ball** tournament with a tee time of **1:00 PM Sharp** at The Thomson Club, 2 Mid Iron Dr, North Reading, MA 01864.

Please plan to arrive by 12:30 PM.

The cost is \$125 per player. This covers the cost of prizes, greens fees, cart and goody bags.

Titleist Golf ball prizes and the chance to have your winning team's names engraved on "*The Unholy Grail*" are but two of the benefits of playing in this tournament.

Players of all skill levels welcomed. **Please invite your friends to play, too.**

Please let us know as soon as possible – Thanks! No later than Friday June 25th!

We currently have 12 Golfers signed up – please Join Us!

Sign up with:

Chuck Cotting (chuck@thecottings.com) or Bruce Weaver (bruce@newenglandlab.com)

Checks should be made payable to: **Centre Congregational Church** at 5 Summer Street Lynnfield, MA 01940.