MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

As I mentioned in last month's (January) *Centre Bells*, in South Africa, while confronting the heresy of Apartheid, Christian theologians drafted what is known as the 'Kairos Document'. *Kairos* is a Greek word meaning 'time', but more specifically, it is a time that was 'special', a 'God-given window of opportunity'.

Many understandably believe that our country is at a *kairos* moment, a special time in which decisions and opportunities must be taken, and if not, they will be missed forever. During these *kairos* movements, resistance movements are sprung. Examples of these movements in recent times are the civil rights movement, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union, Tiananmen Square in China, and the Orange Revolution in the Ukraine. In Russia, there is Pussy Riot, and our own, some might say, belated "Me Too" movement. One need not be a news junkie to hear of and have opinions on the Black Lives Matter movement and/or the contestation between Colin Kaeperneck and the National Football League.

Currently, in the United States we may be reaching what might be considered a massive-mega-*kairos* moment the likes of which we have not seen since the Civil War, and I sense will far exceed the Watergate era. Due to the constant chaos and the seemingly blatant disregard for any semblance of decorum and civility during the Trump era, we are headed toward a constitutional crisis, if we are not there already. The United States government is at war with itself on multiple fronts. The Executive branch is a war with its own Justice Department. The Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency seem to be dedicated to destroying its own policies and thus public education and the environment. Our executive branch is allied with our foreign rivals while our legislative branch is either completely impotent or just bought and paid for by various minority special interests. Thank God for our judicial branch that seems to be holding the fort at all costs. Our government has recently shut down, hundreds of thousands suffered.

On Monday, 21 January, our church with the greater Brattleboro community celebrated the *kairos* moment that was the civil rights movement led by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. In our church, we celebrated his legacy and that of many of others who fought in solidarity with him. The civil rights movement caused much contestation, even a low intensity civil war. Yet, it also ushered in a great step forward in this country's realizing its ideals – ideals that are still very much in need of fostering.

Some movements, such as the civil rights movement are substantively faith-based, inspired by religious tenets. When confronted with various socio-political and economic crises, or *kairos* moments, how should we as faith leaders, as faith practioners, as faith followers, respond? Are we to lead from the front and take sides? Are we to sit on the fence and advocate for peace? Are we to side with those who wish to entrench their hegemony and maintain an unjust status quo?

On Friday, 18 January at the Windham World Affairs Council and on Sunday, 20 January, our guest preacher, The Rev Bryan Fulwider, preached about the role our respective faith tradition, reaching back to the ministry of Jesus and the prophet Hosea, has had in resistance movements. On Sundays, February 3, 10, and 17 inspired members of our faith community will take a much closer look at the 'Reclaiming Jesus' statement (see your church announcements and publications to resource it). This statement signed by dozens of our country's most prominent theologians examines the 'signs of the times' and reflects theological and Christologically on the current state of our nation. Jack Bixby, Abi Healey and the entire Mission & Service team have much to contribute to this discussion. I invite you to join so as to have a greater sense of the prophetic mission that the gospel compels us to initiate. How and what will Centre Church initiate, in, as Mordechai said to Esther, "such a time as this"?

We hope to review the past, analyse the present and discern the future, and our part in it.

Please join us.

From Council Chair, BILL McCARTY

Happy New Year.!! A special time to review our past activities and plan the year ahead.

Goals to ponder: 1) new church programs, 2) new members and friends, 3) building management, 4) review of our commitment to Centre Church, and 5) renewal of our commitment to each other as members of Centre Church. It is a time for reflection and commitment. I hope we all can join in these common goals.

Last month a new Annual Church Calendar was created after consulting with all of the boards and committees. This new Annual Calendar will outline and direct our activities in 2019.

As I sat and listened to the multitude of works that each Board and Committee planned, I could not help but be impressed with what we at Centre Church plan and accomplish. A significant and busy year ahead is planned. We all should be impressed with all that is accomplished at Centre Church. WELL DONE Centre Church; continue with your accomplishments!!

By the time you read this I hope that we will have had our Annual Financial Meeting. If not, then a definite date has been set and we can review the monetary and business aspects of our church life. Not an exciting job, but a necessary and important meeting.

In addition to our finance meeting, this also is a time to plan, reflect, and anticipate the Annual Program Meeting to be held in May - not too far away and not too early. We should all think about our future; who is to serve on our various boards and committees and what will be each of our contributions (not monetary) to Centre Church.

There is a need for new workers and people to participate in the planning and activities here at Centre Church. New ideas and people are needed to carry out Centre Church's mission.

Think about this and decide what you will do to help in 2019. New Council, board, and committee members are needed. We need to supplement the old with fresh new ideas and perspectives.

A sincere "Thank You" to all who have worked so hard to carry out Centre Church's programs this past year. I believe they have accomplished much, especially for such a small group. Generally, most people regard the winter months as a time to relax and recover from the hectic fall and holidays. Not so at Centre Church! It is a time to reorganize, plan, and implement our 2019 programs.

I look forward to the year 2019 and the years ahead.

Thank you for listening and see you at church!!

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

During January, the Children's choir sang twice with both pieces focusing on social justice. The first piece, "Look at Me", included words that suggest people may not look the same or talk the same, but they all need warmth and shelter. The second piece focused on Martin Luther King's dream to have the same freedom, to join hands together and to love each other.

Also in January, the adult choir sang "Mary, Go Tell It", a jazzed up version of the two spirituals "Go tell it on the Mountain" and "Mary Had a Baby", that included a wonderful solo sung by Lisa Keller. We had a lot of fun learning this new anthem! Then, of course, was the "big storm", when most folks chose to stay home. However, Peter and Marion Abell and Jenifer Ambler all braved the storm, as did I, enabling us to have organ and choral music for the small congregation present. It was actually a fun time.

Ordinarily, during February we would be singing Lenten tunes, but alas, Easter is late this year with Ash Wednesday falling on March 6th! This gives us all of February to prepare non-Lenten anthems. I like it when this happens as it doesn't seem so abrupt to journey from Christmas to Lent!

Meanwhile, I am hoping for the rest of the winter storms to fall on days other than Thursdays and Sundays....just my preference for obvious reasons!

CENTRE BELLS

The newsletter of Centre Congregational Church United Church of Christ

February 2019

DEACONS

Lynn Hertzog has agreed to fill in as a Deacon for Joy Everett's understandable absence. We are so appreciative of her help. Thank you, Lynn!

The February Deacon of the month is Mary Bristol. The Deacon's also thank Mary for replacing the Peace Candle. Mary notices things that need to be done and simply does them. Guess this is one of the many reasons why she deserves her Honorary Status!

The Deacons wish to thank our office administrator Bruce for sending out Rev. Couper's sermons to some of our shut-ins without computers. Thank you for helping these folks be part of our Services.

Mark your calendars!!! The Annual Chili Luncheon will be directly following church on **February 24**. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

-Carlene McCarty, Board of Deacons chair

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

When a member dies or to honor a family member or friend with a monetary gift to Centre Church donations are often made to the *Book of Remembrance*. Contributions made to the *Book of Remembrance* are used exclusively for improvement projects in the sanctuary. If you would like the contribution to go into the *Book of Remembrance* please indicate this on the memo line of the check, along with the name of the person in whose memory the donation is made.

Memorial donations may also be designated for specific church programs, i.e. Music, Mission & Service, Building & Grounds, etc.; or specific projects. These designations should also be noted on the memo line of the check

Donations not designated for the *Book of Remembrance* or specific programs/projects will go into the Centre Congregational Church general fund to be used for any purpose, at the discretion of the church leadership.

All checks should be made out to Centre Congregational Church. These are charitable donations and tax deductible . Mary Bristol as an Honorary Deacon will acknowledge all gifts with a thank you letter.

Your cooperation in this regard will help us to be certain that your memorial donations go into the appropriate fund to be used as intended by you and your loved one.

FAITH FORMATION

Children at Centre Church have had a busy a fun winter. We have had more children coming to church and participating in the various programming for children, which is wonderful! In December we worked hard on the pageant, learning four songs, pageant lines, and getting costumes together. The end product was pretty adorable. Many thanks to Haley, Kate, and Mary for putting it together.

Many of the children also took a turn in standing in the pulpit for the lighting of their families advent candle - Hope, Joy, Love and Peace. Now we look forward to 2019 and what the new year will bring us!



RECLAIMING JESUS

For the first three Sundays of February (3, 10, 17) at 9:00am in the Riverside/Noah's Arc Room, those interested are invited to join a conversation about the "Reclaiming Jesus" statement that was presented to the congregation in a November 2018 Sunday service. Copies are available on the "Reclaiming Jesus" website:

(http://www.reclaimingjesus.org/) or from the church office. On February 3, the minister will briefly make comments on the statement and thereafter, the Rev. Jack Bixby will facilitate conversation. Please come and join the discussion, debate, and provide input on a possible way forward for our faith community

WOMEN'S SPIRIT

Women's Spirit , which meets each Thursday at 4:30pm in the library, is finishing up on Bishop Spong's book *UNBELIEVABLE*. Following the finishing and discussion of that book, this group will begin an in depth study and discussion of the paper *RECLAIMING JESUS*, a confession of faith in a time of crisis, written during a meeting of distinguished ministers and theologians from many denominations. All are welcome to join this group.

MISSION & SERVICE

December and January have been busy, as February is also shaping up to be!

Our Second Sunday Offerings have been well supported by the congregation. We are very thankful for this! The church has replenished the Samaritan Fund for 2019, a very important fund for our minister's outreach. Our donations for Luz del Mundo, our school scholarship program forfifteen of the children in Cabanitas, is beginning to come together. We raised over \$500 with the sales during the church Bazaar and December Sundays. In January, the Second Sunday offering supported this fund and we hope that we can add at least another \$500, getting us closer to the \$1500 that we send annually. Where there were two churches each contributing, now there is one. So our continued commitment is very important to our Sister Parish in El Salvador. The February 10 Second Sunday Offering recipient is Groundworks Collaborative.

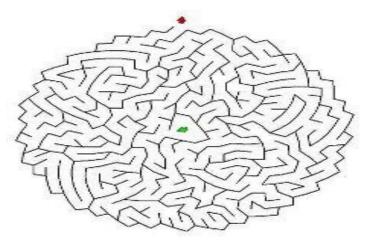
The Seasonal Overflow Shelter (SOS) meals program continues on **Sunday, February 3**, with our church providing a Turkey Dinner. Please see the sign up sheet each month. The food delivery at the Austin School site should be at 5:45pm with serving starting between 6:00-6:15pm. Thank you so much for all of the continued support for these meals, now through April. With the cold, between 30-40 residents are fed and housed at this site. Please continue to bring plastic containers with lids to church as they are needed for leftovers and extra meals. M&S makes sure to bring what's at church to the dinners.

On **Sunday, February 24,** the Deacons and Mission & Service will sponsor a special luncheon and Jenifer Ambler will share her slides from her recent El Salvador/Sister Parish trip in November. Please plan on attending.

We are thrilled to have continued board support for Loaves & Fishes from Centre Church members Dennis Newman, Chair; Mary Ellen Bixby, Treasurer; Bonnie Girvan, new board member; and Scott Couper, ex officio board member. As you step down, thank you Marion Abel for your dedication and time on this board. The *Project Feed the Thousands* was also well supported by our church. Loaves & Fishes received 188 pounds of food and \$330 from Centre Congregational Church during this drive alone. Monies from the drive have not been dispersed yet, so L&F may receive additional funds also.

Please take time to look at our new welcome sign, which M&S commisioned . The "flag" represents our Open and Affirming welcome to our LGBQTIA community, but it goes one step further to acknowledge all who are marginalized by society. As a church based in the Christian faith with Jesus as our leader, we are reminded and led to follow his way, one in which the marginalized were supported and welcomed: the leper, children, the lost traveler, women, the poor, and the unclean.

-Priscilla Svec, M&S co-chair



NO GUNS ALLOWED

Pass over this shrine that stands for love, visit not this place with destruction. For there are no guns allowed in the house of God, no weapons through its doors of peace. Where wars are evil and the greatest of sins, where we gather to pray and keep our children safe, and where bigotry has no home. Remember that inside these walls it is the Innocent that is remembered, and those who sit there have relinquished their souls as the lambs in a flock called justice. So leave your weapons in the snow, and become part of its community. -Tom Harriman (one of a volumn)



OBITUARY-Darrel L. Daley, 82

Darrel Daley of Putney died at home on December 16, 2018. He was born in Porterville California to Leonard and Helen Daley (Scharlepp). Darrel grew up in this farming community in the Great Central Valley of California. Upon graduation from high school he joined the US Navy and became a navy musician. His first "overseas post" was Kodiak Alaska. There he met Marion Collani, who was doing her first year of teaching after graduating from Montclair State Teachers College in N.J. They married in December 1957. After discharge from the navy Darrel began college at Pasadena City College and then Los Angeles State College .After he earned his B.S. degree the couple took teaching positions in Chugiak Alaska. Their original plan was to teach there a couple of years and then return to the "lower 48". That time period stretched out to two decades! Darrel and Marion both taught at the elementary level until the new Chugiak High School was built. Then Darrel took the position of music/band director. He continued at that job until retirement in 1983.

Back in the early 1960s, Chugiak could be described at a pioneering community. Folks were pushing through roads, drilling wells, building their own homes on Home Site properties. Darrel undertook the building of a huge addition to their log home. This he succeeded in doing and the family moved into their expanded quarters in 1974.

By that time they had two sons, Daren and Matt. Darrel took his sons on hunting and fishing trips, camping in some of the most beautiful and rugged country that Alaska has to offer

In 1978, the family piled into their pick up and camper to drive to Putney where Darrel was to attend a photography workshop. They discovered the beauty of the Green Mountain State and bought 10 wooded acres in Putney. Each following summer they traveled to Vermont to work on the land. When Darrel retired they moved everything they owned by U-Haul and trailer to Putney where the house was to be built. The house site was on land overlooking the Connecticut River and the Great Meadows of Putney. They moved into their new home in 1984, and have been thee ever since.

Darrel was a man of many talents; house building, photography, chess, musician.

The hobby that gave him the most pleasure was ham radio. When the house was designed there was a dark room and a Ham Shack included. He spent many hours enjoying many aspects of that hobby.

Survivors include is wife of 61 years, Marion; son, Daren Daley; his wife, Debbie, their daughters, Kayla Daley and Brittany Parker; Great-Granddaughters, Caitlyn and Melynnie, all of Texas; his son, Matt, and his wife, Reiko and their daughter, Amanda, who live in Hokkaido, Japan.

A celebration of his life will be held in April at Centre Congregational Church.

Memorials in his name may be sent to Centre Congregational Church or to the West River Radio Club, P.O. Box 8087, North Brattleboro VT 05304

PEOPLE



A word of good cheer would be warmly received by members and friends of our church who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, or are housebound as of September 26.

Fran Burrows—Langdon Place 136A Arch St. #150, Keene, NH 03431

Jeanne Rueter—Thompson House 80 Maple St., Brattleboro, VT 254-4977

Nancy Clarke – Holton Home 158 Western Ave, Brattleboro, VT 254-4155

Wanda Godfrey – Vernon Hall 13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT 254-2444

Phyllis Hickok 1520 Little Blue Stem Ct., Ames IA 50014 515-337-1956

Jane Reed 461 Grafton Rd., #101, Townshend VT 802-221-4213

Karen Getty Peter – Pine Rock Manor 3 Denny Hill Rd., Warner NH 03278

Dot Atomanuk 665 U. Dummerston Rd., Brattleboro, VT 254-6929

> Please let the Administrator know if we've missed someone

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Michael and Lisa Vose and the Everett Family; Pat Neer is recovering from a back injury; Bob Pu who we wish well in his upcoming retirement from his life on the bench; Marion Daley, recovering at Pine Heights from heart and hip ailments, and scheduled for hip surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock on January 29; Terrence Slate, who was recently hospitalized; Roger Miller, who is scheduled for minor surgery in February at Dartmouth-Hitchcock; Joanne MacLean, who continues to struggle with heart fibrillation.

New Friends of Centre Church

Gina, Brady and Emma Hammett hammett.gina@gmail.com

BIRTHDAYS# Aquarius1Pat McMahon9Ron Pollard

- 17 Nan Reed Mann
- 18 Jeri-Lynn Atwood Nathan Pollard
- 20 Dart Everett Emily Randrup
 22 Stephen Brown
- 27 Mary Ann Donovan

BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP

Depending on favorable weather, this group will meet for lunch and conversation at noon on the first Wednesday of the month, February 6. Just bring you sandwich and join the group for an hour of spontaneous discussion around a table of fellowship. All are welcome.



Everyone is invited to the **MOMENT for PEACE** Friday, February 1 • 5:30-6:00pm

Steve Procter will play classical, traditional and improvised music on guitar and Celtic harp. Procter says, "I have been drawn to the harp for a long time, and love the expansiveness that its wide range invites. I look forward to sharing my love of it with others, especially in this meditative context."

FEBRUARY 2019

**Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	2
3 900 Book Study 900 Redaining Jesus 1000 Worship ³⁴ 1000 AA Meeting 12 ³⁰ New Members Fellowship 5 ⁴⁵ Overflow Shelter 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	4 8⁴⁵ Devotional 4⁰ BCC Board 4³0 Prayer Shawl	5 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting Scott BAILA retreat	6 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch 6 ⁰⁰ Endowment Comm.	7 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	9 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop
10 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 9 ⁰⁰ Redaining Jesus 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Annual Financial Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	11 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 6 ⁰⁰ Mission & Service 7 ³⁰ AA District 8 Scott out	12 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Personel Comm. 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	13 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 7 ³⁰ WWAC Event	14 Valentine's Day 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal 7 ³⁰ Building & Grounds Scott out	15 CB DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	16
17 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 9 ⁰⁰ Redaining Jesus 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FiA/ New Members 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	18Presidents' Day OFFICE CLOSED	19 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	20 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 7 ³⁰ WWAC Event	21 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal	22 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop
24 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FiA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ El Salvador Chili Luncheon 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	25 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	26 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	27 MAIL CB 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional	28 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal		

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY TEXTS

 Sunday, 3 February
 Sunday, 17 February

 4th Sunday after Epiphany
 6th Sunday after Epiphany

 Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6; 1
 Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1;

 1 Cor 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
 1 Cor 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

 Sunday, 10 February
 Sunday, 24 February

 5th Sunday after Epiphany
 7th Sunday after Epiphany

 Isa 6:1-8, (9-13); Ps 138;
 6en 45:3-11, 15; Ps 37: 1-11, 39-40

 I Cor:15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
 I Cor 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

SCOTT'S SERMONS can be accessed at the church website or facebook page:

http://www.centrechurchvermont.org/audio--video.html -or-

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT-632678343519640/notes/?ref=page_internal_-or-

From the website Welcome page, click on the "Audio & Video" button in the list at top (or click "More" or "Other" on the top right).



OFFICE HOURS M-F: 8:30am-12:30pm

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842 **Office Hours:** M – F / 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM Church Office: (802) 254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org Website: www.centrechurchvt.org Facebook: Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro VT Current news/information in the larger UCC Community: VT Conference: www.vtcucc.org / National: www.ucc.org

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Minister and Teacher:

The Rev. Dr. Scott Couper: (786) 622-8473 (cell) centrepastor@centrechurchvt.org Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org

Music Director: Administrator: **Financial Secretary: Council Chair:** Treasurer: Clerk: Custodian:

Bruce Landenberger: admin@centrechurchvt.org Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org William McCarty Anne Fecto Connie Bresnahan John Bertolini



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 193 Main Street **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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