

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER



2019

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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PERMIT # 8

BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

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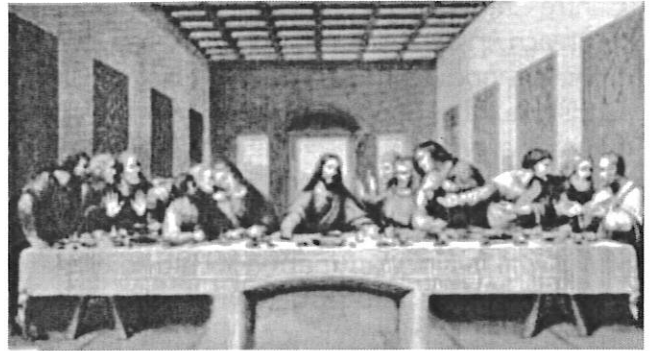
CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842
Office Hours: M - F / 8:30am - 12:30pm
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Website: www.centrechurchvt.org
Facebook: Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro VT
Instagram: @centrechurchvt
Current news/information in the larger UCC Community:
VT Conference: www.vtucc.org / National: www.ucc.org

MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month's sermon series on biblical and local prophets, tragic current events (mass shootings), and the lectionary calendar gave us a heavy dose of social justice emphases. This month, beginning with our Union Sunday hosted at Centre Church on August 25, we will change gears and begin a new sermon series entitled "Iconic Devotional Art". For four weeks, we will gaze upon iconic art pieces, learn of their creators and historical contexts, and relate them as devotionals to our faith today.



The sermon series is inspired by two sources. One, my clerical colleague Kurt Shaffert, minister at the United Church of Christ congregation in Bellows Falls who is a cartoon artist. Marion Daley, Bonnie Girvan and others from our congregation some months ago traveled to our Windham-Union Association's annual meeting and learned how important it is to hear the 'Word' of God through different mediums other than 'verbal from the pulpit'. Kurt reminded us that our Catholic and Orthodox brothers and sisters in Christ express faith through iconography. Much that can be learned of the faith can be captured through art, and my daughter would argue, through dance as well. Two, I am still very convinced that a key to a growing thriving congregation is one that, to some extent in this day in the age, is technologically savvy. Social media is a tool through which to express the Good News, the Gospel, of Jesus Christ. Media equipment that captures and broadcasts sight and sound is also valuable in communicating the Gospel, particularly in worship. A sub-committee of Council is examining one of many options we can use to better communicate to our members in worship: an 85" BRAVIA 4K HDR Professional Display on an XL Electric Height Adjust Cart. In the meantime, for this sermon series I hope to use our projector to show you art that has inspired thousands, if not millions, of people to a heightened devotional life.

The first iconic devotional art on which I will preach during our union service will be 'The Angelus' by Jean-François Millet (realism) between 1857 and 1859. Our second on 1 September will be Leonardo da Vinci's (whose biography I recently read) 'The Last Supper'. On that Sunday, Stephanie Ducharme will lead us in music and we will appropriately celebrate Holy Communion. We will avoid being Eurocentric and include two pieces by He Qi and Ronald Harrison, a Chinese and a South African Christian painter, respectively.

The aim of the series will be to draw us partially away from text (the Bible) and homiletics (the spoken word), to exercise our minds and hearts, and to expand our devotional horizons by exploring the visual. It was not so long ago that our ancestors in faith used images (paintings, statues, and stations) to tell the biblical and gospel narrative when such a large percentage of the world's population was illiterate. As descendants of a Protestant and Reformed faith tradition, we have perhaps overemphasized the word and gutted our sanctuaries of art and images that inspire as much as Mary and Allison's music instrumentation does (which our Puritan ancestors also abandoned for a spell). And would it not be appropriate to also point-out the art in the sanctuary that we perhaps overlook, take for granted, and thus fail to appreciate: our own stained glass windows! It is my prayer that the Space Envisioning sub-committee will adorn the hallway leading to the sanctuary with pieces of art and with quilts sewn by our own talented women – led by Anne Doesburg and Gesela Robeck.

I look forward to worshipping with you.

Love always in Christ, Scott

***CENTRE BELLS* – September 2019**

The newsletter of **Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

GUEST PREACHER, Sunday, September 22

Centre Church has secured The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal to preach on the theology of climate change. Our minister hopes to invite other local United Church of Christ churches and the community to this special worship service. I suspect that the church will be full to capacity and we will need to secure the services of the fire department to enforce regulations.

Jim Antal is a denominational leader, climate activist, author, and public theologian. He serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the UCC. Antal's book, *CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD*, was featured on Earth Day in the *Chicago Tribune* and in *Christian Century Magazine*. From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President.

Antal is a graduate of Princeton University, Andover Newton Theological School, and Yale Divinity School, which recently honored him with the William Sloane Coffin Award for Peace and Justice.

An environmental activist from the first Earth Day in 1970, Antal wrote and championed three groundbreaking national UCC resolutions: in 2013 the UCC became the first national body to vote to divest from fossil fuel companies; in 2017 the national UCC Synod voted to declare a new moral era in opposition to President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord; in 2019, the UCC national Synod became the first Christian denomination to endorse the Green New Deal. In 2019 Antal was honored as recipient of the UCC's social justice prophet award.

Please do not miss worship with us on this special Sunday, September 22!

From Council Vice-Chair, MARGO NEALE

Astonishingly, here we are at the end of summer and the beginning of the fall season.

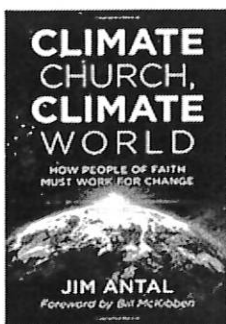
Looking back on the summer, we can cite extensive participation on the part of our church in various community events. We can observe the improved use of space throughout our building. We can take pleasure in the beautiful and welcoming gardens that grace the front of our church. We have enjoyed the musical contributions of several members of our congregation as well as that of Stephanie Ducharme. We can be grateful to Scott for some excellent and timely sermons, for his extensive visits with members of our congregation in need of comfort and care, and for his constant efforts to help us relate to the larger world of our denomination.

Looking forward to the fall, we open with a bang on September 6. Our Fundraising Committee has been awarded that date (the Friday of Labor Day Weekend) at the Welcome Center. This is a major fundraising event for us and requires all hands on deck. On that same weekend, essentially our 'homecoming' weekend, we celebrate with an Ice Cream Social on our lawn. Our church school, Faith in Action, opens the following week with our good friends, Haley Marcil and Kate Maisner in the lead. Our Building & Grounds folk continue to work on small issues such as the masonry around the front steps to the basement as well as very large issues related to the condition and use of the basement area of our church. Mission & Service begins to consider how they might participate with our friends in El Salvador in exploring the causes for emigration from that country. Member Care continues to follow the needs of several of our congregants, such as the Vander Meulens and Sylvia Eaton. There are plans afoot to provide transportation to and from our Sunday services for those who might otherwise not be able to attend. Council is beginning to think about long term plans for our church. Our minister is planning a sermon series called, "Iconic Devotional Art" which should be beautiful as well as interesting.

If all of this sounds like a lot, it is. But, this is what churches do when they are alive and well. If you would like to join in on any of the activities mentioned above, please do so. You can contact Scott, Bill, or me to get connected. But, you may have entry points of your own. Just know that you are more than welcome. In fact, you are needed to carry forward the life of Centre Church.

Copies of Jim Antal's book,

CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD



will be available for \$25 in anticipation of his visit to **Centre Church** on **September 22**.

To purchase a copy, contact the church office: 802.254.4730 / admin@centrechurchvt.org

From Music Director, MARYMILKEY-MAY

It is shocking to me that I'm already writing September's message for *Centre Bells*! What happened to summer???

During August, we were fortunate to have several folks who sang for the Anthem and Offertory spots. Sue Rowell, Tony and Jackson Grobe, Haley Marcil and Greg Sweeney delighted us with their solos during this past month. We culminated the month with combined choirs for the union service on the final Sunday. What a treat it is to have voices from Guilford, West Brattleboro and Dummerston join our choir!

You won't want to miss Labor Day Sunday when Stephanie Ducharme will be at the piano again subbing for me. In addition, Lynn Herzog and her recorder group will provide special music during that service. We are so fortunate to have these folks share their talents with us.

Senior Choir will resume with the first rehearsal on Thursday, September 5 from 5:30-7:00pm in the choir room. We will be singing on Sunday, September 8! Please come and join us. We are in desperate need of altos, but any voice range would be welcomed.

The Children's Choir will begin on the first Sunday that Faith in Action resumes. I'm hoping to have even more children participate this year. Spread the word!!

SUNDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY



Join us at 9am every week. We are currently reading and discussing *Becoming Wise*, an inquiry into the mystery and art of living by Krista Tippett. For more information contact Nancy DiMauro: 802.257.4489/nedimauro1@myfairpoint.net

BUILDING & GROUNDS

STEEPLE FUND

ENDOWMENT REIMBURSEMENT CAMPAIGN is growing and getting nearer to completion. Every little bit and not-so-little chunk of change is helping us reach our \$40,000 goal. So let's continue to climb that Jacob's Ladder!

Thank You, Marion & Peter Abell

Everyone is invited to

TAKE a MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, September 6 • 5:30-6:00pm

B4 Peace Founder and Director, Namaya, will present a program on the theme of forgiveness. Through *B4 Peace*, he has worked with local heroes in Algeria, Chile, Palestine, Europe, and the United States on public peace arts programs. His award winning poem *100 Flowers of Peace* has been translated into over 100 languages by volunteers from around the world. An accomplished poet, artist, and performer, Namaya's programs bring reality to life.

WOMEN'S SPIRIT

is a book study group which meets every Thursday at 4:30pm. We are currently reading and discussing *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks. We welcome people graciously. For more information contact Nancy DiMauro: 802.257.4489 / nedimauro1@myfairpoint.net



1/5

Forest Primaries I

E. Adams 2012

MISSION & SERVICE

September Second Sunday Offering

The Second Sunday Offering for September (9/8) will be Carry Me Home, the charity hosted by Centre Church which uses the stage in Memorial Hall to sort and ship clothing to Syrian refugees in Eastern Europe. Since many refugees flee the Syrian war with few belongings, and end up in a colder part of the world than from which they started, the demand is huge, especially for fall/winter clothes and children's clothes.

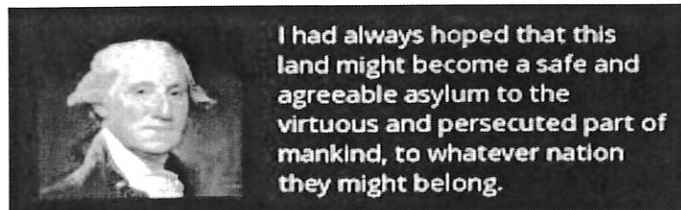
Mission Trip to El Salvador in November 2019 Make your reservation now!

Because it looks like the medical trip to El Salvador may not happen due to a lack of signups, here's another opportunity to go on a church-oriented trip! Jenifer Ambler is probably going to go regardless, just because she loves going! But she'd love to have company!

Bethany Church, Montpelier, invites you to participate on a mid-November (probably Nov 12-19) trip to El Salvador. Bethany has had a sister relationship with a Salvadoran village for 28 years, and many members of other UCC churches have joined past delegations, including those in Barre, Berlin, East Montpelier, Waterbury, Brattleboro, Thetford, Castleton, Randolph and Sherburne. This is not a work trip. The purposes are to practice Christian solidarity and friendship and to better understand the realities of the lives of our sisters and brothers in El Salvador.

This year we will focus on hearing Salvadoran perspectives on the issue of migration to the United States. As always, the group will decide in advance what activities to do and places to see. Our trips offer a great balance of experiences, reflection, and fun! The all-inclusive cost for one week will be approximately \$1,300 (about half of that amount is airfare), and participants do not have to be able to speak Spanish.

For more information, contact Theresa Lever now: 802.229.0415 / thelevers@comcast.net, or Jenifer Ambler: 802.380.2805 / amblerj@sover.net.
The group is forming and reservations need to be made soon.



Aid Trip to U.S. - Mexico Border

Are you passionate about the plight of immigrants on our southern border and want to do something concrete? First Congregational Church, UCC in West Brattleboro is planning a two week trip to the border at Brownsville, Texas where they will be working with Team Brownsville to feed asylum seekers waiting in Mexico. The trip will be scheduled in **mid-January 2020**. For more information, please contact The Rev. Audrey Walker: revaudreywalker@gmail.com / 413.374.4992.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Join 350Vermont in Brattleboro for our Nonviolent Direct Action Training with:
Extinction Rebellion Southern Vermont
and the
Climate Disobedience Center!

Nonviolent Direct Action (NVDA) is a powerful tool for social change. Through role plays and exercises, we will learn the importance of collective action and its connection to collective liberation, the basics of NVDA theory, creative tactics for shutting things down to open them up, and legal factors to consider, all with a focus on how to use NVDA strategically within a campaign.

This is a great training for all those looking to plan impactful actions or move their campaigns to the next level. Especially for those planning actions for the **Global Climate Strike Week of Action, Sept 20-27** with 350Vermont, Climate Disobedience Center, Extinction Rebellion, and allied groups.

When: Friday, September 20,
1:30-5:30 pm

Where: Centre Congregational Church, UCC
Brattleboro VT

Cost: \$20-75 sliding scale
(no one turned away)

To register, or if you have any questions, please contact our Trainings Coordinator, Sonia Silbert, at trainings@350vt.org.

More program details can be found here:
[https://350vermont.org/workshops/
#upcomingworkshops](https://350vermont.org/workshops/upcomingworkshops)

This training directly follows a Climate Strike Rally in Pliny Park (see accompanying article).

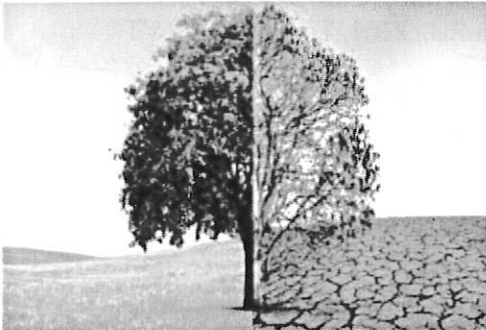
CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS RALLY

Friday, September 20
at Pliny Park from 12pm to 1pm

Any and all who wish to show solidarity with God's Creation are invited to attend.

350Vermont will offer a non-violent direct action training workshop to the community in the Parlor following the rally (see details below).

Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend this activist training session.



The Cultural Link Between Judaism and China

A Talk by Tiberiu Weisz

Friday, September 6, 2019
Centre Congregational Church
193 Main St., Brattleboro, VT

- ◇ Two of the world's oldest surviving cultures seen in a new light, not as fossils, but rather as two vibrant cultures tied by invisible bonds that have allowed them to flourish until today.
- ◇ Is Judaism the cultural yang to China's yin?
- ◇ What traces of biblical Judaism are found in the sayings of ancient Chinese sages?

Tiberiu Weisz is an independent scholar of Chinese language and culture who has pursued his interest in Classical Chinese and comparative cultural studies of Judaism and China for 40 years.

Refreshments and Conversation
from 7:00 pm

WELCOME CENTER EVENT

Friday, September 6

The Centre Church
Fundraising Committee
is coordinating the
Welcome Center
'Coffee Break'

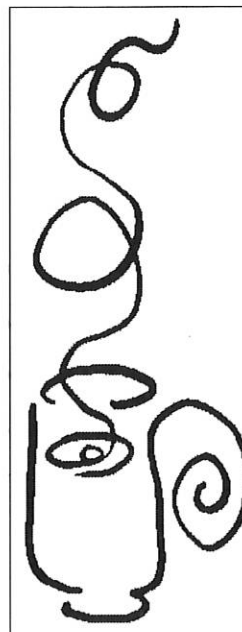
Many church members
and friends have been
asked to help make this
event a great success.

To see how you can
contribute, contact:

Meg Harriman:
718.744-7846 /

meg.harriman.nyc@gmail.com

Or stop by and support
your church community.



MEMBER CARE

Last month the schedule for groups to host Fellowship Hour was printed in this newsletter. There was no group assigned to November. It is left open for 'volunteers'. This gives you the opportunity to take a turn at serving up coffee tea and simple refreshments. There is a sign-up sheet on the parlor bulletin board.

Thanks to Member Care people plus others who served up cold beverages and snacks during July and August.

Also in this issue are the guidelines for hosting coffee hour (see below).

HOW TO HOST COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour has been a Sunday morning tradition here at Centre Church for many years. Those who have done it in the past know how to go about it. We'll write some simple guidelines here. This is not to say that it is a simple job. Two or better three people are needed to set up, serve, and clean up.

In the kitchenette you will find Fair Trade coffee. Tea, sugar, and sweeteners are also there.

You will need to bring two quarts of juice for the children's table, and one quart of homogenized milk or cream. Providing snacks is optional. Some people bring cookies crackers, and cheese.

Plan to set up before church. The coffee urn takes about one hour to percolate. The proportions of coffee needed are posted inside the white wooden cabinet on the wall. You can prepare tea early as it will stay hot in the thermal pitchers. Use three tea bags for each pitcher.

Juice for the children can be set up on a separate card table usually close to the piano. There is an under-pad to protect the parlor table in the large drawer with the other table cloths.

Those who have done this find that it can be fun, and a time to socialize. Your willingness to host is much appreciated as you provide a positive time for fellowship for many.

WANTED

a pair of small speakers for the church office computer. Contact Bruce at: 802.254.4730 / admin@centrechurchvt.org or just drop them by the office. Thanks for keeping the music alive!

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 March 26.

The Rev. David & Elizabeth Cutting
289 Wentworth Road, Walpole NH
603.756.2545

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

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—Valley Cares
461 Grafton Rd., #101, Townshend, VT
802-221-4213

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

The Rev. Allen Vander Meulen
109 Wantastiquet Drive, Brattleboro, VT
802.258.9191

Sylvia Eaton
86 Brets Road, Brattleboro, VT
802.254.6853

Nancy Clarke—Hearthstone
402 Hemenway St., Marlborough, MA 01752

Please let the Administrator know

BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

PATRICIA REARDON, August 3

Who was inadvertently omitted from last month's Birthday list.

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Alex Day
- Emma Day
- 4 Gary Carrier
- 10 Jim Bedard
- 17 Elizabeth Fecto
- 18 Gizela Robeck
- 23 Joy Everett
- 29 Rebecca Day
- 23 Pat Neer



SEPTEMBER 2019

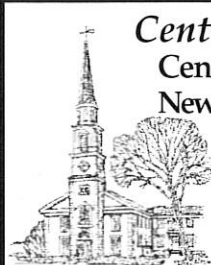
**Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship** 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 12 ⁰⁰ Deacons 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Mission & Service	4 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 10 ⁰⁰ New Members' Class 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting	5 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	6 Welcome Center Fundraiser 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ⁰⁰ WWAC event 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	7 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop
8 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 12 ⁰⁰ Ice Cream Social 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	9 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 4 ⁰⁰ BCC Board 6 ³⁰ AA District 8	10 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 5 ⁰⁰ Pastoral Relations	11 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 10 ⁰⁰ New Members' Class 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting	12 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	13 CB DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	14
15 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	16 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 1 ³⁰ Compassionate Brattleboro	17 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	18 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 10 ⁰⁰ New Members' Class 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting	19 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	20 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 12 ⁰⁰ Climate change rally 1 ³⁰ 350VT training 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	21 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop
22 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	23 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl	24 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	25 MAIL CB 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 10 ⁰⁰ New Members' Class 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting 7 ⁰⁰ Compassionate Brattleboro-Climate change	26 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 1 ¹⁵ L & F board 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	28
29 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	30 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl					

SCOTT'S SERMONS can be accessed at the church website: www.centrechurchvermont.org -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 *Audio & Video* in the top list (or click *More* or *Other* on the top right).

BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP

resumes meeting on **Wednesday, September 4** at 12:00 noon. Please bring your lunch and join us for great conversations. Sometimes we discuss church and religious issues and sometimes we share our personal histories and stories - always interesting. For any questions, comments, or concerns, contact Laura Slate: 802.254.5887 / tjllslate@comcast.net.



Centre Bells is published monthly by Centre Congregational Church, UCC
News items, articles, address changes, or requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list should be submitted to the church office:
802.254.4730 / admin@centrechurchvt.org

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

Sunday, September 1, 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 2:4-13 and Ps 81:1, 10-16 or Sirach 10:12-18 or
Prov 25:6-7 and Ps 112; Heb 13:1-8, 15-16; **Luke 14:1, 7-14**

Sunday, September 8, 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 18:1-11 and Ps 139:1-6, 13-18 or Deut 30:15-20 and
Ps 1; **Philem 1:1-21**; Luke 14:25-33

Sunday, September 15, 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 4:11-12, 22-28 and Ps 14 or Ex 32:7-14 and Ps 51:1-10;
1 Tim 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 22, 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 8:18-9:1 and Ps 79:1-9 or Amos 8:4-7 and Ps 113;
1 Tim 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, September 29, 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15 and Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 or Amos 6:1a, 4-7
and Ps 146; 1 Tim 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31