

Minister's Column— Scott Couper

“At Centre Congregational Church, No One Is Disposable”

One of my favorite books is *Life Together (Gemeinsames Leben)* by the martyred German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Fascists of the Third Reich executed Bonhoeffer in the closing days of World War II.

Bonhoeffer's seminal biblical text from which he wrote his book is Psalm 133:1: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is for [people of faith] to dwell together in unity!”

Bonhoeffer articulated eloquently that which I can only crudely: why I love the church, and in particular Centre Congregational Church.

“The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.”

“It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian [brother and sisters].”

“Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. [...] We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.”

Do not be mistaken! The affirmations expressed by Bonhoeffer were not sentimental. He risked and forfeited his life to realize genuine Christian community in a context that butchered, shot, gassed and burned that for which Christ represents.

I must confess, my faith nor intellect are as strong as Bonhoeffer's. Nonetheless, I am deeply thankful when I think of Centre Congregational Church and the gift that I have in serving and worshiping here with all of you.

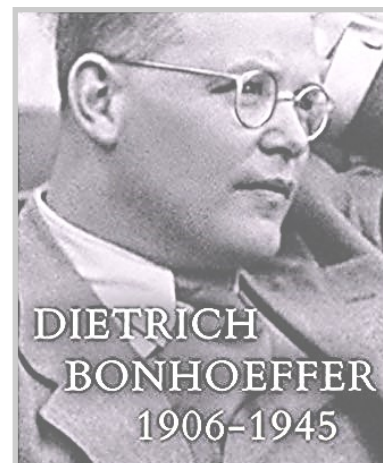
In becoming sentimental and hopefully moving toward greater faith when appreciating Centre Church, I feel compelled to remind you that no one is expendable, *no one is disposable*, in our faith community. What matters is that ‘we belong to one another through and in Jesus Christ!’

I know we all have idiosyncratic personalities. I know we all have our demons. I know we all are wounded. I know we have different agendas and political perspectives. I know that we have sinned against one another. All of that is true. I own that. But, here's the thing: the love of Jesus is greater than all that divides us. If the love of Jesus Christ supersedes all the reasons we should be apart, then we ought to take steps to restore ‘Life Together’ with those who have strayed from our fellowship or from whom we have distanced ourselves though we still worship together.

By taking proactive means to restore one of our own to our community of faith, we testify to ourselves the love that God has for us through Jesus Christ despite the fact that who we often are, how we often behave, and what we often say are not worthy of God's love.

This month, I want you to be able to come to worship with an offering to God. And I ask that the offering be an effort, an attempt, an act of reconciliation and forgiveness that welcomes all into our fellowship and affirms our ‘Life Together’.

Jesus Christ and Dietrich Bonhoeffer died for what we have at Centre Church. Honor their sacrifice by cherishing and restoring our ‘Life Together’. No one is disposable here!



Have you been at Centre Church recently? If not, you are missing something! If you have been here, you know about that which I am talking. A new energy has returned to Centre Congregational Church. You can see and feel it in the people, in the Sunday services, in the smiles and greetings, and in the attendance (an increase in attendance, not only on Sunday morning, but in everything)! Council meetings are dealing with many new programs and issues. Discussions are interesting, constructive and provocative. Many things are being planned, anticipated and include but, are not limited to:

Rev. Scott Couper's installation on 6 October, World Communion Sunday with a guest preacher on 7 October, stewardship drive in October and November, a new finance committee to coordinate our business matters, a revitalization and increase in our commitment to our youth and Christian Education, deacons' welcoming procedure for visitors on Sunday, new personnel, and more activities (mundane and not) that are a necessary part of Centre Church's life.

It is a vibrant and challenging time to be a part of Centre Congregational Church. Get involved, be a part of, and attend a board, committee or Council meetings and activities. Council meetings have seen a three fold increase in attendance. Not only Council of members, but interested Members and Friends of Centre Congregational Church. Everyone participates in the constructive discussions. All are welcome to attend and participate.

The new church year has begun and can be seen on the church calendar: stewardship, Thanksgiving, the Christmas Bazaar, fundraising events, Advent and Christmas seasons. The future will be a time for work, enjoyment and contemplation. Join us in Centre Congregational Church's quests for the coming year. All are invited. All are needed!

Bill McCarty



From Music Director, **MARY MILKEY-MAY**



MUSIC NOTES

Perhaps you have noticed the return of the choir folks filling the loft on Sundays. We are off to a great start again though we are down in size slightly due to various health and family issues. I will continue to invite you to join us. We could really use some more eager singers to fill out our sections.

Many thanks go out to Joanne MacLean for subbing on Labor Day Sunday. She has been graciously willing to fill in for my vacation Sundays and I, along with the rest of the congregation, really appreciate her stepping forward. I know things will be in good hands with Joanne at the keyboard! Children's choir has begun and we hope to be singing in church soon. We will do so as soon as we have our first piece ready. We always welcome new folks so please encourage any other children to join us. The more the merrier.

Lastly, I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to begin work with our new settled pastor, Scott Couper. He's like the energizer bunny in case you haven't noticed!! He brings his passion for the ministry to Centre along with his unending commitment to being present pretty much everywhere. We are very lucky to have such a leader at the helm. Well done, Search Committee!

BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE

The Centre Church calendar is getting full for the month of October! The celebration of long time membership at this church will be held on Sunday October 28th. The records are being checked for people who became members in 1993 and are still members of Centre Church.

The annual observation of Centre Church membership began in the fall of 1995. We have observed it every year since then, calling it Silver Bells Sunday. Albums of previous year's celebrations are kept on the shelves in the parlor. It's nostalgic to look through them and remember many of the people who have since died...or moved to another community.

Marion Daley



CENTRE BELLS

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



BUILDING & GROUNDS

HERE COMES THE CENTRE CHURCH DEPOT

Our church is proud of our sanctuary and parlor. Both areas reflect an inviting warmth and are use by both our congregation and by many other individuals and groups in our community. Other spaces however, in our building complex desperately need cleaning, updating and overall refreshing. Improvements will make our building more appealing and welcoming to visitors and folks who might decide that Centre Church is a well cared for place to which they would like to return.

Didn't your elders preach, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness?"

So, in keeping with the goal of making our spaces cleaner, brighter, and in line with the 21st century, we are on a mission to remove clutter, outdated furnishings, items that are no longer used, are obsolete and/or may be in disrepair. The designated "Depot" area is in a corner of the Riverside Room. Collected items will be placed there, labeled as "free" or noted as a "suggested donation." Any monetary donations will be given to Centre Church. After a reasonable period of time, the items not spoken for will be removed. We hope you will help by offering your suggestions as we move forward.

Building and Grounds Board

de·pot

□dēpō,□depō/□

a place for the storage of large quantities of equipment, food, or some other commodity.

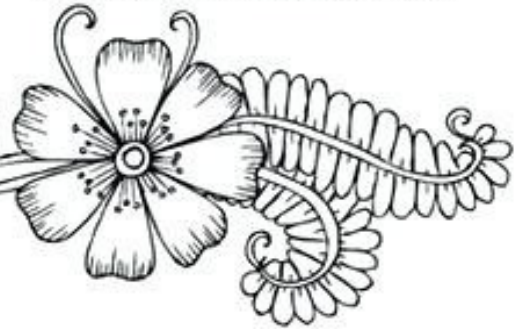


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My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9



THE CHURCH OFFICE

GOALPOSTS STORED FOR THE YOUTH GROUP

BAGS OF OLD CLOTHES KINDLY DONATED BY PARISHIONERS

CHILDREN'S ART PROJECTS (DRYING)

A VARIETY OF TOYS BELONGING TO THE CRECHE

PARISH MAGAZINES WAITING TO BE COLLATED, FOLDED, STAPLED AND DELIVERED

EVERY ROTA THAT THERE IS IN THE CHURCH IN HEAVILY EDITED FORM

POSTCARD FROM THE VICAR (IN THE BAHAMAS)

COMPUTER (EARLY MODEL - SLOW)

PHOTOCOPIER (NOT FUNCTIONING)

EVERY HYMNAL KNOWN TO HUMANKIND

CHAIR FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO STOP AND CHAT DURING BUSY PERIODS

ITEMS OF POST WAITING FOR NUMEROUS PEOPLE

ANSWERPHONE WITH CONTINUALLY FLASHING RED LIGHT

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR/VOLUNTEER/CLERGY MEMBER SHORTLY TO BE INUNDATED WITH GIFTS AND OFFERS OF HELP FROM CHURCH TIMES READERS

BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE



The October Second Sunday Offering will be Neighbors In Need, a UCC-wide offering supporting ministries of Justice and Compassion throughout the United States. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Therefore, most UCC congregations are including the NIN offering in their observances of World Communion Sunday on October 7. In other words, NIN will be a First AND Second Sunday Offering! You may also give on the 3rd and 4th Sundays if you missed the first two. Just use the special NIN envelope, or clearly mark NIN on your check and regular offering envelope.



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

What's Happening at Loaves & Fishes

It is better to give than it is to receive. It is bad to give and not to receive. It is even worse to receive and not to give. But the best of all is at once to give and to receive. Love, the most inspiring and glorious of human emotions, is the simultaneous process of giving and receiving.

~ Rabbi Morris B. Margolies, *Torah-Vision*



On a day certain in September, towards the end of serving time for lunch, an elderly man approached, said he was homeless and offered to give us two or three dollars as a donation. He also offered to bring canned goods. So, I offered that if he did bring canned goods, he could bring them to what we call the "share table" as a place to exchange items with others. Then, as I was about to close up, a man came in and asked if we needed food. I said, "well ... uh ... sure, I guess ..." He said he had eggs and tomatoes and that he had come from Chester, VT. I offered to help him carry the items down to the kitchen. I then met a woman, who said that she had come to Loaves & Fishes a year ago and eaten here and that the eggs (six dozen) were organic and that she had grown the tomatoes herself.

Robert A. Oeser

Building and Grounds Committee

We are happy to announce that the painting and restoration of our church steeple and front facade have recently been completed by Skyline Engineers of Ashburnham, Massachusetts. Their thorough, fastidious and caring work shines brightly over our town.

It is with our entire church's gratitude that we thank Cynthia Terzariol and Lisa Terzariol, her daughter, for her mother's generous bequest. The Congregation still owes \$20,000 to replenish our Endowment Fund for the amount that we, as a Congregation, voted to borrow from it, at last January's church wide financial meeting. Please support this decision with your dollars. Installment payments are welcome.

Building and Grounds Committee

Centre Bells

is published monthly by
Centre Congregational Church, United
Church of Christ

News items and articles should be submitted to the church administrator. Please contact the church administrator with address changes or requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list at:
802-254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org



WOMEN'S SPIRIT . . .

WOMEN'S SPIRIT

This group, which meets each Thursday at 4:30 in the church library, continues its study of UNBELIEVABLE by John Shelby Spong. We've been pleased to have Pastor Scott being a part of the group at times and find his encyclopedic mind a great help in understanding some of the information we read. The book is challenging and that is something this group enjoys. Everyone is welcome to join us anytime. Owning this fresh off the presses book is not necessary.

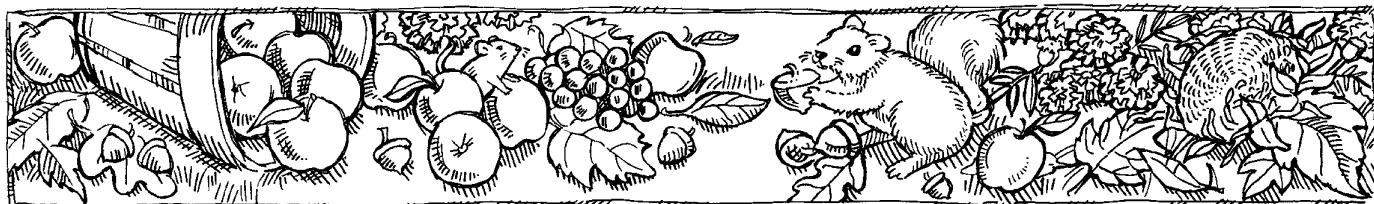


SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING for OCTOBER



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.



Over the years our church building complex has acquired donations of furniture, lamps, music and other miscellaneous items that are no longer in use, are dilapidated, or outdated. In an attempt to derail the clutter, Building & Grounds has created "The Depot," a space at the end of the Riverside Room where these odds and ends are being collected. The items will be left there for a period of a few weeks and you are welcome to help yourself to them. If you would like to make a donation to Centre Church for the items, it would be most welcome. After a period of time, the items not taken will hop on "the train" and be on their way to Never-Neverland. Please stop by The Depot and see what's waiting for you!

Brown Bag Lunch Group

Come bring your sandwich or whatever and join this conversational group on the first Wednesday noon of each month.

That day falls on October 3, so mark your calendar NOW so that you can join the group for an hour of sharing and caring.



PEOPLE



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

Fran Burrows
Holton Home,
158 Western Ave,
Brattleboro, VT
254-4934

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

Nancy Clarke
Holton Home
Wanda Godfrey
Vernon Hall 13 Greenway Dr., Vernon,
254-2444

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

Jane Reed
461 Grafton Rd., #201,
Townshend VT
802-221-4213

Karen Getty Peter
The Cottage Hospital,
PO Box 2001, Swiftwater Rd.,
Woodsville, NH 03785
603-747-9000

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

Please let Tina know if we've missed someone

OCTOBER 2018

*Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 4:30 Prayer Shawl	2 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:30 AA Meeting	3 12:00 Brown Bag Lunch 6:00 Music Center	4 1:30 Quilting Ministry 4:30 Women's Spirit 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 5:30 Moment for Peace 7:30 AA Meeting 6:00 BBQ & Line Dance	6 5:00 BCC Play Date 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 5:30 Moment for 2:00 Scott Couper's Installation service
7 9:00 Book Study 10:00 Worship/FIA 10:00 AA Meeting 6:00 AA Meeting	8 OFFICE CLOSED Indigenous Peoples' Day 7:30 AA District 8	9 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:30 AA Meeting	10 7:00 VT works center (P)	11 1:30 Quilting Ministry 4:30 Women's Spirit 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	12 12:30 Centre Bells deadline 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:30 AA Meeting	13 9:00 Brattleboro Literary Festival
14 9:00 Book Study 10:00 Worship/FIA 10:00 AA Meeting 6:00 AA Meeting	15 4:30 Prayer Shawl	16 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:30 AA Meeting	17	18 1:30 Quilting Ministry 4:30 Women's Spirit 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:30 AA Meeting	20
21 9:00 Book Study 10:00 Worship/FIA 10:00 AA Meeting 6:00 AA Meeting	22 4:30 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Spiritual Conversations	23 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 6:00 Church Council 7:30 AA Meeting	24	25 1:30 Quilting Ministry 4:30 Women's Spirit 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	26 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:30 AA Meeting Centre Bells mailed	27
28 9:00 Book Study 10:00 Worship/FIA 10:00 AA Meeting 6:00 AA Meeting Silver Bells	29 4:30 Prayer Shawl	30 11:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:30 AA Meeting	31			

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Steve Fecto
Alice Carrier
- 4 Dorothy Atomanuk
- 5 Duo Xi
- 9 Kare Marshall
- 12 Peter Jameson
- 16 Jeanne Reuter
- 24 Edith Cay
- 29 Nancy Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 Laura & Terrence Slate
- 31 Lynn & George Herzog



October Lectionary Texts:

Sun., Oct. 7

Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Sun., Oct. 14

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Sun., Oct. 21

Job 38:1-7 [34-41]
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

Sun., Oct. 28

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22]
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

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

Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

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

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

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Financial Secretary
Custodian
Council Chair
Treasurer
Clerk

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Tina Harris: admin@centrechurchvt.org
Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Bill McCarty
Anne Fecto
Connie Bresnahan

2 0 1 8



OCTOBER

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