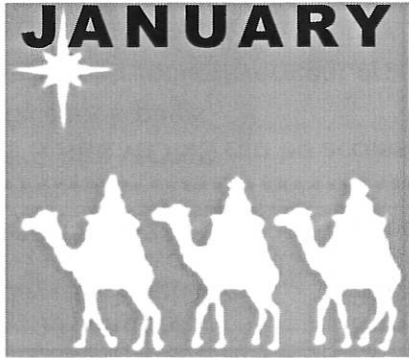


CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
193 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont 05301  
centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**2019**

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CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842  
Office Hours: M - F / 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Church Office: (802) 254-4730 / [centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org)  
Website: [www.centrechurchvt.org](http://www.centrechurchvt.org)  
Facebook: Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro VT  
Current news/information in the larger UCC Community:  
[www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) / National: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)  
VT Conference: [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.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](mailto:music@centrechurchvt.org)  
Administrator: Bruce Landenberger: [admin@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:admin@centrechurchvt.org)  
Financial Secretary: Christine Yost: [finance@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:finance@centrechurchvt.org)  
Council Chair: William McCarty  
Treasurer: Anne Fecto  
Clerk: Connie Bresnahan  
Custodian: John Bertolini

## Axial Tilt Is *Not* the Reason for the Season!

Happy New Year, Friends!

In the book of Galatians (4:4), Paul writes the phrase “when time had fully come” or another translation has it “when the fullness of time had come”. Paul uses this phrase in reference to the Christmas season just past when “God sent his son...”. Yet, the phrase is equally appropriate for us during the New Year season. So, let us at Centre Congregational Church reflect on ‘time’.

Father Richard Rohr rightly reminds us that in the Greek language there are two kinds of time, *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* is the normal time, from which we derive the word ‘chronological’. *Chronos* is the New Year time when the clock ticks, the planner page turns, and our 2019 calendar already begins to fill-up! One of my close friends who is an atheist recently, and cynically, reminded me, ‘Axial Tilt is the “Reason for the Season”’. Chronological time measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days and years according to the cosmos (Earth’s orbit around the Sun, the Earth’s rotation and, yes, the seasons governed by the Earth’s tilted axis) is important, for it organizes our lives. However, chronological time does not provide our life meaning. There is a profound difference between providing organization (*chronos*) and providing meaning (*kairos*).

According to South African theologians, a *kairos* time is a ‘special moment’ or a ‘God-given window of opportunity’. It is time infused with God, with spirit, with purpose, with intention and therefore with meaning!

When I look back on my life, now reaching middle age, the times I best remember are the times in which I felt. I felt ‘this is special, this is unique, this is how I wish I could always feel’. Inevitably, when I feel this way, I am with others, with family, with friends, with my brothers and sisters in faith. In other words, I experience *kairos* moments in relationship with others. They are God-given moments for us to reach-out, just as “in the fullness of time” God reached-out to you and I in relationship through Jesus the Christ.

I have two neighbors, Tom and Eugene (one in his 80s and the other in his 100s!). Some of my best moments in Brattleboro are hearing these men’s stories, sipping wine, and soaking-up their wisdom. There is no agenda. There is no itinerary. Just relationship.

I worship at Centre Congregational Church. Some of my best moments in Brattleboro have been being with all of you, worshiping, praying, singing, eating and laughing together – even in meetings where there is an agenda.

Friends, my message in this New Year to not let the *kairos* moments pass as the *chronos* moments inevitably do. When you encounter a *kairos* opportunity, grab hold of it, absorb it, experience it, ponder it in your heart, and treasure it – just as Mary, mother of Jesus, did! I look forward to experiencing many *kairos* opportunities with you, at Centre Congregational Church, in 2019. This season, this year, I do not celebrate an axial tilt, but rather the spirit of God enabling us to love, affirm and establish peace.

Richard Rohr, Podcast, “Two Kinds of Time”, 31 December 2017.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/mit-k12/mit-k12-measurement/v/earth-s-tilt-1-the-reason-for-the-seasons>  
“The Kairos Document: A Challenge to the Church”, 1985. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kairos\\_Document](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kairos_Document), accessed 20 December 2018.

The Kairos Theologians, *The Kairos Document: Challenge to the Church : A Theological Comment on the Political Crisis in South Africa* (Johannesburg: Skotaville Publishers, 1986). ISBN 978-0-947009-16-8.

## From Council Chair, BILL McCARTY

A Christmas Greeting to All ---

It is a glorious time of the year to celebrate and appreciate all that has been given to us. The past month has been a hectic time for Council and Board members preparing for the Holidays and our Annual Financial meeting.

A reminder that all Board and Committee reports and proposed budgets are to be prepared and submitted to our Clerk, Connie Bresnahan and Treasurer, Anne Fecto, Treasurer in preparation for the upcoming Annual Financial Meeting (January 20).

The Finance Committee is now being reactivated to assume the financial duties and planning for the upcoming year. Anne Fecto is the Chair of this Committee.

The Pastoral Relations Committee is on board (members: Margo Neale, Ron Svec, Judy Palmer and Gina Hammett). If there are any issues or questions please bring them to a Pastoral Relations member. They will entertain all questions and treat them in confidence and as appropriate.

Rev. Dr. Scott Couper will be on vacation beginning 26 December and will return for the service on 6 January.

Council meeting night has been rescheduled to be held monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Board and Committee meetings are now being held as each Board's own determined time. However, all minutes from Board and Committees must be submitted to the Church office and Clerk (Connie Bresnahan) by the second Sunday of the month.

All Boards will now meet and give their reports on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the service. We will refer to this day as "Report Sunday". As in all of our activities, ALL members and friends are welcome to attend all meetings of the Council, boards and committees.

**CENTRE BELLS**  
The newsletter of  
**Centre Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**January 2019**

To be absolutely clear, ALL members and friends are invited to attend and participate in the Annual Financial Meeting. Members will vote, but friends may speak and be heard.

We are open to all, and constructive comments are welcome – at any time. I believe it is very important that all persons be heard and participate in Centre Church's life.

Again, Merry Christmas and a glorious and Happy New Year.



## From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

Kudos to the Children's Choir singers for their participation in this year's Christmas pageant. Not only did they sing four songs, but they were also done from memory. Our group is now up to eight members who rehearse weekly on Sundays following services. In fact, right after they finished the Christmas pageant, they already began learning a new song to be sung in January. You may have noticed, this year their songs are more complex...more words, a larger range of notes and more verses. There's no holding them back!

The adult choir did a wonderful job providing a variety of Christmas anthems for the Advent season. Ranging from traditional to contemporary, we covered the full range. On Christmas Eve we were treated to a guest soloist, Stephanie Ducharme, who joined the choir for a beautiful version of *Child of the Poor/ What Child Is This?*. Thanks, Stephanie!

The adults have been rehearsing at an earlier time during December and will continue at that same time. We now rehearse from 5:30-7:00pm on Thursdays. Perhaps the earlier rehearsal time might make it possible for some folks to join us. We hope so!

## MISSION & SERVICE

We continue to be busy this season with SERRV and El Salvador product sales in the parlor. Thank you to all who have made a contribution by purchasing something from our table. It's a great way to 'GIVE IT TWICE' !! The El Salvador product sales supports the scholarship fund for Luz del Mundo, which is also our January special offering, the Second Sunday Offering on January 13th. In the last few months we contributed \$514 for UCC's Neighbors in Need and to the UCC Christmas Fund, a fund that supports retired ministers with low income.

We look forward to having a special Coffee Hour when Jenifer Ambler will share slides of her experience in El Salvador in November. Please look at upcoming news letters for the specific date in February.

Our support of the Jewish community in sharing the lamps of Hanukkah was a success! Over 30 people from CCC and the community joined in shedding the light in support of the LGBTQTI community here in Brattleboro.

Thank you to all the families who lit the Advent Wreath and for your wonderful prayers around the meaning of each candle. May we hold HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE and CHRIST at the center of our lives together at Centre Church as we support one another and people locally and globally through our many outreach programs.

-Priscilla Svec, M&S

### **BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP**

This group meets the first Wednesday noon of each month to share conversation as they munch their lunches. It will be a new year and the first Wednesday falls on January 2. That's coming up in a hurry, so get out your new calendars and mark it well. Questions? Contact Joanne: 603-363-8348 / [jomac@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jomac@myfairpoint.net)

### **WOMEN'S SPIRIT**

This group continues to study and discuss Bishop Spong's book *Unbelievable* each Thursday at 4:30 in the church library. All are welcome.

## DEACONS

The Deacons have been very, very busy for the entire month of December. We are the people who meet and greet you as you enter church. So be sure to say "Hello" to Heidi, Wendy, April, Mary, Margo, and Carlene.

The Rev. Sandy Daley will be our pulpit supply for December 30. She is covering Scott's vacation.

Moving into a new year in January we are looking forward to the Martin Luther King Day event on January 20 at 4:00pm in the sanctuary. Plus a guest preacher The Rev. Bryan Fulwider, a close friend and colleague of The Rev. Scott Couper, for Sunday Church service.

A few folks who cannot get to church would like copies of the sermons. Anyone who would like to be added to this list, please contact Bruce at the church office: 254-4730 / [admin@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:admin@centrechurchvt.org).

Wishing you all a very happy 2019!

-Carlene McCarty, Board of Deacons Chair

## BUILDING & GROUNDS

### SPACE ENVISIONING WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 9-11am,  
Centre Church Parlor

You are invited to a light breakfast to learn what our small group has been doing in the past few months as we clean and help reorganize the many spaces in our extensive building complex. Our mission is to clarify space that our congregation needs and to collaborate with other groups, organizations, and renters as we look forward with fresh visions for the future. We want and need your thoughts and ideas to help create safe, welcoming spaces and to support the very worthy causes in which we have invested. Please mark your calendar to have that second cup of coffee or tea, save room for a crumpet, and bring along your creative ideas.

-Margo Neale, Scott Couper, Dawn Chattin  
Bonnie Girvan, and Marion Abell



Everyone is invited to the  
***MOMENT for PEACE***

Friday, January 4 • 5:30-6:00pm

Amy Enochs will be offering a part of a sacred circle dance known as Paneurythmy. The dance is very simple, no dance experience is necessary. It can be done standing in place or even sitting.

from Amy Enochs, Moment for Peace leader on Friday, January 4:

"...Paneurythmy was developed in the early 1900s by Bulgarian spiritual mystic, Beniso Douno. I began dancing with Rupa Cousins 15 years ago, as she led the dance each Sunday morning until her passing. The entire dance consists of 28 gestures... with *The Sunrise* considered the spiritual height of the dance. This dance/gesture honors both the outer sun and our inner sun as a life giving and sustaining force.

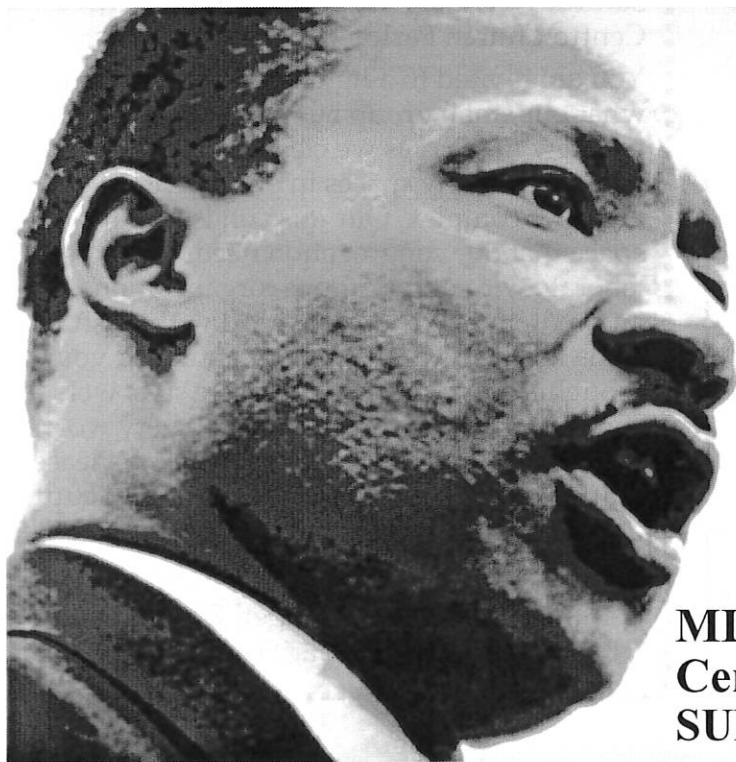
I feel this time of year is a wonderful time to offer this dance/gesture. With the darkness of winter and the lessening of the sun's rays, when all of nature draws inward, this is when we can become aware of and develop our inner sun, our inner light to warm ourselves and others."

THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE wishes to thank the members and friends of Centre Congregational Church for a hugely successful Holiday Craft Fair event. Not only did the Fair raise over \$3,000 dollars, a new high for this event, but thanks to all of you, this year it was accomplished upstairs in the Parlor. None of this would have happened without planning and help: on site, at the moment help.

There were many, many people who contributed to make this successful. We especially want to thank Ann Fecto and Gina Hammett and her kids for stepping in at the last moment to take over the Children's Craft Table. We also want to thank Tony and James who became our heroes, and whose muscles cleaned the room of all the tables. The crafts were beautiful, the auction and raffle successful, the cookies just plain delicious, the wreaths and greens perfect, the food well received.

Please remember that without the community and love we shared those two days, this event would have been meaningless. It is because our members and friends always come through that our Committee, as tired as they get, are more than willing to have these kind of fundraisers.

Once again, the Fundraising Committee is awed by how much joy can be achieved when a group, a community, a congregation, comes together, not just for a great cause, but because they see themselves as one unit and work toward a common goal.



"IF YOU CAN'T FLY THEN RUN,  
IF YOU CAN'T RUN THEN WALK,  
IF YOU CAN'T WALK THEN  
CRAWL, BUT WHATEVER YOU  
DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP  
MOVING FORWARD."

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

**MLK BIRTHDAY SERVICE @  
Centre Congregational Church  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 4:00pm**

# BOARD/COMMITTEE 2019 CALENDAR PLANNING MEETING

Dear Friends in Christ:

On Saturday, 12 January 2019, Buildings & Grounds will sponsor a breakfast and 'Spatial Envisioning Workshop' from 9-11am in which we will seek to make better and more efficient use of our church building. We desire to ensure that the church and all the ministries it supports are able to operate optimally. We pray that in Christian fellowship we will discern the best means by which Loaves & Fishes, Carry Me Home, Brattleboro Centre for Children, Centre Congregational Church (Minister, Administrator, Fundraising Committee, Music Committee, Deacons, etc...), Alcoholics Anonymous, counselling tenants upstairs, and Groundworks Collaborative (possible future food shelf) can all utilize the space availed to us for the betterment of our faith and wider community.

Following the workshop, the staff and church leadership will hold from 1-4:30pm in the library 15 minute sessions with representatives from each of the various ministries in our church so as to begin to create a 'master calendar' for the 2019 year. With this calendar, we will be able to better manage our time and prevent double-bookings for rentals of our space. All ministries (Finance, Council, Deacons, Mission and Service, Music, Fundraising, etc....) of the church are to send a representative at the time allotted (schedule posted below and on the library door) to submit an EXHAUSTIVE and COMPREHENSIVE (regular meetings and events) schedule plan of their ministry for the year. If no representative is able to make the time allocated to the ministry and if all other times thereafter suggested are not feasible, then a written itemization outlining the entire year's schedule can be submitted. The master calendar will be available to the public and can be changed and viewed in real time. So, we hope that with this initiative, all will be better informed and will therefore be able to participate in the life-giving opportunities our church has to offer.

tel: 802-253-2222 ext: 1000

BOARD/COMMITTEE	TIME
BOARD FOR BUILDING & GROUNDS	1:00 – 1:15
BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Women's Spirit Book Study New members' Class	1:15 – 1:30
BOARD OF DEACONS	1:30 – 1:45
BOARD FOR MEMBER CARE	1:45 – 2:00
BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE Peace & Justice Committee	2:00 – 2:15
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE	2:15 – 2:30
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	2:30 – 2:45
MUSIC COMMITTEE Choir	2:45 – 3:00
PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE	3:00 – 3:15
MINISTER	3:15 – 3:30
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	3:30 – 3:45
LOAVES & FISHES STEERING COMMITTEE	3:45 – 4:00
BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN	4:00 – 4:15



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

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

**Nancy Clarke**—Holton Home  
158 Western Ave, Brattleboro, VT  
254-4155

**Wanda Godfrey**—Vernon Hall  
13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT  
254-2444

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

**Jane Reed**  
461 Grafton Rd., #101, Townshend VT  
802-221-4213

**Karen Getty Peter**—Langdon Place  
136A Arch St., Keene, NH 03431

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

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

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

**Michael and Lisa Vose** and the **Everett Family**; **Kim Lewis** began cancer treatment on 11/8. Please keep Kim and her partner, Toni McDougal, in your prayers; **Pat Neer** is recovering from a back injury; The **Daley** family following Darrel's death.

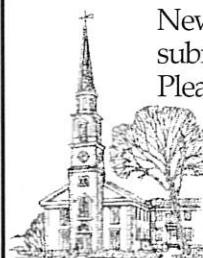


## ♄ Capricornus



## BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Rene LaPlante
- 5 Torin Kindopp
- 6 Terrance Slate
- 7 Marielle Holbrook
- 11 Marion Daley
- 13 Kathryn Kindopp  
Adelaide Minott  
Nancy Wittler
- 14 Owen Toleno  
Katherine Maisner
- 15 Christina Goodwin  
Joanne MacLean
- 16 Levi Healey
- 17 William McCarty
- 18 Dorothy Vander Meulen  
Roger Daly
- 25 Ron Svec
- 26 Rennie Washburn  
Sean McCarty  
Sharon Annis
- 29 Kristina Miller
- 30 Holly Kennedy



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

# JANUARY 2019

\*Holy Communion  
celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED  Scott out until 01/05	<b>2</b> 12 <sup>00</sup> Brown Bag Lunch	<b>3</b> 1 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 5 <sup>30</sup> Moment for Peace 7 <sup>00</sup> ROCK VOICES 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship* 10 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting 6 <sup>00</sup> Overflow Shelter 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting Scott returns	<b>7</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 4 <sup>30</sup> Prayer Shawl	<b>8</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>9</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional	<b>10</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 1 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 8 <sup>30</sup> Rich Earth Inst. 9 <sup>00</sup> Space Envisioning 11 <sup>00</sup> Writing Workshop 1 <sup>00</sup> 2019 Planning
<b>13</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship/FIA 10 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting	<b>14</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 4 <sup>30</sup> Prayer Shawl 7 <sup>30</sup> AA District 8	<b>15</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 6 <sup>00</sup> Church Council 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>16</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional	<b>17</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 1 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> CB DEADLINE 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> WWAC 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship/FIA 10 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting 11 <sup>30</sup> Annual Financial Meeting 4 <sup>00</sup> MLK Service 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting	<b>21</b> MLK Birthday OFFICE CLOSED	<b>22</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>23</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional	<b>24</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 1 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship/FIA 10 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 4 <sup>30</sup> Prayer Shawl	<b>29</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	<b>30</b> MAIL CB 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional	<b>31</b> 8 <sup>45</sup> Devotional 1 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal		

## JANUARY LECTIONARY TEXTS

### Sunday, 6 January

Epiphany  
Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14  
Eph 3:1-12; **Matt 2:1-12**

### Sunday, 20 January

2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
Isa 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10;  
I Cor 12:1-11; **John 2:1-11**

### Sunday, 13 January

1st Sunday after Epiphany  
Isa 43:1-7; Ps 29; Acts 8:14-17;  
**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

### Sunday, 27 January

3rd Sunday after Epiphany  
Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19;  
I Cor 12:12-31a; **Luke 4:14-21**

SCOTT'S SERMONS can be accessed at the church website 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](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT-632678343519640/notes/?ref=page_internal) -or-

From the website Welcome page, click on the "Audio & Video" button in the list at top (depending on your browser, it might be immediately visible or it might come up if you click "More" or "Other" on the top right).



## NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30am – 12:30pm