

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

May 2022

A Season of Generosity

Thank you to all who were able to be here on Sunday, April 24 to hear Chuck Cotting tell the story of the flood and restoration here at Centre Church. We called the presentation "Renewal" because with more of us being able to gather for worship in recent weeks, our building being restored, and our new technology allowing more flexibility and creativity in all aspects of our life together, there is a Spirit of Renewal enlivening this place. Thanks be to God! I can't think of a better time than Eastertide, in the bright light and hope of resurrection, for us to cultivate our generosity and hope.

Throughout Eastertide, we will be exploring the spiritual practice of generosity, looking at the stories of generosity both in scripture and in our own lives. Stories allow us to look at something from a variety of perspectives. Our grounding perspective through which to view generosity is the truth that everyone, every single human being, even every living being including our earth itself, needs nourishment, protection, and care. "Because Everyone Needs," we can hop right over any boundaries we put between ourselves and others. Taking that step – pausing to consider that the "other" is just another human being who needs – allows us to open our hands more readily in generosity. Practicing generosity is much more far reaching than giving financial gifts, although that is an important and foundational act of generosity. We can be generous with our time, our love, our kindness,

our care as well as our money and possessions. And what all generous givers come to know is how generosity benefits the giver as well!

May this season of renewal be also a season of generosity. One gift and one day at a time.

In the hope of new life,
Rev. Nancy

STEWARDSHIP NEWS!

Our annual Stewardship campaign begins on Sunday, May 1 and concludes on Commitment Sunday, May 22. Our theme this year coincides with the Eastertide theme of "Generous Giving...Because Everyone Needs". Stewardship packets will be available in church on May 1; remaining packets will be mailed on May 2. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Centre Church. Our pledges are important because they support all the good work we do at Centre Church.



BROWN BAG SUNDAY-MAY 15TH

Save The Date! Join us for lunch on Sunday, May 15th. That Sunday, bring your lunch and enjoy some fun and fellowship. We will have live music, a face painter, a balloon twister and games! Looking forward to seeing everyone!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Church School:

May 1, 8, 5, 22, 29: *Generous Giving, Illustrated Ministries*

More information can be found here:

[Generous](#) [Giving](#) [Illustrated](#)
[Devotional](#)

Generous Giving: An Illustrated Devotional includes seven weekly devotions for all ages, as well as illustrations that are meant to be colored in and many opportunities to doodle and engage with the content in fun and creative ways.

Centered on the spiritual discipline of giving, this seven-week devotional can be used to intentionally focus on the different ways we give of ourselves and how those gifts impact the world around us. Using Jesus' teachings, captivating reflections, hand-crafted illustrations, and engaging layout and design, these devotionals provide opportunities for conversation and reflection around why we give, how we give, and all the ways we give.

Events:

5/3/2022: Faith Formation Ministry Team - 7 p.m.

5/15/2022: Sandwich Sunday! Faith Formation is bringing lawn games!

5/22/2022: Youth Group at 4:30-6. Let's Beautify Our Church and Plant some flowers!

6/5/2022: Practice for Children's Sunday* at 11:15.

6/12/2022: Practice at 8:45. Children's Sunday* - Remember Your Baptism

Important Note for Parents:

We would love to have your child(ren) participate in Children's Sunday. This is the Sunday we set aside every year to celebrate the children of our church in word, song, and deed. We also celebrate all of the wonderful people who make the Children's Programming at

Centre Church possible, including our teachers and Faith Formation Ministry Team.

We are going to send out a signup sheet online so we know everyone's level of commitment. Please mark June 12th in your calendars and plan to join us!

2022 Flea Market and Bake Sale ~ Saturday May 14th @ 9 to 1



Centre Church is sponsoring a **Flea Market and Bake Sale** on **Saturday, May 14, 2022**. Profits will go to support the ministries of the church. The events will be held on the church front lawn. If we have inclement weather, we will be inside in Richards Hall.

Please bring your Flea Market TREASURES to the church on Sunday (May 8th) or M-F (May 9-13) 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.



The flower committee is so grateful to all who made our sanctuary come alive with color on Easter Sunday morning. Thank you to Joe Gallo of Plantscape Design for supplying the beautiful plants and thank you to all who donated the plants. We are especially grateful to the team of volunteers who made deliveries to the shut-ins and bereaved in our church family. Thank You to ALL!



Easter Basket Update

Approximately 700 Easter Baskets were delivered to La Colaborativa in Chelsea. Many thanks to all the Centre Church folks and all the community members who made baskets and donated items to fill the baskets. It was truly a community-wide effort!



~A BED FOR EVERY CHILD~

What if you could change a child's life in a single afternoon? What if some tools, wood, and teamwork were all it took? At A Bed for Every Child, we believe all children deserve a safe place to sleep, rest, and dream. In just a few hours, a bundle of wood becomes a life-changing resource for a child in your community while empowering your team to work collaboratively, overcome challenges, and achieve a tangible goal everyone can be proud of.

On Saturday, **May 21** from 10 :00 am to 12:30 pm, join the Lynnfield Rotary Club at the Lynnfield Fire Dept, South Station, 600 Salem St, Lynnfield, MA to help build beds for local children on the A Bed for Every Child ' s wait list. The cost is \$350 to build a bed. Register a team of 4 or more people to build a bed for \$350. Sponsorships for \$350 are also accepted. Make checks payable to Lynnfield Rotary Club. To sign up, or ask questions contact Ron Block, Assistant Governor, Lynnfield Rotary.

HEALTH NEWS



Dear Church Members,
Thank you for your support, phone calls, text messages and meals during this difficult time while Paul was hospitalized and

on the road to recovery at home. Healing seems easier when you have many people around with well wishes and words of comfort. We both appreciate you remembering us as we have always felt blessed by having Centre Church in our lives for 35 years! Thank you!

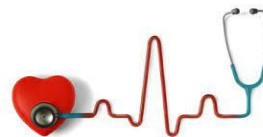
Fondly, Karen and Paul Harrington.



Dear Centre Church Members!

Thank you all for the lovely flowers delivered by Margaret. I'm well on the road to recovery and hope to see you soon.

With love, Barbara Becker



On Saturday, May 14, A Healthy Lynnfield and the Wakefield-Lynnfield Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Health

Expo on the Common from 10 am - 1 pm. There will be over 35 health, wellness, and lifestyle vendors, health screenings, COVID booster shots (with pre-registration), and more. For more information and a list of vendors go to <https://ahealthylynnfield.org/about-the-expo>



Our Opportunities

Sun. May 1	10:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Worship– Sanctuary with Holy Communion and Baptism The Great Pie Contest
Thur May 4	1:00 pm	Bible Study ~ Fireside Room
Sun. May 8	10:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary
Mon-Friday May 9-May 13	3 -5 pm	Flea Market Drop off - Narthex door.
Thurs May 12	-----	*No Bible Study
Sat. May 14	9 am – 1 pm	Flea Market & Bake Sale
Sun. May 15	10:00 am 11:00 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary SANDWICH SUNDAY
Wed May 18	4:00 pm	Sanctuary ~ Memorial Service for Elizabeth Baud
Thurs May 19	1:00 pm	Bible Study ~ Fireside Room
Sun. May 22	10:00 am 4:30-6 pm	Morning Worship – Sanctuary Youth Group ~ Outdoors
Thurs May 26	1:00 pm.	Bible Study ~ Fireside Room
Sun May 29	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Morning Worship ~ Sanctuary Priestly/Blanchard Wedding
Mon May 30	-----	Office Closed Happy Memorial Day!

Office Hours – 9am – 3pm

In addition to our scheduled church activities, Centre Church hosts Boy Scout Troop #48, Cub Pack #48, Girl Scouts, Alanon, Alateen, Women’s AA. Please call the church office if you would like more information about any of these groups. (781-334-3050)