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**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

193 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

Office Hours: M – F / 8:30am–12:30pm

Church Office: 802.254.4730 / admin@centrechurchvt.org

Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

Facebook: [Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro VT](https://www.facebook.com/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT)

Instagram: @centrechurchvt

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

Music Director: Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org

Administrator: Bruce Landenberger: admin@centrechurchvt.org

Financial Secretary: Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Custodian: Emelio McCalla

Council Chair: William McCarty

Treasurer: Anne Fecto

Clerk: Jenifer Ambler

MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends in Christ:

I inherited a wonderful responsibility from The Rev. Carra Bradt and from The Rev. Burt Marshall – and thus I inherited it from the Centre Congregational Church (United Church of Christ). As minister of the Centre Church, I with two other clergy colleagues (Father Justin Baker of St. Michael's Catholic Church and The Rev. Mary Lindquist of St. Michael's Episcopal Church) administer The Edward A. Lyon Trust.

Grants from the Lyon's Trust are given specifically to young people (under forty) residing in Windham County, Vermont for the purpose of assisting them in acquiring a vocational education. For example, nursing (LPN), dental hygiene, hairdressing, cosmetology, industrial arts, apprenticeship, and on the job training. Unlike many grants, the Lyon's grant does not contribute to four-year tertiary education. All grants are paid directly to the institution of learning.

By reading Edward Lyon's Last Will and Testament, we learn that Edward was from Burlington, Vermont but is buried in the Morningside Cemetery in Brattleboro. Edward's will indicated that he wished to assist young people "who by reason of ability, financial circumstances, or otherwise, may not be able to or may not desire to go to college". Interestingly, Edward directed that the committee that administers the trust shall be "a Catholic Priest, and Episcopal priest, and a Protestant minister". So, Edward willed an ecumenical partnership!

According to the Trust's by-laws, as administrators we are tasked with providing \$500 to \$3,000 scholarships "to students demonstrating motivation, self-reliance, learning aptitude and personal initiative and who are making a demonstrable financial commitment to their own education".

In February in our church chapel, I had the great honor to marry Kaitlin Haskins to her husband (Sid). Kaitlin is a nursing student at Vermont Technical College (VCT) in Brattleboro. At the wedding, I befriended one of Kaitlin's friends, Kadidjatou (Kadi) Diallo, who also attends VCT. I found both young women to be greatly admired. Kaitlin and Sid have attended our worship services before and after their wedding. Kadi has with me attended 'Black Lives Matters' rallies in Brattleboro and has recently been present in our on-line worship.

Kaitlin is from Michigan where her parents currently live. Previously, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Arts Administration and Music from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Kadi is from West Africa having lived in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Paris, France; Gatineau, Canada; and Burlington, VT. Kadi has family residing in West Africa, France, and Canada. Yet despite her young age, she is strong, independent, and 'flying solo' in the USA!

Upon my, and thus Centre Church's recommendation, both women received in June \$3,000 each to contribute to their on-going studies (Registered Nurse) at VCT in the fall. Both students have as part of their vocational training worked at the Thompson House here in Brattleboro.

I believe that in this still patriarchal and racist country, it is crucial that the church support and invest in capable, intelligent, and gifted young women, particularly those of color. By administering this Trust with Father Baker and Rev. Lindquist, I am, with Centre Church, living-out our promise to 'Be the Church'.

May Edward Lyon inspire all of us to also leave legacies of affirmation and support to those who most need and deserve it – even long after we have passed from this world.

Be well, Scott

CENTRE BELLS – August 2020

The newsletter of

Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



Council Chair, BILL McCARTY

We continue on our trek! As we all experience this unique experience of the corona-virus, we must continue our life and renew our faith and beliefs. I am not a 'spiritual person', but during these times it is difficult to not have thoughts and issues with mortality and where we stand in God's plan. But enough of my proselytizing.

Council is continuing to meet regularly (remotely via ZOOM) and attempts to address the ongoing issues facing Centre Church during this unique time.

As most people already know, Centre Church's Annual Program Meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, September 13, 2020** after the Sunday service. Depending on the weather and circumstances, the meeting will be held in the sanctuary or on the church lawn – always keeping safe distancing. I hope we will have returned to a 'normal' world by then, but we will adjust as appropriate.

Centre Church will initiate long-range planning headed by the Rev. Paul Nickerson. It will begin when Council decides we are able to have meaningful meetings and schedules.

Our Christian Education Program is being revitalized with the inclusion of Matt Deen's special environmental curriculum. It appears to be very exciting and we hope it will be interesting to our church youth. Stand by for more details.

As has been mentioned previously, our Church needs your continued financial support and tithes during this most difficult time. Centre Church remains active and true to its goals. Please continue your pledge and giving. Direct deposit and the mail will work wonders! Thank you.

As always, if there are any issues or questions that you may have please direct them to a Council member or me. We will always respond in a positive manner and address your concerns so that they can be resolved to a successful conclusion.

Until next month – hopefully we will meet again in the sanctuary and in person!

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

It's hard to believe that summer is nearly half over! With the temperatures in the 90s, I have to admit that for the first time since March, I'm actually glad we are not meeting in the sanctuary! I have been coming out of my Thursday practice/ recording sessions dripping wet!

During this pandemic, I have not been rehearsing with Sunday soloists since we haven't been able to have singers. However, I have been using the extra time to increase my Prelude/Postlude repertoire by learning several new pieces. It helps to have a practice organ at home along with air conditioning!

With both the hands and feet being used for organ music, it actually takes a fair amount of time to learn a new piece. Once the piece is learned, it takes 'setting time' when it is played frequently over a period of time to get it in the brain. Last week I played a new Bach piece for the Postlude which took five tries to get a decent recording. (Clearly, I hadn't given it enough 'setting time'!). Luckily, Matt and Jennifer have the patience of saints!

During this pandemic, I will continue to learn more pieces that you will hear on various Sundays. (You have already heard several since April!). See you all on ZOOM!

DEACONS DOINGS

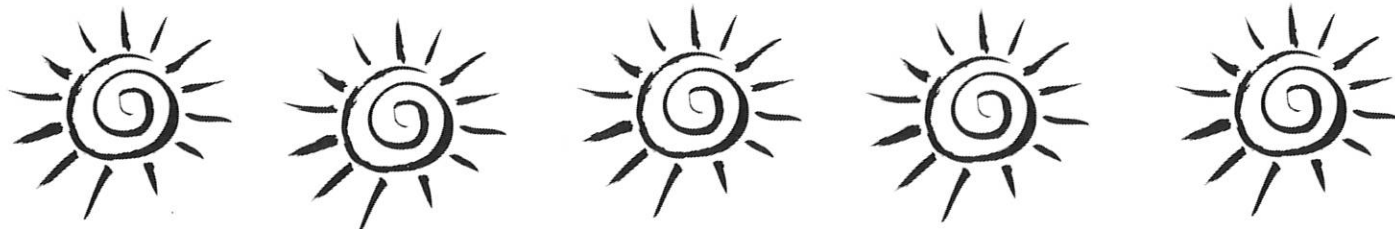
The Deacons 'zoomed' on July 5, 2020 for one hour. We covered many topics!

We welcomed Holly Kennedy and Wayne Randall to the board as new members. Carlene McCarty passed the imaginary gavel to Heidi Mario, although Heidi wanted a tiara instead! April Harkness will continue as secretary. The board thanks both women for their roles on the Deacons.

The Deacons voted to pay for the painting in the sanctuary with funds from the Book of Remembrance.

This is my last 'Deacons' Doings'. I've also had my last Deacons' meeting. It is quite bittersweet and it's been a pleasure working with you all!

In Peace, Carlene McCarty



MISSION & SERVICE

Mission & Service (M&S) continues to focus on what the needs of our community at home and at large we can continue to serve through our Second Sunday Offerings and through local service. July's Second Sunday offering supported the *PINS* program through Department of Children and Families (DCF). On August 11, the Second Sunday offering will be for *Brattleboro Senior Meals*, which encompasses the lunches served (for takeout currently) at the Senior Center and *Meals on Wheels* delivered to seniors at home. Since the Corona virus has changed so much and more seniors are going out less, many, many more meals are being delivered to individual homes. These meals are a very important service to the seniors in our community, especially those on limited incomes. Federal and state funding for such services has been tighter recently, leading to even more need for community support.

Loaves & Fishes continues to link Centre Church and St Michaels Episcopal Church to those most vulnerable in our community by providing meals to Groundworks Collaborative and Foodworks.). Over 400 meals are prepared and delivered weekly from our kitchen to the Quality Inn and the old Domino's Pizza location on Canal Street. With Ruth Tilghman at the helm and a very dedicated crew of cooks, bakers, onion cutters, food deliverers, food receivers, dish washers and floor moppers, Memorial Hall, the coolbot, store rooms, and the KITCHEN are busy places to be on Monday for deliveries and Tuesday/Friday for meal prep and dispersal. If you can help prepare desserts or make a coleslaw, contact Ruth: 802.258.1765 / ruthtilghman@gmail.com. There are always ways to help!

In other business in July, M&S made small contributions to UCC's *ONA Coalition* and to Inanda Seminary. The *ONA Coalition* has been an important support both to our church and many churches across the country as they have moved through the ONA (Open and Affirming) process. We feel that a letter of support and a nominal donation is important as they struggle financially and face layoffs. Inanda Seminary/School also is facing financial struggles and again, we felt that a nominal donation of support in The Rev Scott Couper's name was appropriate. Centre Church is also struggling financially during this unusual time. We ask that members of our congregation remember that our tithing and financial support of our church helps support so many others through these above mentioned missions and services. PLEASE remember to support Centre Church and all that it is, ALL that WE ARE!

Under discussion at M&S, Brattleboro Gallery Walk is exploring ways it can present a gallery tour of Brattleboro virtually. Centre Church has been part of this planning pre-COVID. M&S is looking at how and what we might present through Gallery Walk. Stay tuned.

Also discussed was how we at Centre Church might help to organize masks for children, as many school age children will need to where masks for school. If you would like to be part of this discussion, let us know.

One last note: Emelio's youngest son, Jermall, arrived in July. The paperwork has been submitted for both sons' immigration. The hope is that they will be able to stay permanently in Brattleboro. Our prayers go out to Emelio and his family along with prayers of thanksgiving as they settle into their new home.

On July 3, our church concluded a three-part **Forum on Racism** entitled "Letting Our Faith Guide Us toward Anti-Racism". Members explored history, police brutality, systemic racism, and white supremacy on three successive Fridays via ZOOM. The first showing was homiletic, a sermon entitled "The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery" by The Rev Dr Otis Moss III (minister of Trinity Church, UCC in Chicago, IL). This extremely densely packed and eloquent sermon is a *tour de force*. The historical and theological sentiments conveyed about race and justice are brilliant and inspiring. The second showing was that of popular entertainer, Trevor Noah from South Africa and host of *The Daily Show*. Trevor treated us to a long thoughtful and personal monologue about race, protests, social contracts, and COVID-19 that places our current national division in context. Our third and last showing was the documentary "13th" that examined the issue of mass incarceration of Black Americans since the Reconstruction Era immediately following the Civil War. Abi Healey led the group in a very professional and competent manner. The usually taciturn Erick Strickland was very insightful and provocative. Lynn Herzog, Karen Rydant, Dennis Newman, and others with the ministers were encouraged to be introspective and transparent about their own implicit bias and white privilege. Roger Brown thankfully assisted by hosting our meetings on ZOOM. The group wishes to continue discussion via a more in-depth UCC curriculum based program ("Sacred Conversations to End Racism" or "Let's Talk"). See July 16 *eNews*.

MEMBER CARE

Listed every week in our *eNews* are the names of members and friends for whom to pray. Most of those prayer requests are for healing. We try to acknowledge those needs and pray at home.

Now it's an occasion for rejoicing prayer for Carolyn (Cary) Smith on her retirement from her job at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. I checked with Barbara St. John, who told me Carolyn has worked there for more than 35 years. Many of you have seen her when you have gone for a blood test. No, she is not a phlebotomist, she's there mostly at the window of the blood testing area with a smile and a good word of cheer.

No, Cary is not retiring yet from Member Care. We have lost track of how many years she served Centre Church bringing meals, grocery shopping, providing rides, preparing for the All Church Picnic, setting up and serving, and being "chief dishwasher" at receptions. It has been well over a decade.

Congrats on your retirement from BMH, Cary. We hope that more time will give you the chance to do some of the things you haven't had time for. We pray God's blessings on this new phase of your life.

No se habla Espanol [A story from the archives]

The last week end of this past June Marion and Peter Abell planned to be out of town. They called on the Member Care Department to ask for people to come and visit Samuel and Antonia Rodriguez while they were gone. Most of you reading this know that mother and son, from El Salvador, have been living with the Abell's while in the U.S. for extensive corrective surgery for Samuel.

I was happy to be of help and called Dee and Bob Keller to stop by and visit on Friday afternoon and Monday morning. Judi and Roger Miller offered to take the Rodriguez's to church on Sunday. I thought perhaps I could drive in from Putney and take them to Farmer's Market on Saturday. Since I speak no Spanish, Peter suggested that I arrive at their home late Sat morning, when someone would be there who was conversant in Spanish and could explain to Samuel and Antonia where I wanted to take them. I would do that.

But when I arrived at 11:00am Samuel got across to me that the Spanish speaking person would not be there until 4:00pm (*quarto*). I was stumped! How to say to them, "Would you like to go with me to Farmers' Market and get lunch?" My sign language didn't work. Antonia gave me the Spanish - English dictionary and I fumbled through pages looking for words. Any high school Spanish I learned 50 years ago at West Side High School Newark, NJ fled my mind completely.

"Well, Lord, I wondered/prayed. "What do I do now? How can I communicate with them?"

Somehow through pantomime I got across the idea that we would go for a ride in my car. After we arrived at Farmers' Market we strolled around the outside perimeter surveying the delicious looking array of food for sale. We made our choices and found a table at which to sit.

And who should be sitting at that table but a mother with her young daughter eating berry pie. That woman spent several years in Ecuador when she was growing up! She understood and spoke Spanish and translated for us.

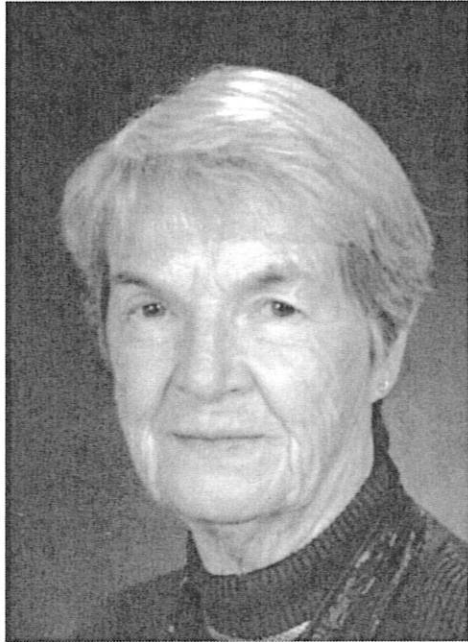
While we were talking up strolled Nina and John Trumper. John learned Spanish as a young Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Another translator! They had decided to visit the market that morning me on a whim, Nina later told me.

Samuel spotted Dee and Bob Keller, shopping at a vegetable booth. He walked to meet them on his newly repaired legs and brought them to our table. We spent the rest of the time there eating Greek and Italian food while carrying on our conversations in Spanish and English with help from John and the lady with the berry pie.

It could all be coincidence, but I like to think of it as God's smiling answer to a prayer.



PEOPLE



Nina C. Trumper died Thursday July 9, 2020 at Mid Coast Hospital, Brunswick, Maine.

She was born Nina Mary Tucker in 1932 in Dorchester, Mass., the second of 5 children of Canadian parents. They moved to Merrimack, NH, where she attended schools and then finished training as an RN at Keene Hospital School of Nursing in 1953.

She married Charles Cathcart in 1954; they had 3 children: Karen Lynch of Jonesboro, Arkansas, "Chip" Cathcart of Portland, Maine, and Lynne Avery of Concord, NH, all of whom survive, along with 8 grandchildren. She is also survived by her present husband John, sister Jackie of Topsham, and brother, Bruce, of Alexandria, NH.

Her 1st marriage ended in 1978. She married John Trumper, a Pediatrician, whom she met at work in Brattleboro Hospital. They practiced together after she trained as a Nurse Practitioner in 1970 (the first one to be licensed in Vermont). While employed in that role she acquired her BSN degree at Keene State College and, later, MSN at Univ. of Massachusetts.

Nina and John worked a sabbatical year on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian Reservation in North Dakota in 1982. In 1992 she shifted to Public Health to work as an NP for the Vermont Health Dept. until retirement in 1998.

After a visit to the former Soviet Union in 1990, Nina initiated a medical exchange between Vermont and Petrozavodsk, a city in Russia near Finland, which continued annually for the next 5 years. After retirement, Nina & John lived in Tennessee, South Dakota, New Zealand, and Newfoundland, for several months each year while John worked in hospitals there.

They moved to a community in Topsham, Maine in 2011 where they were living when she died of long term complications of Alzheimer's Dementia.

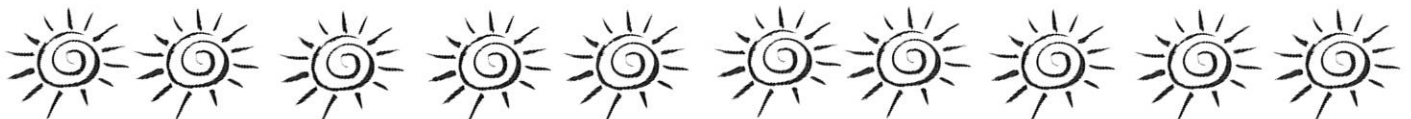
Nina was very energetic physically, socially, intellectually, even outside of her professional role and rarely sat still for long. She enjoyed the outdoors: gardening, walking everywhere, hiking in the White Mountains, she was on the national ski patrol, she quilted and knitted for many years. She loved classical music, played the piano, sang in the Brattleboro Centre Congregational Church choir where she was a member for 40 years, and in several other choral groups. She especially enjoyed dancing. She was an avid reader & founded a women's book group in Brattleboro which still exists.

She immersed thoroughly in the communities wherever she lived or worked and made many good friends from New Zealand to Newfoundland, in Vermont, Maine & in between. Her patients, and all of us, will miss her greatly & remember her fondly.

Memories and condolences can be shared at www.brackettfh.com.

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

[Published in **The Brattleboro Reformer** on July 11, 2020.]





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 July 26.

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

Wanda Godfrey—Vernon Hall
13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT 05354
802.254.2444

Phyllis Hickok
1520 Little Blue Stem Ct., Ames, IA 50014
515.337.1956

Jane Reed—Pine Heights
187 Oak Grove Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301
802.257.0307

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

The Rev. Allen Vander Meulen
1 Harvest Circle #301, Lincoln, MA 01773
802.380.0735

Sylvia Eaton
86 Brets Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301
802.254.6853

Alta Barber
13223 N 3937 Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74003

Pat Neer—Thompson House
80 Maple St., Brattleboro, VT 05301

Bob & Dee Keller
153 Spruce St., Brattleboro, VT 05301
802.257.4588

*Please let the Administrator know
if we've missed someone.*



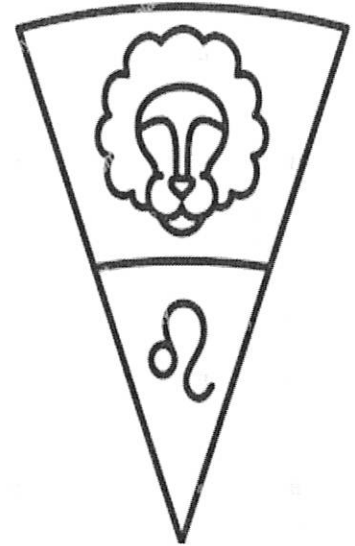
CENTRE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The following changes have been made, effective now until the next Annual Program Meeting:

- Heidi Mario has accepted the position of chair of the Board of Deacons.
- Matt Kennedy has replaced Michael Mario on the music committee.
- Jenifer Ambler has replaced Connie Bresnahan as Church Council clerk.
- Mary Hyath has joined the Loaves & Fishes steering committee.

B I R T H D A Y S

- 3 Patricia Reardon
- 4 Lynn Herzog
- 8 Carlene McCarty
- 10 Laura Slate
- 12 Margo Neale
- 13 Carol Edmonds
Lisa Keller
- 14 Wendy Randall
- 15 Victoria Svec
- 16 J. Clyde Johnson
- 17 Verne Bristol
- 20 Sue Rowell
- 23 Patricia Neer
- 26 Dan Healey
- 31 Mary Bristol
Peter Abell



NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Matt Deen: matthew.deen@gmail.com

Harvey Nystrom: nystromharvey@gmail.com
593.99.303.1459 (m) / 802.489.0903 (magic jack)



Congratulations to
Matt Deen and Ella Kinsman,
who were married by
The Rev. Dr. Scott Couper on

the Centre Congregational Church (UCC) front lawn Saturday, June 27, 2020.

Thank you to Dennis Newman, The Rev. Roger Brown, and Jeremy Kirk (Pastor of the West Dover UCC church) for serving as celebrants and witnesses. We give God thanks and praise for Matt & Ella's partnership and marriage. What God has joined together, let no one separate!



Congratulations to our friends
Kadidjatu Diallo, Kaitlin Haskins,
and **Stephanie Ducharme**, for
graduating from their schools earning nursing or
laboratory science degrees! Each completed two
years of very intensive work. They will continue
their studies and commence work in their chosen
vocations. Let us give God thanks for intelligence,
wisdom, and scientific knowledge!

AUGUST 2020

**Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Program Meeting Reports due
2 10 ⁰⁰ Worship** 12 ⁰⁰ Deacons 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	3 4 ⁰⁰ BCC Board	4 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 1 ³⁰ Quilting Club	5 8 ⁴⁵ Staff Meeting	6 10 ⁰⁰ Chapel Devotional 4 ⁰⁰ 5K Devotional 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	7 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	8
9 10 ⁰⁰ Worship 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	10	11 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 1 ³⁰ Quilting Club 6 ⁰⁰ Mission & Service	12 8 ⁴⁵ Staff Meeting	13 10 ⁰⁰ Chapel Devotional 4 ⁰⁰ 5K Devotional 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	14 CB DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	15
16 10 ⁰⁰ Worship 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	17 1 ³⁰ Compassionate Brattleboro	18 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 1 ³⁰ Quilting Club 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council	19 8 ⁴⁵ Staff Meeting	20 10 ⁰⁰ Chapel Devotional 4 ⁰⁰ 5K Devotional 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	21 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	22
23 10 ⁰⁰ Worship 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	24 2 ⁰⁰ BCC Graduation	25 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 1 ³⁰ Quilting Club	26 MAIL CB 8 ⁴⁵ Staff Meeting	27 10 ⁰⁰ Chapel Devotional 4 ⁰⁰ 5K Devotional 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	28 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	29
30 10 ⁰⁰ Union Service - Centre Church 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Team	31					

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).

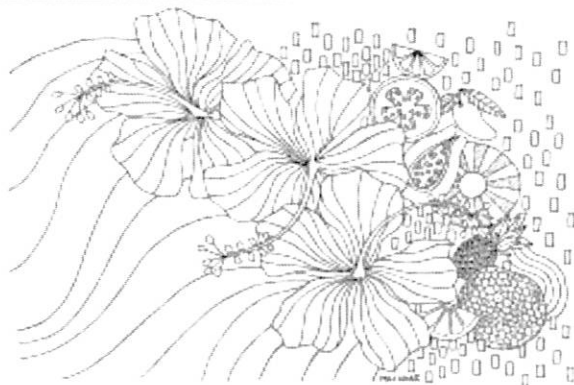
The ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAM MEETING

has been scheduled for
Sunday, September 13, 2020

at 11:30am after worship (if in the sanctuary)
or at 12:00pm if worship is still being
celebrated on ZOOM.

It is TBD whether the meeting can be held in the
sanctuary or on the front lawn of the church.

All Board and Committee reports are to be
completed and received in the church office by
Friday, August 21, 2020.



AUGUST LECTIONARY TEXTS

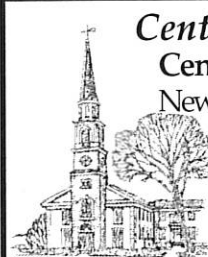
Sunday, August 2, 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Gen 32:22-31 and Ps 17:1-7, 15; Isa 55:1-5 and
Ps 145:8-9, 14-21; Rom 9:1-5; **Matt 14:13-21**

Sunday, August 9, 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 and Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b;
1 Kings 19:9-18 and Ps 85:8-13; Rom 10:5-15;
Matt 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16, 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Gen 45:1-15 and Ps 133; Isa 56:1, 6-8 and Ps 67;
Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

Sunday, August 23, 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 1:8-2:10 and Ps 124; Isa 51:1-6 and Ps 138;
Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30, 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 3:1-15 and Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Jer 15:15-21
and Ps 26; 1-8; **Rom 12:9-21**; Matt 16:21-28



Centre Bells is published monthly by
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News items, articles, address changes, and
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