

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](https://www.facebook.com/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

Interim Minister
Financial Secretary
Music Director
Sextons
Administrative Assistant

Rev. Bert Marshall: revbert@centrechurchvt.org
Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org
Mary Milkey-May: music@centrechurchvt.org
Gary and Paul Smith
Hilary Farquhar: hilary@centrechurchvt.org

Council Chair
Treasurer / Clerk

Matt Kennedy
Holly Kennedy / Constance Bresnahan



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

NOVEMBER 2016

*Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

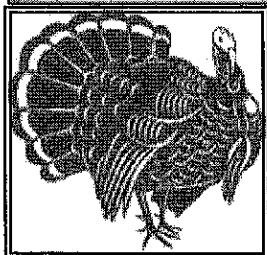
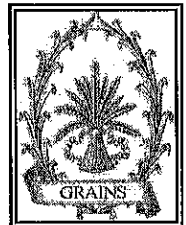
SATURDAY

		1 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting ***Rev. Bert on vacation this week	2 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	3 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	4 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ BMC Concert	5
6 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	7 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	9 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night	10 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	11 <u>Centre Bells Deadline</u> 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ BMC Concert	12 2 ⁰⁰ Burial Service for Marjorie Sprague
13 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship * 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	14 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	15 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	16 12 ⁰⁰ BALL	17 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	18 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	19
20 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 4 ⁰⁰ BWC Concert 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	21 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	22 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23 <u>Mail Centre Bells</u>	24 Thanksgiving 6 ⁰⁰ All-day Alcahthon	25 Office closed	26
27 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study/ Sunday School 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	28 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	29 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	30			



BIRTHDAYS

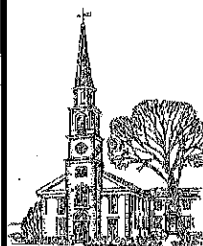
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|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Marty Fenn | 13 David Henry |
| Michael Mario | Stephanie Brown |
| 2 Judy Palmer | 16 Virginia Knuebel |
| 3 Joanne Clark | 30 Jonathan Secrest |
| 5 Fred Edmonds | |



ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Sylvia & Milton Eaton
- 10 Anne & Steve Fecto
- 13 Roger & Sandy Daly
- 27 Bob & Sen Pu
- 29 Mo & Jeffrey Meyer

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 administrative assistant at:
802-254-4730/
centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

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 October 26.

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 05353 (802)221-4213

KAREN PETER

Langdon Place, 136 Arch Street, Room 152
Keene, NH 03431 (603)357-3902

Please let Hilary know if we've missed someone.

Groundworks Collaborative is currently seeking a Coordinator for the Seasonal Overflow Shelter, which is a part-time, temporary position that will run from November 2016 to April 2017. Please go to Groundwork's website for a complete job description and application (www.groundworksvt.org) or call (802) 257-5415 for more information..

SAVE THE DATE! Your Pastoral Relations Team, in collaboration with Rev. Bert, is organizing a second Church Retreat for Sunday afternoon, December 11, Noon - 4:00, at Hallelujah Farm in West Chesterfield, NH. We will gather again to worship, sing, learn, and pray in those beautiful spaces at the farm - this time in the cold of winter as Advent leads us closer to the light. Lunch provided. Please plan to be there!

PASTORAL RELATIONS

The Pastoral Relations committee will be meeting *Tuesday, November 8*, at 5:00 p.m. If you have any concerns or observations about the church, please inform the pastor, Joanne MacLean, Lisa Keller or Kathryn Kindopp before that date.

WOMEN'S SPIRIT...



Women's Spirit, which meets each Thursday afternoon at 4:30 in the church library, has begun working with the new book *TRIBE* (on homecoming and belonging) by Sebastian Junger. The group is open to anyone who would like to share in reading and discussing their own ideas. Opinions

BROWN BAG GROUP

Next get-together is Wednesday, November 2, at noon at the church. Everyone is welcome to bring their brown bag for an hour of conversation, sometimes group singing, and general sharing of the crazy and sometime hilarious lives we live. Beverage will be provided.

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:

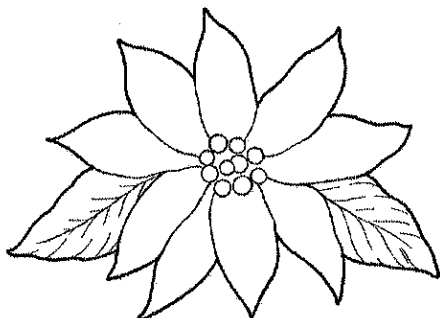
Marion Daley
PO Box 445
Putney, VT 05346

Dot Vander Meulen will be happy to autograph the book before it is packed and mailed to you.

**ORDER 2016
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to give one or more poinsettias for Christmas, please fill out the form below for each plant ordered and return to the church office with your check made payable to: *Centre Church* by Sunday, December 4, addressed to:
193 Main Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

The plants will decorate the sanctuary from December 18th to the 24th. You are invited to take yours after Christmas Eve Service.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Circle one:

IN HONOR / MEMORY / CELEBRATION OF /
THANKSGIVING FOR

\$14.00 _____

Donation toward other decorations _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Circle one:

IN HONOR / MEMORY / CELEBRATION OF /
THANKSGIVING FOR

\$14.00 _____

Donation toward other decorations _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

**Centre Church
Progressive Dinner**

Saturday, November 12, 2016

5:30 PM 1st house—appetizer

Host: Margo Neale,

125 Wantastiquet Dr., Brattleboro

6:30 PM 2nd house—Main Course

Hosts: Carlene and Bill McCarty

43 Chestnut Hill, Brattleboro

7:30 PM 3rd house—Dessert

Hosts: Lisa Keller and Jim Bedard

186 Maple St., Brattleboro

Come Join the Fun

Tickets are \$30.00 by Advance Sale Only

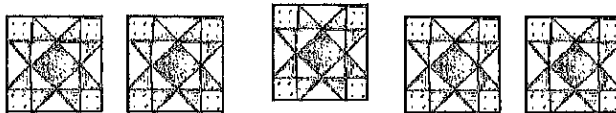


Available from Dart Everett, Carlene
McCarty, or Meg Harriman

*Proceeds go to
Centre Church General Fund*

RAFFLE QUILT

Full-size (83"x97")



*Drawing held December 3, 2016, at Craft Fair
Tickets \$2 each; 6 for \$10; available at church
office.*

100% cotton fabric & batting donated by Alice Carrier
Machine-pieced by Centre Church Quilt Club
Quilted by Anne Doesburg
Care: Machine wash warm; no bleach; gentle dry.

BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

The classes in Brattleboro Centre for Children have been welcoming fall, each in their own way. In case you don't know, we have 4 classrooms, with young children from a few months old to age five. The youngest have been painting with autumnal colors. The one to two year olds have been taking walks through town and talking about harvest flowers that they see. The toddlers have been making collages and feeling dried leaves in their sensory table. The preschoolers have been talking about the changes in weather, why leaves turn color, why it gets dark early and gathering leaves in different stages of color.

On Monday, October 31, we celebrated Pajama Day, an annual event where we dress all day in our favorite pajamas (yes, even the teachers!). For that day, we had a special lullaby All-School Sing, cuddled with our blankets and stuffed animals, read bedtime stories and had lots of quiet time. We find that Pajama Day takes away some of the focus of the energy that Halloween brings to youngsters and gives us something as a whole center to enjoy together.



In October we also said good-bye to **Bob Neubauer** as our Board President. He has been a visionary leader for BCC for many years and his presence and insights will be greatly missed. We are pleased to welcome **James Cera** as our new Board President and look forward to working with him for a long time to come.

Nan Mann, Executive Director



To give thanks in solitude is enough. Thanksgiving has wings and goes where it must go. Your prayer knows much more about it than you do. ~*Victor Hugo*

The **BOARD OF DEACONS** met last night and discussed coverage of Rev. Bert Marshall's vacation in October and November. For the October 30th service, Matt Wollam-Berens will be our guest speaker.

The November 6 service will be laity and Kathryn Kinnopp will bring the message to Centre Church.

We will join in Communion on the second Sunday, November 13. This is also the beginning of Stewardship.

Bill McCarty will be the Deacon in charge of Marjorie Sprague's funeral on Saturday, November 12. She was a long-time member of our church.

The Deacons are planning the October 30th All Saints Day service, with Julie Ball ringing the bell as the name of each individual who died this year is read.

Carlene McCarty will be the November Deacon of the Month.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Everyone is invited to the

MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, November 4, 5:30-6:00PM
Centre Church Parlor

In keeping with our 2016 theme on "Pilgrimage," this month the meditation, "The Seasons of Pilgrimage in Frost's Poetry," will be lead by John Elder, who has been a nature writer and a teacher of English and Environmental Studies at Middlebury College before retiring in 2010. He and his wife, Rita, live in the village of Bristol and operate a sugarbush in the hills of Starksboro with the families of their sons.

I end not far from my going forth
By picking the faded blue
Of the last remaining aster flower
To carry again to you. *R. Frost*

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting of 5 months! Wow! We all agreed that is a long time and we would love to be ready to share a completed Church Profile with you all this Sunday, but that is not the case. We do appreciate everyone who shared our Soup and Survey Sunday in October. We had many wonderful ideas and input for our Church Profile. Thank You All! Those of you that were not able to stay and work in our small groups that Sunday, yet took home a survey, completed AND returned it. . . Thank You Too! We tried to get the survey available to you electronically too!

Our thanks goes out to Bert for all his support and direction in our start up. He has not been with us for the past few meets as he did such a great job supporting our start. We may have some questions in the future, but we have been flying high, often straight and on our own for some time now. Thank you BERT!

For the next few weeks we will gather and input your survey results. It took us some time to get them to all the committees; thank you for your patience. We are not all as talented as Tony! We are pulling together another short survey and maybe it will reach you before this writing does! This information is also needed for the survey ... just some stats on who we are.

As the Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet, twice most months, we grow stronger, more effective and better Christian friends. It is not always easy to make the meeting, some of us are often traveling ... Judy. :-) We have learned a lot about each other and our church. Gifts we only heard about and now are living. Lisa was right again, Jim...

The Pastoral Search Committee is supporting our church with Coffee Hour during November. Please share the time with us and touch base on how we and you are doing. We feel it is important to keep talking to EVERYONE to create our Centre Church Profile. **Anne Fecto**

CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
Centre Congregational Church, UCC
November 2016

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello at Centre Church!

Christian Education is always evolving and changing to meet the needs of the kids, families, and volunteers who are involved. Thank you to all who do so much to keep our kids engaged in our church life—those who do the Children's Time and volunteer during Faith in Action, to our nursery staff who are caring and consistent, and to the many adults who take the time to greet the children every Sunday. Our children really benefit from all of this special attention and the relationships they form outside of their immediate family.

This year's children's program has gotten off to a good start. Twice a month the children are with Abi Healey for Faith in Action. We've been starting the hour with a Bible verse and song that we share with the nursery children, and then the older children get involved in an activity. Right now the children are focused on the theme of inclusion and kindness. We aim to create a social-justice curriculum that will challenge the kids to think about their place in the world in relation to justice, peace and their powerful ability to stand up for what's right and good.

Twice a month the children will be in the worship service for "Participation Sunday." Watch for our children taking on leadership roles in the service by greeting, acolyting and helping with the offering. When there is a fifth Sunday, the children will be part of a cooking group that will prepare food for Loaves and Fishes or the Overflow Shelter.

And finally, our littlest children (ages 0 to 5) are with Kate Maisner and Haley Marcil in the nursery. We are in need of a third person who can help out when they are unavailable, if you know of anyone who might be interested in this paid position.

As always, we'd love your input and feedback. If there is a special project you are interested in doing with the children, or just want to spend time with them some Sunday, please let one of us know.

From your CE board

Abi Healey, James Cera, and Logan Lefebvre

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN Rev. Bert Marshall

Blues Like Gospel Like Jazz

Last year at this time I shared the following excerpt from a book called *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality* by Donald Miller. You might remember it. The author begins with this note (a portion of which I included in last Sunday's sermon):

"I never liked jazz music because jazz music doesn't resolve. But I was outside the Bagdad Theater in Portland one night when I saw a man playing the saxophone. I stood there for fifteen minutes, and he never opened his eyes. After that I liked jazz music. Sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself. It is as if they are showing you the way."

Miller then offers his free-form reflections on God, faith, redemption, grace, church, belief, change, worship, love . . . and money. I want to share with you an excerpt from his reflections on money.

Miller is writing about a friend named Curt who "gave me a lecture about tithing not very long ago." Curt is not a church sort of a guy; he goes but he doesn't like it much. Curt works at a cabinet shop, and when he deposited his paychecks he would pull out 10% and put the cash in a big jar on his dresser. Miller estimated that the jar contained a couple thousand dollars on this particular occasion. Curt was complaining one day that he couldn't afford to buy a new motorcycle. Miller told him to use the money in the jar. Curt replied,

"Can't."

"Why?"

"Isn't mine, Miller . . . it's God's."

"God's?" I (Miller) shouted.

"Yeah, that's my tithel!" Curt shouted back.

Curt continued: "You are missing out. I've been tithing since I was a kid. Wouldn't miss a payment to save my life. Don, let me tell you. You should be tithing. That is not your money. That is God's money. You ought to be ashamed of yourself. Stealing from God and all."

Curt went down about two weeks later and turned all his money in to a church secretary. More than three thousand dollars.

Miller then confesses to a friend in his church that he

hasn't been giving any money to the church. The friend, Rick, asks him why. Miller replies that everything he has goes to rent and groceries. "Does that make me exempt?"

Rick says, "Nope. We want your cash. How much do you make?"

"About a thousand a month, maybe."

"Then we want a hundred."

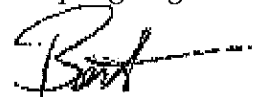
"But I need money for rent."

"You also need to trust God. By setting aside money from every check, you are trusting God to provide. There are times when my wife and I don't have enough money to cover bills, but we know the first bill – the first payment we make – is to the church. That is most important. It works out. We're getting good at trusting God."

The next week Miller emptied his checking account – about \$8.00 – and gave it to the church. He gave 10% of his next check. Since that conversation with Rick, Miller writes that he has given at least 10% of every dollar he makes. And he has never not had the rent. Not only that, suddenly he has money to spare. And the best part, he says, is what tithing has done for his relationship with God."

In last year's article, I asked: "If someone could watch each of us give to our church, what would they see? Would they see the *love*? Would they see you *loving* your church? *Loving* your relationship with God? Would they be watching someone play a sax with eyes closed?" I concluded by saying, "Our financial situation has nothing to do with our relative wealth, our income, or our membership numbers. It has *everything* to do with the size of our heart and the depth of our love. We need only to stand on the street and play our music like we really mean it. All of us. That's what I'm talking about."

Thinking about stewardship this year, I decided I couldn't say this better than the way I said it last year. And we've had a good year! Friends, let's keep playing our music like we really mean it, finding new levels of generosity, living our faith from the heart, giving out of the abundance that God has given us – with joy and passion! We have so much to be thankful for – let's keep it going!



From Council Chair, MATT KENNEDY:

Every month I find myself having to sit down and write my piece for the upcoming month's Centre Bells before the previous month is half over. I often feel like a late night host whose show is taped in the morning or early afternoon but doesn't air until very late in the evening (sorry if I spoiled the magic for anyone), but yet knows that there is a big event happening between their show's taping and airing. This was especially true this month as at the time of my writing this we are about to wrap up our year-long Bicentennial celebration with a Historical Worship Celebration, complete with period clothing, music, sermon, and food. I want to take a moment to thank everyone on the Bicentennial Committee, and in particular the co-chairs Judith Palmer and Dart Everett, for all their hard work in making everything happen. Thank you all!

As we finish looking to and celebrating our past we most appropriately turn our attention this month to two key aspects of our church's future: welcoming new members and stewardship. Both of these things are equally vital to enabling Centre Church to continue for the next 200 years. The membership of any church is constantly ebbing and flowing, and as some members move on to new lives that take them away from Centre or to life everlasting, we simultaneously welcome new members into the Centre family. It is in finding the balance between this mix of the warm, familiar traditions and the breath of new ideas that keeps us moving forward, and growing as a church community. But a church cannot sustain itself and carry out its mission in the community on human resources alone. It is with this in mind that this month we begin our annual stewardship campaign. I ask everyone to look into their hearts, pray to God for guidance, and ask themselves what they can do to support Centre Church. Although none of us will be around to see the church's Quadricentennial, we can certainly do our part to start off the next 200 years as strong as ever. But don't pray too long, as Advent is just around the corner, and you certainly don't want to miss the holiness and pageantry of the season.

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY:

As November approaches, it is hardly imaginable that Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be upon us! It is a good reminder that we will need to start rehearsing seasonal music.

By the time you receive this, the Jazz service and the Bicentennial service will have both come and gone. Though I was away during the Jazz service, I have heard rave reviews. It is always a pleasure to have a variety of music/musicians to take part in worship. The anthem "Old Time Religion" was a new challenge for the choir. We started rehearsing it during our first practice in September in order to have it ready for the Bicentennial Service. Hopefully, it will have been well received.

I will put in my usual plug for extra voices in our choir. We have such a dedicated group of singers and we still would welcome more. How about giving us a try for the Advent season? It is a wonderful group of which to be a part. Go for it!!!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @ CENTRE CHURCH

Sunday School every Sunday from 9:00 to 9:45 for ages 4+; nursery care is provided during this time for ages 0-4.

Faith in Action during the worship service for ages 5+; nursery care provided during the service for ages 0-5.

Every Sunday except Communion Sunday, the 2nd Sunday of the month this November.

November Lectionary Texts:

- 6 Hag 1:15b-2:9•Ps 145:1-5, 17-21 or Ps 98 or Job 19:23-27a•Ps 17:1-9 2•Thess 2:1-5, 13-17•Luke 20:27-38
- 13 Isa 65:17-25•Isa 12 or Mal 4:1-2a•Ps 98• 2 Thess 3:6-13•Luke 21:5-19
- 20 Jer 23:1-6•Luke 1:68-79 or Jer 23:1-6•Ps 46• Col 1:11-20•Luke 23:33-43
- 27 Isa 2:1-5•Ps 122•Rom 13:11-14•Matt 24:36-44