

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor

Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

October 2021

World Communion Sunday

According to the website of the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches, a predecessor of the National Council of Churches in 1940. Since then, the celebration has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity. Just as in 1936, the world feels very fractured today and it feels evermore important for us as Christians to come together around Christ's Table and remember who we are called to be, how we are called to act, and who it is that is calling us.

This year, as we look to the early church in the Acts of the Apostles for wisdom and truth to guide our life together, we recall that they gathered for the "breaking of the bread." Given the diversity of people and languages who heard the good news on the Day of Pentecost, and Jesus' call to the apostles to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, World Communion Sunday serves as an intentional enacted reminder that every time we gather at Christ's table, we are united with believers not only across the globe but across time and beyond time.

Join us on Sunday, October 3 at 10:00 am, either in person or via livestream as we celebrate Holy Communion with believers all over the earth. As we break bread and share the cup with millions of God's people, we will recall that we are all God's beloved children, each one loved and claimed by our God, the One God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

Amen,

Rev. Nancy

Centre Church, you may have noticed that Mark Strickland is no longer included in the list of staff on the Tower Notes masthead or on the bulletin. That is because the title Emeritus/Emerita is not used for the deceased except in their obituary to indicate their status at the time of death. Mark's long and faithful service and therefore earned status as Pastor Emeritus of Centre Church during his retirement will always be part of the history and memory of this congregation. And we will forever say of him, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

September 6, 1934- March 10, 2021

Bible/Book Study with Rev. Nancy

Rev. Nancy is thrilled to once again be able to gather for Bible/Book Study on Thursdays from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Everyone is invited to join! We read scripture and books on a wide range of topics and discuss together where holy scripture, our own sacred stories, and the adventures of life intersect. Our first gathering will be on Thursday, October 7. We will spend our time that afternoon catching up with one another and choosing our first read. Come one, come all and find Christian community at Bible/Book Study on Thursday afternoons. Masks are required in the building throughout our time together. Safety note: for those not familiar with entering our building during the school day, please come to the door at the top of the ramp from the parking lot and ring the bell for Tower Day. Someone will come let you in. You must be masked to enter. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we do all we can to keep our children and all of us safe and well.



All Saints Remembrance

This year, All Hallows' Eve falls on a Sunday, with the next day being All Hallows' Day or All Saints' Day. Through liturgy and ritual, both spoken and visual, we will celebrate both during our worship on Sunday, October 31. You are invited to send to office@centre-church.org the names of the saints in your life that you would like remembered during our worship service. And may their memories continue to bless us in the days to come.

Mission and Outreach

Citizen's "Inn To Opportunity"

Our congregation consistently supports Haven From Hunger and Citizen's Inn in Peabody. On Sat. Oct. 16, they will launch an "Inn to Opportunity" campaign which can include a tour of HFH's upper floor renovation. Tours need to be signed up for in advance. More information at <https://citizensinn.org/events/>.

\$1 off Equal Exchange Coffee this month

The October Equal Exchange order will be placed on 10/8 to arrive by the end of the month. Check the form on www.centre-church.org for what's in stock and contact green@centre-church.org to order. We can add anything you see in their wholesale catalog at <https://shop.equalexchange.coop/> so please suggest favorite items to buy in bulk. Currently coffee, tea, and a variety of chocolates are available.

Earth Matters: The Centre Church Green Team is pleased to offer Earth Breeze Fresh Scent and Fragrance-Free laundry sheets at wholesale prices. Each pack contains 30 sheets (does up to 60 loads) of detergent in completely plastic-free recyclable paper packaging! Price is \$10 each. Please email green@centre-church.org to order. Checks can be made out and delivered to Centre Congregational Church. Look for more information on www.centre-church.org.



Flea Market & Bake Sale Saturday, October 16 9AM to 1PM.

Rain Date: Sat. Oct. 23rd,

The event will be held on Church front lawn. We are looking for **Flea Market volunteers** from 8AM to 2PM to help set up in the morning, staff the church tables throughout the day, and help clean up after the event. If you can volunteer, please contact Chuck Cotting at chuck@thecottings.com.

Please bring your Flea Market **TREASURES** to the church on Sunday morning (October 10) or M-F (October 11 -15) between 3PM and 5PM. Someone will be available to help put your items in the **Narthex Coat Room**.

Please note that we will not be able to save any items. We will donate what we can.



We are looking for **volunteers** to provide individually-wrapped goodies for the **Bake Sale!** More details to follow.

Other Fundraising News: For the second year in a row, we have decided to cancel our Holiday Fair. It still doesn't seem prudent to host a large indoor event. Also, Yankee Candle has discontinued their fundraising program.



Tower Day School will be holding their annual Book fair on Thursday, October 7 from 5-6:30 in Richards Hall. Children and families can browse books, listen to readers and do a small craft. Masks are required.



Since Halloween falls on a Sunday this year, we want to have some Halloween fun after worship! The Faith Formation Ministry Team is planning a Trunk or Treat event in the parking lot after worship. Everyone is invited to decorate their trunk or hatchback (just Google “trunk or treat,” or “trick or trunk” to find tons of great ideas) and offer edible or non-edible treats to the kids. If you can’t decorate your trunk, you can still participate by bringing treats to share, helping with set up or clean up, and/or dress in costume to surprise the children. And of course, **all of our young families with children (of any age) are invited to attend.** Everyone who would like to participate should sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Y6e3NLfvieXD8JH9> More details to follow in the weekly email. Happy Halloween, Centre Church!

Nursery/Childcare

The Faith Formation Ministry Team is thrilled to welcome our youngest children back to church. Families with infants – preschool-aged children will find our very experienced and loving Mrs. Alicia Dwyer in Room 10 on Sunday mornings. Room 10 is also a classroom for Tower Day School where Centre Church member Mrs. Nancy Miller teaches during the week. The classroom is thoroughly cleaned following preschool COVID-19 protocols and we are following COVID guidelines on Sundays to ready the classroom again for the Tower Day students. Thanks be to God for all who offer themselves to the safe care, nurture, and education of the youngest among us.

Faith Formation



Each Sunday, after the mini-message, children are invited to the Nursery in Room 10 (Infant - PreSchool) or Todd Hall (Kindergarten and up) for Church School. Church School will be held in a "one room schoolhouse", multi-age/ multi-grade style. Teachers will lead them in a welcome, a story, a team building activity and then they can choose 1 of 3 stations:

Godly Play Materials/Figures, Legos/Brick-By-Brick Materials and/or Arts Supplies: They will be encouraged to respond to the story or its themes, but each child can choose how they'd like to respond. COVID precautions: Masks worn, sanitize when entering room, before and after touching materials, individual trays, one station per week.

October schedule for Faith Formation

- 10/3: Nursery
Church School
- 10/10: No Church School
Childcare available in Room 10
- 10/17: Nursery
Church School
- 10/24: Nursery
Church School
Youth Group prepping materials for Trunk or Treat
- 10/31: Nursery
Church School
Young Families Halloween Event
Trunk or Treat - Church ONLY event after worship, children may wear costumes

Our Opportunities

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| Sun. Oct. 3 | 10:00 am | Morning Worship – Sanctuary World Communion Sunday Nursery - Room 10 Church School- Todd Hall |
| Thurs. Oct. 7 | 1:00 pm 5:00 pm | Bible Study-Fireside Room Tower Day Book Fair-Richards Hall |
| Sun. Oct. 10 | 10:00 am | Morning Worship – Sanctuary Childcare-Room 10 |
| Mon. Oct. 11 | | Church Office Closed Indigenous Peoples' Day |
| Thurs. Oct. 14 | 1:00 pm | Bible Study-Fireside Room |
| Sat. Oct. 16 | 9-1pm | Flea Market and Bake Sale Front Lawn of the Church |
| Sun. Oct. 17 | 10:00 am | Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Church School- Todd Hall |
| Thurs. Oct. 21 | 1:00 pm | Bible Study-Fireside Room |
| Sun. Oct. 24 | 10:00 am | Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Church School -Todd Hall |
| Thurs. Oct. 28 | 1:00 pm | Bible Study-Fireside Room |
| Sun. Oct. 31 | 10:00 am 11:00am | Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Church School -Todd Hall Trunk or Treat-Church Parking Lot |

Office Hours – 9am – 3pm

In addition to our scheduled church activities, Centre Church hosts Boy Scout Troop #48, Cub Pack #48, Alanon, Alateen, and Women's AA.