

# TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor

Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation

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Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator

*We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church*

**January 2022**

Happy New Year, Centre Church!

Or, Happy? as I shared in last week's enews. Is "Happy" what we're really hoping for in 2022? Somehow "happy" seems too much and too little to hope for all at the same time; especially this far into the pandemic. Instead, maybe we just move forward together toward the new life God offers us even as we know in our bones that just like past and present life, new life contains all the happy, sad, hard, beautiful, terrifying, sweet, precious moments that ARE this life we have been given. And trusting that we are enough, we just let it be, let ourselves be, and take life as it comes, finding God and each other right in the midst of it.

Know that I am praying for each of you and all of us always and especially now as we begin this new year while still on guard! I pray you and your loved ones had some opportunities to be together safely over Christmas. I am grateful we were able to worship together on Christmas Eve and the First Sunday of Christmas. And I'm grateful for our wonderful livestream system that let us try on another iteration of worship yesterday when we needed to pivot again. More about pivoting below. I thank you for taking good care of each other. And I am grateful for the ministry we share as Centre Church. I am excited for all the ways, many as of yet unknown, that we will be called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in 2022.

Emmanuel,

*Rev. Nancy*

## Pivot

In all these months of pandemic, whenever I heard the word "pivot," I always heard it as the verb, "to pivot." I wasn't hearing it as a noun, "a pivot." But here we are again, pivoting back to online-only worship because of rapidly climbing COVID infection rates. In the mood for a little word study, I looked up "pivot." Here is what I found in Merriam-Webster: **a person or thing that is central or important to someone or something else.** For a community of faith then, we're not just pivoting to online worship, but worship itself is a pivot – the point around which a Christian community lives, moves, and has its being! Worship is the foundational layer underneath what I have always believed: worship is the heart of faith formation! When we gather, no matter how we gather, we are shaping and forming our faith through the act of worship. And our worship together is the responsibility of the whole body. Whether you're preaching, singing, praying, giving or reading, your participation is needed to create our act of worship. Parish Council has decided that we will be livestreaming only on each of the remaining Sundays in January. We will reassess at the end of the month to decide for February. If you are interested in participating in worship by reading scripture, helping with the livestream (Tech Team), or setting up, please email Rev. Nancy at [nancy@centre-church.org](mailto:nancy@centre-church.org). We are staying distanced and masked except for the moments when we're speaking. And of course, everyone is encouraged to join worship via the livestream on Sunday mornings at 10 am and fellowship

via Zoom at 10:45 am. Children and youth can join in worship at 10 am and then attend Godly Play at 10:30 via Zoom. See the weekly email for links. Centre Church, we've got this! Still being church together no matter what life is dishing up.

## STAR SUNDAY



**January 9<sup>th</sup>** we will be celebrating Epiphany with our "Star Sunday". Do you remember what star chose you for 2021? Are you ready for a new word to journey with in 2022? By the time you receive this edition of Tower Notes, January 9<sup>th</sup> will be upon us. Since our worship will be livestream only, if you would like a new Star Word for 2022, please call or email Rev. Nancy 781-334-3050 or [nancy@centre-church.org](mailto:nancy@centre-church.org). She'll choose a star for you and without looking, send it out in the mail to you. If you have a Star Story to tell, feel free to email that to Rev. Nancy as well.



Dear Centre Church friends,

Thank you so much for all your support during my recent surgery and recovery. Your get well messages, cards, flowers delivered by Rev. Nancy, delicious homemade granola from Perry and the Care Team, as well as many more thoughtful gestures, were all very much appreciated.

I am happy to report that all is going well and I am now back to being able to wear my normal shoe and walk with one crutch again on most days. Hopefully, now that Jeff and I are both retired, we can pursue our dream of traveling together once this pandemic subsides.

Blessings,  
Barbara Langill

Thank you



Thank you to all who made our sanctuary come alive with color this Christmas. It looked beautiful!

Thank you to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Design for supplying the poinsettias. Thank you to all who donated and to the group of volunteers who delivered the plants to the shut-ins and bereaved parishioners in our church!

~~ Laurel Caputo ~~

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM



### Godly Play

**1/9:** Baptism Story- Allison

Larainne (Doorkeeper)

**1/16:** Parable of the Good Shepherd: MLK Weekend  
Katie (Storyteller)/Allison (Doorkeeper)

**Youth Group and Young Families Group:** Ice Skating at Lynnfield Market Place (MLK Weekend)

\*Parent Chaperone Needed

**1/23:** Parable of the Good Samaritan  
Allison (Storyteller)/Katie (Door Keeper)  
(Larainne covering for Nancy) Good Samaritan  
**Larainne in Service**

**1/30:** Parable of the Great Pearl  
Katie (Storyteller)/Allison (Doorkeeper)  
**Faith Formation will host coffeehour on 1/30. Parent Volunteers are needed to bring goodies and/or serve.**

**Nursery:** Alicia Dwyer

### **Other Dates:**

1/11: Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1/18: Faith Formation Meeting at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

## Mission and Outreach

Thank you to everyone for your generous giving to our Mission partners during Thanksgiving and Advent. On December 12<sup>th</sup> we blessed two overflowing green wagons full of Christmas gifts for **City Mission of Boston**. These gifts were collected under the Angel Tree in the church narthex and by Tower Day School families. TDS volunteers helped us sort and inventory all 276 donated items which included \$1,110 in gift cards.

Donated gift cards and matching holiday donations went to the following:

Bread & Roses	donation match	\$162
Ma Dukes	gift cards by congregation	\$250
Ma Dukes	gift cards match by M&O	\$250
City Mission of Boston	gift cards by congregation	\$1,110
La Colaborativa Chelsea	gift cards match in \$ by M&O	\$300
Citizen's Inn	donation match	\$210

**Heifer “Living Gifts”:** Tribute gifts can still be made in honor of your loved ones this Christmas Season. See [www.centre-church.org](http://www.centre-church.org) for a list of animals/bees/programs that Heifer International provides to families in need around the world. Your gift of these items keeps on giving as families benefit from food/milk/clean water and pass on the gift of livestock offspring to other families in their community. You can send a check made out to Center Church with memo “Heifer” and we will supply tribute cards for you.

Outreach hosts fellowship on the third Sunday of each month (January 16<sup>th</sup>). 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.



Dear Centre Congregation,

Thank you all for the outpouring of love and support these past months since my husband Mark died. Your love and concern has been so appreciated. Rev. Nancy Rottman was wonderful in officiating at the interment in Lexington last March. Her presence was much appreciated and linked our family back to our strong connection with the Centre Church. We thank those of you who were able to attend the memorial service in June either in person or virtually. Centre Church will always hold a tender spot in our hearts. Mark was deeply honored to be named Pastor Emeritus in 2008. My family and I send Christmas greetings and gratitude for your part in our lives.

With love, Nancy, Alison Meadows & Matt



Thank you to everyone who brought non-perishable food to fill our green wagon for Bread and Roses! We delivered 10+ large boxes of food to Bread and Roses in Lawrence, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. They were so happy to be able to restock their pantry with the bounty of food donated by all of you! Also, thank you to Chuck Cotting for helping us pack and load the food for delivery. ~~ Margaret Waugh~~



### Zoom Coffee Fellowship for January

Each Sunday, after the worship livestream, we will gather on Zoom for fellowship time. Join us at 10:45 am at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/700286471?pwd=YUvckVtS0x0VHp5M21oaFZYMzQ0dz09>  
Meeting ID: 700 286 471  
Passcode: 081720