

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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Email: [Office@Centre-Church.org](mailto:Office@Centre-Church.org) Web Site: [www.Centre-Church.org](http://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*

**May 4, 2021**

## Change

No matter how much we think we have things under control, life is always serving up change and challenge. And when it comes to technology, it seems that none of us can keep up with the pace of change. We found ourselves in the midst of it when the hard drive of our office desktop computer decided it was done, finished, kaput a few weeks ago. Fortunately, we already had a replacement computer that was being set-up and we were preparing to migrate our email over to our new Google Workspace account. Even with those advantages, there was and is still much work that has gone into recovering data from the old hard drive (Our undying gratitude to Jim Johnson for his tireless work recovering data and setting up the new computer). The changes and updates have affected the whole staff as well as Treasurer Jeff Law, Financial Secretary Jim Marshall, Assistant Treasurer Lisa Gerbick, and Chair of Finance Ministries Chuck Cotting (who was overseeing the transition to the new desktop computer – thank you, Chuck!).

We are still learning and adapting to the updates to Church Windows and to our new email and other office computing capabilities on Google Workspace. No matter our willingness to adapt to change, the truth is that adaptation takes time and particular focus and attention to the necessary learning. So, on behalf of everyone affected by these changes, I am thanking all of you reading this for your grace and patience. While it is unlikely you will feel the effects of these changes, what used to be automatic is now taking extra time and attention. Pray for us! ☐

Some of us have new email addresses! Here is an updated list. Please note that for a period of time

as everyone makes the change, our old email addresses will be forwarded to our new accounts and the main account of [office@centre-church.org](mailto:office@centre-church.org) will not change.

Rev. Nancy Rottman [nancy.rottman@centre-church.org](mailto:nancy.rottman@centre-church.org) or [nancy@centre-church.org](mailto:nancy@centre-church.org)

Laraine Wilson [laraine.wilson@centre-church.org](mailto:laraine.wilson@centre-church.org) or [laraine@centre-church.org](mailto:laraine@centre-church.org)

Doug Hodgkins [douglas.hodgkins@centre-church.org](mailto:douglas.hodgkins@centre-church.org) or [douglas@centre-church.org](mailto:douglas@centre-church.org),

Susan Spear & Barbara Langill [office@centre-church.org](mailto:office@centre-church.org)

Chuck Cotting [finance@centre-church.org](mailto:finance@centre-church.org)

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

[pprc@centre-church.org](mailto:pprc@centre-church.org)

Linda Ladd [webmaster@centre-church.org](mailto:webmaster@centre-church.org)

Green Team [green@centre-church.org](mailto:green@centre-church.org)

Jill DiGiorgio [faithformation@centre-church.org](mailto:faithformation@centre-church.org)

## Dancing Together into our Shared Future

Our annual Stewardship campaign began on April 25 and will end on Commitment Sunday, May 16. Our financial support is essential to ensure the church's ongoing ministry in Lynnfield and out into the world. Please carefully consider your pledge, and be as generous as you are able so that Centre Church will continue to be the vibrant church we all love.

Stewardship packets were mailed last week. If you didn't receive your packet, just contact the church office and we will make sure you get one. Please return your pledge promptly so that our budget committee can begin work on the budget for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2021.

Debbie Cotting and Katie Swayne-Gerrish  
Stewardship Ministries

## **COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

Our Stewardship Season will wrap-up with a celebration on Commitment Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope to offer Parking Lot worship and fellowship as well as an all-ages hike on a local trail in the afternoon. Stay tuned to the Weekly Email for more information and an opportunity to sign-up for the day's events. We look forward to celebrating our shared commitment to our shared future! Mark May 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar.

## **Livestreaming Coming to Our Sanctuary – An Update and Request for Help**

There is nothing like a pandemic and a flood to necessitate innovation and adaptation. That has certainly been our story here at Centre Church. We pivoted to online worship and Zoom fellowship at the beginning of the lockdown and have continued ever since. Now we are approaching the return to in-person worship and it is time for us to fully embrace our fourth meeting space. What began in the Meeting House, traveled across the street to the church, then expanded into the sanctuary, has now transitioned into our newest worship space – an online space! Power Sound of New England is in the process of installing a brand-new audio-visual, livestreaming system into our sanctuary. Once it is installed, we will be trained in using the system so that worship each and every Sunday will be available via our website. That's where you come in! We would love to have you join our Audio-Visual Team (what some churches are calling Tech Deacons!). No matter your age, from high school student to seasoned elder, if you have an interest, we'd love to have you trained. No prior experience or knowledge needed; just an interest in making sure that everyone is able to attend worship! And the more individuals we have trained, the easier it will be to make sure we have one person available each Sunday to ensure things go smoothly.

Interested? Please email Rev. Nancy at [nancy@centre-church.org](mailto:nancy@centre-church.org)



## **Faith Formation Ministry Team News**

We will continue to meet online at 10:15 a.m. (after the mini-message). Allison Barbieri, Katie Swayne-Gerrish and Larainne continue to take turns teaching and assisting.

## **Upcoming Church School Dates:**

**May 9** Godly Play: Jesus and the Twelve with Storyteller Allison Barbieri

**May 16** Children's Sunday Prep: Ark and the Flood with Larainne Wilson

**May 23** Godly Play: Mystery of Pentecost with Storyteller Allison Barbieri

**May 30** Children's Sunday Prep

**June 6** Children's Sunday

**Youth Group Meeting:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 @ 11:30 a.m.

**Children's Sunday:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 (Digital Worship) This is a Sunday where we celebrate the important role(s) of the children, youth, their parents and teachers in the life of our church.

The Theme of our Children's Sunday is "Dancing AFTER the Rain". The overall idea is that the pandemic has brought us lots of "rain", but what is next for us? How can we dream together? The Godly Play story is The Ark and the Flood. This tells the story of the flood, the ark, the rainbow and God's enduring love even after hardship.

Your help is needed to make this digital service a success. We are looking for photos, drawings and videos of umbrellas, rainbows and dancing. We also need 6-8 readers to come in to be taped in the sanctuary. Please check the April 28 e-mail for more details. Let me know if you, your child or members of your family group would like to participate.

## **WEEKLY Parent Support Group:**

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

## **News from Around the Parish**

Our love and sympathy go out to Doug Hodgkins and family upon the death of his father, Wendel Hodgkins on April 4, 2021. A graveside service was held on April 17 at Forest Glen Cemetery in Reading.

Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of Don Zaik who died on April 12, 2021. A Celebration of Life was held at the Mackey Funeral Home on April 20.

## **Mission & Outreach**

### **Earth Month Spring Cleaning Celebration:**

Held on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, this event was fun and successful! All activities were focused on “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”. In addition to the specifics below, a raffle prize (choice of a plant or “grabber”) was given out every half hour and people who donated in any way were given a delicious and beautiful Earth cookie! (thank you Lisa Gerbick!) Joe Brown, photographer for the Weekly News, captured some of the proceedings and published a nice photo spread about it in their April 14<sup>th</sup> paper. Highlights of the event included:

**\*A1 Shredding Truck:** collected and shredded 1.2 tons of paper which will be entirely recycled. Donations for that service covered the cost of having the truck there 9a-noon, with a \$100 surplus for [www.changeissimple.org](http://www.changeissimple.org) Missions matched that \$100, plus member donations directly to CIS, allowing us to send the early education sustainability program \$300.

**\*Mission of Deeds donations:** A carful of small household items were collected and delivered to MOD on the following Monday. This included many boxes of kitchen supplies and 10 bags of brand new linens.

**\*Our new banner** looked great displayed on the parking lot side of the church! If you haven’t seen it, loop around the parking lot to check it out.

**\*Equal Exchange Fair Trade:** Our “Easter” order of EE goods arrived in time for pickup at our Spring Cleaning celebration. Coffee, tea, and a variety of chocolates were available for purchase that day as well.

**Matching Funds:** April’s matching funds totaled \$327. Recipients were Change is Simple and La Colaborativa. We’ve matched \$6,917 since April, 2020.

**Green Team Video discussions:** We’ve had some interesting Fellowship chats based on these videos. The focus of each week with suggested videos to view has been published in emails and on <http://centre-church.org>.

**Green Team web page:** There’s a new Centre Church Green Team page accessible from the sidebar menu of [www.centre-church.org](http://www.centre-church.org) which details some of our Creation Justice initiatives and is a repository of educational resources about climate change as well as tips on how we can all Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The schedule of videos to watch each week in April prior to Sunday Fellowship is published there as well as links to organizations focused on sustainability. Creating and maintaining this information repository is also a step towards being certified as a Green Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

### **Project Bread's The Walk for Hunger**

Founded in 1969, The Walk for Hunger is the oldest and largest community fundraiser for hunger solutions in Massachusetts! Always the first Sunday in May, walkers of all ages, backgrounds, faiths, communities, and cultures come together to raise awareness about the issue of hunger, as well as funds to support solutions to end hunger in Massachusetts. This year is the 53<sup>rd</sup> Walk for Hunger and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the event will be Virtual as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, more and more families are living with the worry of being able to feed themselves and their children.

Donations to the 2021 Walk For Hunger can be made at [www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org). Once again, the Decker family is walking! Search for last name Decker or team “Those Devilish Deckers” to donate to their efforts. Thank you to the Decker family for consistently supporting this cause! Church member donations will be matched by our Missions pledges. Please submit your receipt to the church office for matching.

## *Centre Church Virtual Gathering Schedule*

- **May Schedule: Sunday Morning** worship video – Premieres on our YouTube Channel at **10 am each Sunday** morning. Subscribe to our channel at [www.youtube.com/c/centrecongregationalchurch/](http://www.youtube.com/c/centrecongregationalchurch/)
- **Church School** takes place via **Zoom** on **Sundays at 10:15 a.m.** (after the mini-message). Please see the latest email for the link **OR** contact Larainne at: [larainne.wilson@gmail.com](mailto: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

## *Centre Church Upcoming Events*

**Sunday, May 16: Commitment Sunday:** Parking Lot Worship and Fellowship followed by an all-ages hike.

**Children's Sunday: June 6** (digital worship)

**Golf Tournament June 28:** Sign up now.

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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 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 1 PM!



Save the date of **Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>** for the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>!

**We currently have 26 Golfers signed up – please Join Us!**

**Sign up with:**

**Chuck Cotting ([chuck@thecottings.com](mailto:chuck@thecottings.com)) or Bruce Weaver ([bruce@newenglandlab.com](mailto:bruce@newenglandlab.com))**

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