

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor

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We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

November 2021

Dear Centre Church,

I am delighted to share a wonderful resource with you as we begin November, a month in which we focus on giving thanks. November 1st is All Saints' Day and Clergy Coach and Congregational Consultant Rev. Laura Stephens-Reed created a resource that invites us to recall the saints who have shaped our lives by reflecting on their specific influence on us. This is a month-long prayer calendar with daily prompts to remember a departed saint whose impact has been significant. The list is included as an insert in this issue of Tower Notes. If you are reading Tower Notes online, you can access a pdf version of this resource here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HtaEXg0wHUyg6Z7kSw6madNrqb2XZgtJ/view?usp=sharing>



I would also like to invite you to watch our Facebook page to engage in a daily practice of Simple Gratitude. There are also printed versions of the Youth/Adult or

Family versions of the Simple Gratitude booklet available to pick up in the Narthex or to have mailed to your home. Please email office@centre-church.org if you would like one mailed to you.

Grateful for you,

Rev. Nancy

Bible/Book Study with Rev. Nancy

Rev. Nancy and the Bible/Book study group invite you to join us Thursdays @ 1pm in the Fireside room. All are welcome for one week or every week. We are currently reading *The Women of The Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream.

News from around the Parish

Happy Birthday to Annabel Aldrich who will turn **99** on November 7th.

Congratulations to Katie and Erik Olson on the baptism of their daughters Gwenyth Ann and Goldie Alice.

Congratulations to Hayley and TJ Gray on the baptism of their son William James.



Flea Market and Bake Sale Thank You!!

Our Flea Market and Bake Sale was a success! It was a glorious day to be outside, a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, and we raised \$1125.00 for Centre Church! The Bake Table made \$475.00, and the Flea Market earned \$650.00. We want to thank everyone who baked, donated treasures, helped with set-up and clean-up, and staffed tables. It was a great Centre Church team!

Chuck and Debbie Cotting

And We give a huge Centre Church THANK YOU to Chuck and Debbie for their leadership on this event!

Mission and Outreach



Ma Duke's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

For over ten years "Ma Duke & Friends" provided Thanksgiving dinners to individuals who otherwise would not have had one. They served over 2,500 homemade dinners each year. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they are no longer able to provide this annual dinner. Instead, they will be distributing gift cards to grocery stores and restaurants to those in need. To help in this effort we will be collecting gift cards and Missions and Outreach will match donations made by our church members. If you have any questions or you have a gift card to donate, please contact Annmarie Pendola at (617) 549-9164. Please note that gift cards can be purchased/donated through the church Shopping Card program.



Help Decorate the Angel Tree!

Join us in decorating our Angel Tree! On Sunday, December 5th, during coffee hour, we will be decorating the Angel Tree. If you like, bring a family ornament or Christmas card to place on the tree. Ornaments and decorations will also be available that day. Your family ornament should be labeled so it can be returned to you after the Christmas season. As in past years, Mission and Outreach Ministries will be teaming up with Tower Day School to collect gifts for City Mission's Christmas Shop.

The tree will already 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 12th. If you're already starting your holiday shopping, the most needed items are: Winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts in large adult sizes as well as hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks and underwear, as well as gift cards to Target, Walmart, Kohl's, CVS, Marshalls, and Walgreens (see Shopping Card buying information). Any of these items placed under the tree will be much appreciated. Thank you!

Outreach will be hosting fellowship on each third Sunday of the month. At these coffee hours, we'll have **Equal Exchange** Fair Trade foods and **Earth Breeze** plastic-free laundry detergent products for sale at wholesale prices.

The November **Equal Exchange** order will be placed on **11/12/21** to arrive before Thanksgiving. 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 for us to stock up on. Currently a variety of coffees, teas and chocolates are available.

Matching donations: We'll be matching donations of shopping cards and monetary donations to our typical holiday partners in November and December. Please forward a copy of your donation receipt to the church office.

Items are also being collected in the narthex and will be blessed in worship on specific Sundays. Please help to fill our **Green Wagons** before the following blessing dates: Pantry supplies for Bread & Roses on 10/31, Thanksgiving food on 11/21 and Angel Tree gifts on 12/12. Any items suggested below can be added to the wagon and will be distributed appropriately. Thank you!

Ma Duke's Thanksgiving Dinner: grocery and restaurant shopping cards

Bread and Roses: Pantry supplies and grocery shopping cards

Haven From Hunger: Frozen Turkeys on 11/14, Thanksgiving Food until 11/21

La Colaborativa: Diapers (sizes 4+) and donations at www.la-colaborativa.org/

City Mission: Angel Tree gifts and all popular store and grocery shopping cards

Equal Exchange: An order will be placed on Nov 12th for delivery before Thanksgiving.

Shopping Cards: An order will be placed on Nov 12th for delivery before Thanksgiving.

Please bring a (frozen) turkeys to church on November 14. These will be collected in the parking lot before worship.

Shopping cards for the above donations or for your own use and gifting, can be bought through the church. See the [order form](#) on www.centre-church.org Orders will be placed on 11/12 and 12/5.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM

What is the Faith Formation Ministry Team?

We are so glad you asked! The Faith Formation Ministry Team of Centre Church meets monthly (typically on the Second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom) to discuss Faith, Friendship and Fellowship opportunities for Youth and Families. We collaborate with Centre Church Staff on issues relating to Church School, Worship and Sacraments, Adult Faith Formation and Intergenerational Opportunities. Members are: Jill DiGiorgio, Sarah Gorham-Crosbie, Betsy Ragalevsky, Katie Swayne-Gerrish, Rev. Nancy Rottman and Laraine Wilson. Our chair position is vacant at this time. All are welcome to join us and be a part of this life-giving ministry.

Church School:

We have been meeting weekly since Welcome Back Sunday in September. We spent the rest of the month of September getting reacquainted with one another and creating a covenant, reminding ourselves of God's promises to us and our promises to one another. Since then, we have begun our Godly Play Stories, starting with Creation and The Circle of The Church Year. We have THREE ways children can respond to the story: 1) Art Materials 2) Legos! 3) Materials from Godly Play (Sandbox anyone?!?!)

COVID-19 Precautions: We wear masks, distance as much as possible and sanitize before and after using materials. We also have individual trays for each child's materials that are sanitized before and after use.

WILD CHURCH

Do you and/or your child love nature? Do you delight in the outdoors? Keep reading!

As we begin to think about how we might discover more about our church's mission together, we are exploring what other church's are doing. Please join us as we visit a local UCC for their "Wild Church" on Sunday, November 21, 2021 from 3-4 p.m. at McKinnon Park in Wellesley.

Wild Church is a community of people who gather outdoors to worship and connect with God through experiences with nature. Wild Church communities seek to discover how God is revealed through the trees, the birds, the wind and the earth. Wild Church offers a time to experience the splendor of God's creation and praise God for the beauty of the earth.

Young Families Group:

If you are interested in participating in a hike at Partridge Island Trail, please reach out to Jill DiGiorgio. She is hoping to organize it before the snow flies! She can be reached at jilldigorgio@yahoo.com.



Dear Centre Church,
Thank you so much for the beautiful fall floral arrangement that Chuck Cotting dropped by our house in remembrance of my mother-in-law. She was 93 and will be missed by the loving family she created. Thanks.

Doreen DiFillippo

Centre Church November 2021

Thurs Nov 4	-----	No Bible Study
Sun. Nov 7	10:00 am	Morning Worship-Sanctuary Holy Communion Nursery - Room 10 Church School- Todd Hall
Thurs. Nov 11	----- 11:00 am 1:00 pm	Church Office Closed Memorial Service for Charlotte McClure Bible Study-Fireside Room
Fri Nov 12	All day	Shopping Card and Equal Exchange orders due
Sun. Nov 14	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery-Room 10 Church School-Todd Hall **Bring a frozen turkey to church for Haven From Hunger
Sun. Nov 21	10:00 am 3 – 4 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Nursery - Room 10 Church School- Todd Hall Green Wagon Blessing – Thanksgiving food Wild Church - McKinnon Park in Wellesley MA
Thurs. Nov 25	-----	Happy Thanksgiving No Bible Study
Sun. Nov 28	10:00	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Advent 1 Childcare - Room 10

Office Hours – 9am – 3pm

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