

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301
Celebrating 200 years in the heart of Brattleboro!

Office Hours: M - F: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Church Office: (802) 254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

Facebook: Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro

Current news and information in the larger UCC Community:

VT Conference: www.vtcucc.org / National: www.ucc.org

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Rev. Bert Marshall: revbert@centrechurchvt.org

Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org

Ernest May

Gary and Paul Smith

Bruce Landenberger: bruce@centrechurchvt.org

William McCarty / Matt Kennedy

Rennie Washburn / Constance Bresnahan

Interim Minister

Financial Secretary

Music Director

Assisting the Music Director

Sexton s

Church Administrator

Council Chair / Vice-Chair

Treasurer / Clerk

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN, Rev. Bert Marshall

Resurrection in Your Guts

I'm looking for this thing they call "resurrection". I'm trying to discover what it means. And if I discover what it means, then I want to know what difference it makes to know that. I'm interested in Jesus' resurrection as it's reported by the gospel writers and by Paul. The reports are quite different. They raise more questions than they answer. Paul, in the earliest known written account, insists upon resurrection to a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15); if that's the case, what happened to Jesus' real body? The gospels, on the other hand, can't make up their minds, but in some instances they insist on a bodily Jesus appearing to his disciples; if that's the case, how does he suddenly materialize in locked rooms and vanish from their sight?

It makes me wonder. What was it, exactly, that his followers experienced? In what sense did they see or experience him alive? Since they didn't recognize him at first, what convinced them that it was actually him? Why does Mark's Gospel end without any accounts of resurrection "appearances", and why do the other three gospels portray the resurrection of Jesus as having so little effect among those who encountered him? What are they assuming on the part of their first listeners; i.e. what do they know that we don't know? Only Luke continues the story, and at the beginning of Part 2 (The Acts of the Apostles) the disciples are still huddled in fear in Jerusalem, small in number and seemingly without purpose or motivation, until the fire of the Spirit comes along at Pentecost. Why wasn't resurrection enough?

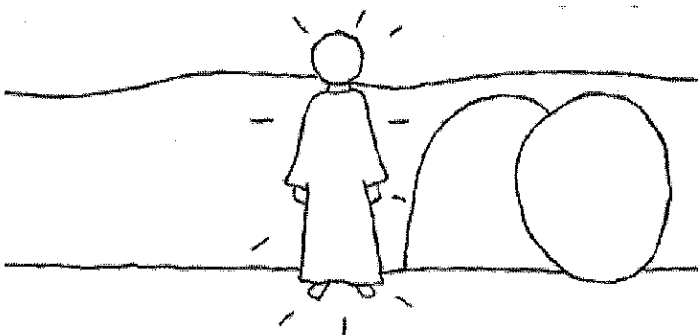
The history and witness of Christianity is that *something* happened -- something extraordinary -- that propelled that small band of believers out into the streets and into the world. Our scriptures, however, do not tell us the whole story. They tell us what was being widely proclaimed at the time they were written down in the latter half of the first century. Stuff had already been happening for several decades, and that was long enough for numerous diverse traditions about Jesus to arise and circulate. Some of these were deemed heresies by the leaders of the early movement, some were accepted as authentic, some have been debated for centuries, and many were lost until the spectacular archaeological discoveries at Nag Hammadi in Egypt, in 1947.

Some of the Jesus traditions emphasize resurrection, others focus more on his suffering and death, still others are concerned primarily with his teachings or his radical ideas about God's realm. We might wonder, though, how far Christianity would have advanced in the ancient world *without* the accounts of Jesus' resurrection. Or how well it would hold up today.

All the accounts taken together seem to suggest that resurrection is something more than simply life after death. It has something to do with transformation, an entry into a new form of existence, or perhaps a return to a former way of being. And it has to do with being newly-recognized as the one formerly known and now transformed. Jesus' own resurrection depended for its completion upon his being recognized (*re-recognized*) by those who knew him before.

I don't know what they saw. I believe that if they had taken the time to think through this clearly, to weigh all the evidence, there would be no such thing as Christianity today, no gospels, no church, no Jesus movement. The story is beyond rational knowledge. It defies logic. The early disciples must have had it in their guts, even more than in their minds. Resurrection deep down in their guts to stand up and proclaim God's liberation from oppression, intimidation, fear and death.

A little resurrection in the gut. Some fiery Spirit burning in your head. A crust of bread and a cup of wine. Imagine what a church community could do with that!



CENTRE BELLS The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
May 2016

From Council Chair, BILL McCARTY

Spring is here - sporadically! But change is sporadic in all seasons, as well as at Centre Church. Council is working on many projects. Some will become finalized and become part of our routine, others will not. But we do change and I do believe we are changing for the best.

Our Annual Program meeting is set for Sunday, 22 May, directly after Sunday Service. And immediately after the Annual Program we will proceed to Hallelujah Farm to enjoy a lunch and church "retreat" or "information gathering" to revitalize our church and seek new ideas.

New officers and Council members will be installed after the program meeting and they will be leading Centre Church for the next 2 years term. There are still vacancies on Council and for the various Boards. Please join a Board and contribute your expertise to Centre Church. Everyone has some expertise and experiences for the better good! Please help us fill these vacancies.

Of the most interest and importance is the new Settled Pastor Search Committee. Most members have been selected so as to be presented to the church members for selection. By the time this appears in Centre Bells, all will have been announced. Please assist them and wish them well on their task of selecting a Settled Pastor. It's a most important task for CCC and all of us.

Council is reviewing and entertaining the possibility of a new method of contributing to Centre Church; an alternative to the "collection plates". It is called "e-giving." It seems to be a logical extension of the way we do our business today; the internet, the Web, and electronic banking. More information will be forthcoming.

The kitchen area is due for a make over. The Sacred Places Committee and Building & Grounds are working on a new plan for the renovations. An engineer has been retained and new plans and layout are being prepared.

As is obvious from the above, many things are happening here at CCC and there is still much to do. However, our most important task, or need, is to serve God and each other. It is important to remember why we are here at Centre Church!

See you all Sunday!

-Bill McCarty, *Council Chair*

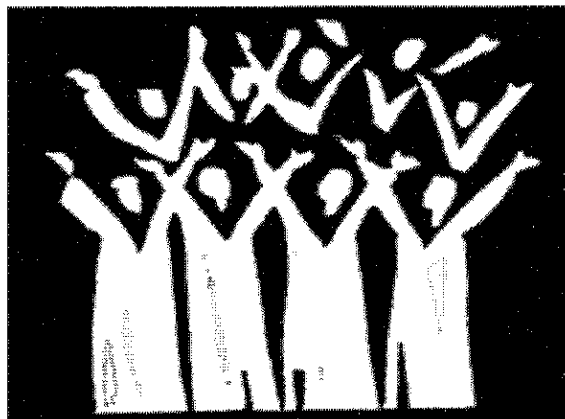
From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

So as I write this message for the May Centre Bells, we are approaching the upcoming Cabaret, but as you read this, it will have come and gone! Strange thing about newsletters.....Hopefully, a good time was had by all. Thanks go to all members of the Music Committee for the work that was done to organize, prepare and present the luncheon/Cabaret. Also, thanks go to the many folks who volunteered to help with food, set up, clean up, and entertainment. Special thanks go to the Abells for the use of their sound system even though they couldn't be at the event!

The month of May brings to a close the "choir season" at Centre Church which runs from September through May. The choir has sung during every Sunday service except for one two days after Christmas. They also sang on Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday. This dedicated group deserves thanks as they spend many hours during the year preparing and presenting music for worship. Please be sure to thank a choir member when you get a chance!

Summer music will begin in June and run through August. In order to have special music for each service, both instrumental and voca, we need volunteers. Please see me or a member of the Music Committee if you would like to participate in some way during the summer. I'm happy to rehearse with folks and we welcome a variety of styles/genres of music. We will also likely have a couple of Sundays with a "pick up" choir so that might be just the thing for you!!

Finally, I hope you have noticed that all of the music for each Sunday service has been listed in the bulletins.....titles and composers! I always like to know what I'm hearing and who wrote it, so I'm hoping that's true for you all too! Happy May!





CHURCH LIFE

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT!...

The Pastoral Relations Committee and Rev. Bert enthusiastically invite you to a church retreat at Hallelujah Farm in Chesterfield, NH, on the afternoon of **Sunday, May 22**. After worship and the annual program meeting at the church, all who are interested can come on over for a time of reflection and prayer, scripture and song, conversation and movement, visioning and mutual encouragement. We will begin with a light lunch as soon as everyone arrives, and end with communion, departing for home by 6:00pm. Our theme for the afternoon is *An Afternoon at Hallelujah Farm: Imagining for the Future, Not Rehearsing the Past*. We envision this event as another important step in Centre Church's transitional period. Please plan to be there! Hallelujah Farm is located at 48 Bradley Road, Chesterfield, NH 03443.

--Lisa Keller, Kathryn Kindopp, Joanne MacLean, and Don Webster.

BOARD of DEACONS

The Board of Deacons is looking for more Deacons. We need three more people to help us with our responsibilities. If you are interested in becoming a Deacon, please contact

Carlene McCarty: 257-1440 / vtbooklady@gmail.com or
 Deb Brown: 365-7071 / dmcbrown@svcable.net

The Annual Program Meeting is on **May 22** directly following church. We will leave directly from church to Hallelujah Farm. Sandy & Roger Daley will lead us in a retreat and provide lunch. We can car pool to this event which will end at 6:00.

-Carlene McCarty

BROWN BAG LUNCH...

The first meeting of the Brown Bag Lunch gang was on April 6, and 15 individuals munched away as they got to know each other in a way they had not experienced before. Everyone shared ideas and then wrote them down as the basis for future lunch time meetings. The noon hour ended with backrubs and hugs and a general feeling of good will. It was a lighthearted and fun time and it seemed important to do this again. The next meeting of the group will be **Wednesday, May 4**, at noon in the church parlor. Come when you can and get to know your fellow parishioners better.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!...

Can you help us bake for and/or sell coffee, snacks, t-shirts, and history books on the Centre Church lawn at the Strolling of the Heifers parade on Saturday, June 4th? If so, please let Judy Palmer, Marion Abell, or Anne Doesburg know. Proceeds will be split between the Centre for Children and the church's General Fund. (Thanks to the Balls' foresight in loaning their canopy in case of rain!)

ORDER This Jewel on Main Street

The history of Centre Congregational Church published for our bicentennial year, is available for sale every Sunday during coffee hour. For those who do not intend to be in the area and wish to buy a copy of this remarkable book, you may purchase it by sending a check for \$20.00 to cover the book and shipping, made out to Centre Church. Please send your orders to:

Marion Daley
PO Box 445
Putney VT 05346

Dot Vander Meulen will be happy to autograph the book before they are packed and mailed to you

Additional Bicentennial events planned for the rest of the year include:

- hosting the August 28th summer Union Service on The Brattleboro Town Common and/or our sanctuary, featuring nineteenth century elements and dress
- a late September Weekend Gala featuring a contra dance and ice cream social on Saturday evening Sept. 24
- a Kurn Hattin chorus at our Sunday Sept. 25 service followed by a front lawn barbecue
- a Fall performance of The Bread and Puppet Theater in our sanctuary (date TBD)
- an October 15th Leaf Peeper Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction featuring quilts made by Anne Doesburg
- an after-church talk on Church Architecture with noted VT expert Glen Andres and light lunch on Sunday Oct. 23
- a November performance of Gould & Stearns' "A Peasant of El Salvador," in conjunction with a Central American dinner in Memorial Hall

We hope that you will participate in these festive Bicentennial celebrations and invite friends and past church members, as well! All are welcome.

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The church school year is winding down; June 12 will be Youth Sunday, during which we will recognize and thank the many volunteers and children who have helped the Christian Education in Centre Church grow this past year. There will be no Sunday School or Faith in Action for the summer, but the ages of the nursery care will be expanded to accommodate families whose children may not be comfortable in worship for the entire service. Sunday School and Faith in Action will continue throughout May and into the first two weeks of June, with our thanks for everyone who has contributed time and energy!

We also want to thank the many members who joined us for our informational potluck on April 10. We feel it was a great success and look forward to working with all who offered to help in the future. Thank you! God bless.

ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

BOOK STUDY: an adult group book study currently reading *Rumi: The Life and Work of the Great Sufi Poet* by Annemarie Schimmel.
Sunday mornings, 9:00-10:00AM

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: Led by the Rev. Sandy Daly, a group of adults gather in Chesterfield, NH at Hallelujah Farm to discuss how and where God is moving in our lives and what we are being called to be and do. Directions to Hallelujah Farm are in the church office.
Fourth Monday of each Month, 7:00-8:30PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT CENTRE CHURCH

Sunday School: every Sunday from 9:00 - 9:45 for ages 4+.

Faith in Action: during the worship service every Sunday except Communion Sunday, the 1st Sunday of the month for ages 5+.

Nursery Care: every Sunday during Sunday School and Worship for ages 0-5.



WOMEN'S SPIRIT...

This group of 8 women is nearing the end of reading and sharing Marcus Borg's last book, *Convictions*, and will be planning the next adventure in their own and other's experiences in life. The group meets weekly at 4:30 in the library and is open to anyone who would like to drop in and join the experience.



BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

This is the month of our Annual Program Meeting on May 22. We're going to do something different this year. Following the meeting in the sanctuary there will be an All Church Retreat that afternoon at Hallelujah Farm in NH.

Another all church event is the picnic in the park on June 12. That will follow the morning worship which will be centered around the children's Christian Ed. The Kiwanis shelter has been reserved for Centre Church and the rental fee paid. The information about the time and what to bring will be in the June issue of Centre Bells

As we approach the end of the program year, I will be writing a summary of Member Care activities for 2015-16. In that report I will also write of our appreciation to Lynn Herzog who has been our faithful liaison officer for an unknown number of years. She has rarely missed a meeting and has added her time in helping us carry out our many responsibilities---plus being there at Council meeting every month to bring our concerns there.

As of this writing most of the members of this board have agreed to stay on for another year. Joy Everett has switched to be on the Deacons. That hard working group of people definitely needs more members to fulfill all their responsibilities. There was discussion at our last meeting as to how we could help the Deacons.

Ann Doesburg, ever active on the fund Raising Committee has been asked to be on Member Care on a part time basis. This is a board that cannot predict how busy we will be. There are still many needs that we cannot fill.

BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE

You may remember that it is our intention to split the April Special Offerings between Star Island (off Portsmouth, NH) campers and the Nell Sather Summer Camp scholarships. The former is for interested Centre Church youth but we'd like to also open this support to whole Centre Church FAMILIES who wish to attend together. Star Island family camps, with activities for all ages, will be held this year on July 30-Aug. 6 and Aug. 6-13. Star Island information and registration is available at www.starisland.org. Please let Priscilla Svec know if you are interested: 387-2373 / psvec48@yahoo.com

The May Special Offerings are for our local Boys & Girls Club and the Brattleboro Summer Lunch Program, which helps needy local children.

Thanks to all who provided food for or worked at Centre Church's last-of-the-season Overflow Shelter dinner on Sunday, April 17th and also to those who came to our Saturday, April 23rd Brunch for Guatemalan missionary Gloria Vicente.

Generous Centre Church goers donated \$1,244 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering in March.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Everyone is invited to the

MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, May 6, 5:30-6:00PM, Centre Church Parlor "SOUNDING COMPASSION" Linda Schneck will demonstrate, with harp and voice, how sound can comfort, enliven, and heal us. In this pilgrimage of life, sound is not a completion but a doorway.

Linda Schneck is a harpist, composer, and educator who lives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, where she also maintains a practice in Music-Thanatology, a sub-specialty in palliative care. She is a gardener and beekeeper with 15 lively honey-bee colonies which offer much inspiration for sounding meditations.



QUILTING MINISTRY

Still Stichin' or Crafty Quilters

On a recent April Thursday I checked my schedule and saw I had a free day. I called Anne Doesburg to see if "all thumbs people" are welcome at the weekly session at Gisela Robeck's home.

"Of course", she said, "Come on down" - and I did.

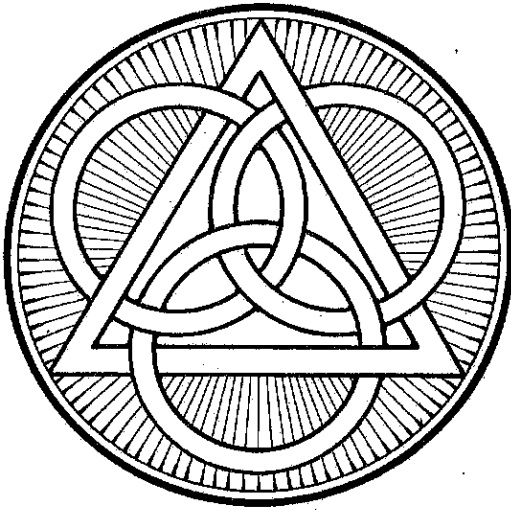
There was Duo Xi, who brought me a cup of tea, and Patty Reardon, who said, "We always eat first." Gisela Robeck, who brought her baking skills with her when she moved to Brattleboro had set a table laden with tea goodies.

After tea and conversation, sewing machines were set up and card tables. While the other started to work, I was invited into Gisela's sewing room. There were boxes piled neatly full of material to be made into quilts, others full of completed patterns, finished baby quilts and some in the making. There were samples of other types of stitching crafts that I had never seen before. It was a feast for the eye of cloth, threads and colors.

They have taken on a project again this year of the queen size quilt to raffle. Anne is making other quilts to have ready for a silent auction at the spaghetti supper this fall.

I'm glad I took up Anne on the invitation. It was a delicious and learning afternoon

-Marion Daley



BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

When Gary and Alice Carrier moved, Brattleboro Centre for Children also lost valued members of our support team. If you were at the recognition fellowship hour in March, you know we have a plaque to honor them to hang on the playground fence. They will be missed. Their departure also leaves an opening on the BCC Board of Directors and we are seeking to fill that opening. If anyone has an interest in serving one of the brightest missions of Centre Church by sitting on our Board of Directors, please call Bob Neubauer, president, or Nan Mann, Director. Thanks for thinking about it!

We are also seeking to make improvements to the playground space and would welcome input on our committee from church members. If you have an interest in that, please let Nan know.

One of the exciting possibilities is the installation of a couple large structures that would add imagination and developmentally appropriate play challenges on both sides: a ship (we are thinking it could be called the BCC Friend Ship) and a train. These weather-resistant, wooden structures are built by a company in White River Junction who will build and install them in our space. They are beautiful but cost more than our budget allows. Therefore, we are seeking donors to help us in this effort. If anyone has any leads for us in that direction, please, please please! Send that information to Nan. (Donors of a significant sum may get their name on the ship as SS (donor's name) or on the train.

We are looking forward to our summer program, and welcoming new families that have joined our classes. We recently promoted a teacher from assistant to lead and the fact that we can do that shows the dedication and professionalism of our staff. Please feel free to come visit Nan in the office for a tour anytime.

PEOPLE



A word of good cheer would be warmly received by church members and friends who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, or housebound as of April 25th.

JEANNE RUETER

Thompson House, 80 Maple St.,
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-4977

NANCY CLARKE

Holton Home, 158 Western Ave.,
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-5005

WANDA GODFREY

Vernon Hall, 13 Greenway Dr.,
Vernon, VT 05354 254-2444

PHYLLIS HICKOK

1520 Little Blue Stem Ct.
Ames, IA 50014 (515) 292-9196

ROBERT & JANE REED

461 Grafton Rd., #201
Townshend, VT 05350 (802) 221-4213

MARJORIE SPRAGUE

Nason Center, Room 221
Breckenridge Village, 36859 Ridge Road
Willoughby Ohio 44094 (440) 497-5208

DON STOCKWELL

Vernon Green, 61 Greenway Dr.,
Vernon, VT 05354 254-6041

Please let Bruce know if we've missed someone

New Contact Information

Alice & Gary Carrier

236 Shaker Boulevard, Enfield, NH 03478
603.632.7568



New Members of Centre Church



James Cera

190 Oak Grove Ave.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
413.336.7788 / jmcera@msn.com

Mary Robertson

25 Homestead Pl.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
maryrobertson60@gmail.com

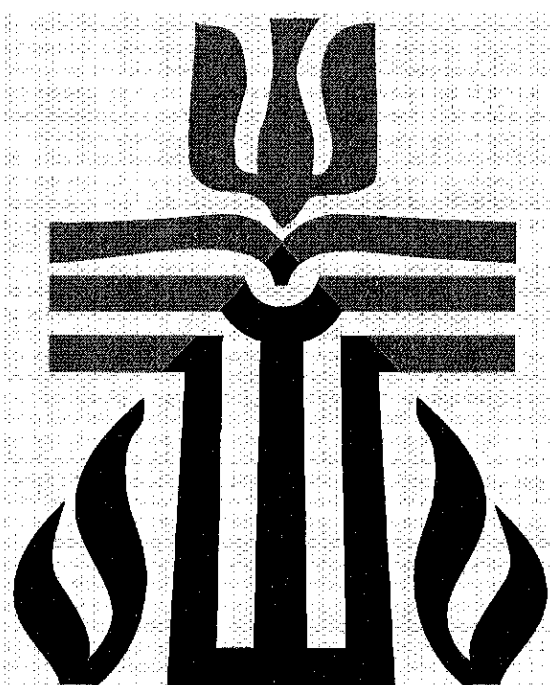
Sandy & Roger Daly

PO Box 189 / 48 Bradley Rd.,
Chesterfield, NH 03443
603.256.8682
sandy.daly13@gmail.com
roger.daly13@gmail.com

MAY 2016

*Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	2 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	3 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ⁰⁰ BWC Rehearsal 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	4 12 ⁰⁰ Luncheon Group	5 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	6 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	7 9 ⁰⁰ SEVIA 9 ⁰⁰ -11 ⁰⁰ Jumble Sale receiving
8 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Music Committee 3 ⁰⁰ BWC Concert 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	9 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	10 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	11 6 ¹⁵ Race Dialogue 7 ⁰⁰ BCC Rehearsal	12 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ BCC Rehearsal 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	13 <i>CENTRE BELLS DEADLINE</i> 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	14 9 ⁰⁰ -11 ⁰⁰ Jumble Sale receiving 7 ³⁰ Brattleboro Concert Choir
15 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 3 ⁰⁰ Brattleboro Concert Choir 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	16 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	17 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	18 12 ⁰⁰ BAIL 6 ³⁰ Church Council	19 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	20 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 5 ⁰⁰ -7 ⁰⁰ Jumble Sale	21 8 ⁰⁰ -1 ⁰⁰ Jumble Sale
22 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Annual Prog. Mtg 1 ⁰⁰ Retreat 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	23 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	24 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	25 <i>MAIL CENTRE BELLS</i>	26 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	28
29 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	30 <i>MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED</i>	31 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting				



BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Bruce Landenberger
- 11 Bernadette Mo Meyer
- 16 Dawn Grobe
Karen Rydant
Jackson Grobe
- 18 Arthur Freeman
- 20 Frances Burrows
- 21 Anne Brinton
- 26 Albert Rydant

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Marlene & Peter Jameson
- 20 Carol & Fred Edmonds
- 30 Alison Hale & Christopher Chapman
Carra & John McFadden



Centre Bells is published monthly by
Centre Congregational Church, UCC
 News items and articles, address changes, or requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list should be submitted to the church administrator at:
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