

TOWER NOTES

Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

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The Rev. Lori Anne Wyckoff, Pastor

Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation

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Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator

We Welcome Everyone: An "Open and Affirming" Church

November 2022

Living Within the Lines

A few years ago, Chuck Cotting and I attended a meeting about proposed roadway improvements on Summer Street. One of my takeaways from that meeting was that when there are lane lines on a roadway, motorists drive slower and more safely. Adding lane lines on each side of Summer Street was one of many proposed ways to improve safety for motorists, bikers, pedestrians, and wildlife. Prior to that explanation, it hadn't occurred to me that motorists drive more erratically and at higher speeds on roadways that are unlined, the ambiguity of the lane allowing us to throw caution to the wind, so to speak.

That learning came into play recently in Andover. We live off Elm Street, which was paved this summer after many projects including new water and gas lines. While completing the paving project, the town also installed new ADA compliant sidewalks and crosswalks. While the sidewalks and crosswalks were being constructed there were no lane lines down either side of Elm Street. The new ADA compliant sidewalk transitions seemed to be jutting significantly out into the driving lanes. Mike and I were baffled and related to each other our discomfort and difficulty navigating through those narrowed portions of the road while fearing collision with oncoming cars. Then the project was completed, and all the lines were painted – including the lane lines down the sides of the road. And guess what? With the driving lanes clearly delineated, it was a piece of cake to drive at the speed limit, within the lane, and without any fear of oncoming traffic. Huh! Mike felt it, too. Turns out, we're just a couple of typical humans!

This experience reminded me that sometimes what is good for a few of us ends up benefitting all of us. Safer for those who are differently abled equals safer for all of us. A visual classroom schedule for a young student on the autism spectrum equals lower anxiety for all students. Common sense gun laws benefit both citizens and law enforcement alike. I

could go on and on and I'm sure you can come up with your own examples.

I believe Christ came to reawaken us to what is real and true – the divine and the human are to be held inseparably together. All of creation is sacred and we are to treat it so. We have talked about the Great Commandment as a lens through which we look at life in order to make loving decisions. I propose that believing all creation is sacred is another lens Christ offers us to help us navigate our lives in his Way. Sometimes lane lines help us all live without fear. Even if they aren't particularly for you, they certainly don't hurt you. Some rules/laws/lines help us all, or at least do no harm. Some rules/laws/lines bring harm to some. It is up to us to discern which are which, and to live accordingly, protesting and working to change those that harm, and working towards those that bring life/health/safety. And thank God we still have a voice and a land in which to live as Christ teaches us, together.

Amen, *Rev. Lori*

Faith Formation

Confirmation Class for November will be held after church on November 13th. Confirmands are expected to attend both the service and the class, which will focus on other major faiths/religions. We are also looking for 1-2 volunteers to help in the Nursery or Godly Play when a staff member is out. We put volunteers in support/helper positions (they don't have to teach). Main requirement: Loving children right where they are! Please contact Laraine if you are interested.



11/6	The Exile and the Return
11/13	The Ark and the Temple
11/20	Generosity
11/27	First Advent

Social and Environmental Ministry

S&E will be hosting fellowship on each second 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 above items will also be available for sale from our Green Team table at the church craft fair on 11/5, and they will be possible to win from our "Green" tree in that day's Festival of Trees raffle.

An **Equal Exchange** order will be placed early in December to arrive before Christmas. We can order anything you see in their wholesale catalog at <https://shop.equalexchange.coop/> so please place your order by emailing green@centre-church.org before 12/4.

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

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 11/10 and 12/2. 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: Thanksgiving food on 11/20 and Angel Tree gifts on 12/11. 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: grocery shopping cards

Haven From Hunger: Turkeys on 11/13*
Thanksgiving Food until 11/20

City Mission: Angel gifts and all popular store and grocery cards until 12/11

***Frozen turkeys (whole and parts)** will be collected in the parking lot before church on 11/13

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. During Covid they were not able to provide their annual dinner, but still helped many people by distributing gift cards to grocery stores and restaurants. This year they will continue to distribute gift cards. To help in this effort we will be collecting gift cards and Outreach will match donations made by our church members. If you have any questions or have a gift card to donate, please contact Annmarie Pendola at [\(617\) 549-9164](tel:6175499164).

**Please note that gift cards can be purchased/donated through the church Shopping Card program.



Holiday Craft Fair

Come to the Holiday Craft Fair on November 5th from 10 AM to 3 PM! Over two dozen artisans will feature pottery, original art, handcrafted jewelry, exquisite doll clothes, quilted bags, wreaths, place mats, handmade cards, folk art painting, wool mittens, gift baskets, and much more! Our Centre Church craft group has been busy making all kinds of wonderful items including ornaments, gnomes, cork reindeer, and light-up snowmen pins. The Social and Environmental Team will sell Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate as well as ECO Friendly laundry detergent. The church also has a vintage jewelry table and a bake table full of delicious treats.

Check out the Festival of Trees raffle in the Narthex. You could win the decorations on a themed tree and the gifts under the tree. Coffee and donuts will be available for purchase in the morning. You can buy sandwiches at lunchtime to eat in the "café" or take home. All proceeds from the craft fair and raffle will support the ministry of Centre Church.

Also, on November 5, the Lynnfield Art Guild is holding its fall show and sale in the Meetinghouse. So, it's going to be a busy day in Lynnfield Center. Mark your calendars and join the fun!



**2022 APPLE PIE
FUNDRAISER
PLEASE SUBMIT
YOUR ORDERS**

by
**Sunday, November
13th 2022!!**

Apple, Apple Crisp and Apple Cranberry ~ **\$20.00**
Sunday November 20, 2022 Please send your orders
and your checks in to the Church office! [781-334-
3050], 5 Summer St, Lynnfield 01940. Or please
contact **Chuck Cotting** [chuck@thecottings.com].



Help Us Decorate the Angel Tree!

Join us in decorating our Angel Tree! On Sunday, **December 4th**, during coffee hour, we will be decorating the Angel Tree.

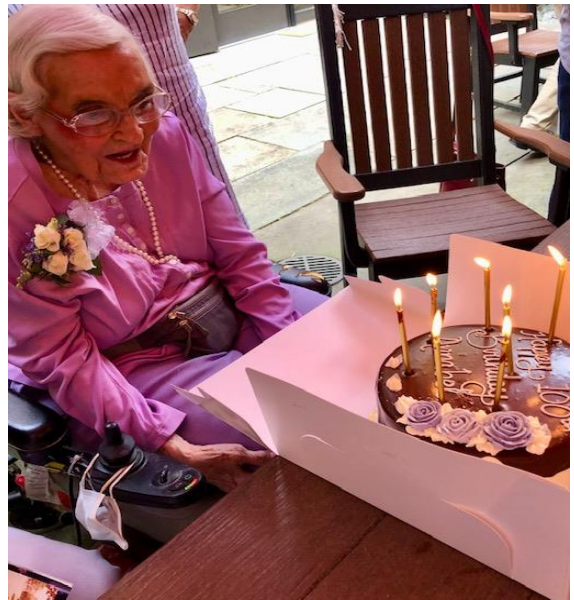
Ornaments and decorations will be available that day. As in past years, Outreach Ministries will be teaming up with Tower Day School to collect gifts for City Mission's Christmas Shop. The tree will already bear Angel tags asking for clothes of a certain size or games for a certain age. The idea is to take a tag and return the UNWRAPPED gift by **December 11th**. 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!

**Apple Pie Fundraiser
Volunteers Needed!!**



A team of Centre Church bakers will be making pies from Thurs Nov 17- Saturday Nov 19!! We plan to take over the

kitchen from 8-1 each day for pie prep!! We are looking for folks to volunteer helping with peeling and coring apples, making crusts, and assembling the pies. Please contact Chuck Cotting at chuck@thecottings.com to sign up and join the baking fun!



Happy 100th Birthday Annabel!
Sending Much Love from your Centre Church
Family!!



Thank You!!

How kind of David and Diane Bjorkman to drop off the stunning flower bouquet to us. Frank really appreciated the opportunity to chat with them too. We are grateful for their support during my illness.
Blessing, Marian Orfeo & Frank Scott



Fall Back **November 6th**
Don't forget to set your
clock back!