

## MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends, I have recently learned that Judy Myrick will soon be departing Connecticut to move closer to her daughter in Pennsylvania. I remember with deep fondness the manner in which Judy and her husband, The Reverend Allen Myrick, hosted me thirty-years ago in Zimbabwe. Some time ago, our dear and faithful Barbara St. John forwarded to me poetry written by Allen that I would like to share with you again (*Borrowed Life and Other Poems*, Brattleboro, Vermont, 2012).

### *The Cup of Love*

*At times the cup of life is filled right up.  
Yet comes there times when that cup  
we thought would yet be full is emptied out.  
Plans are unmade, set upon the shelf,  
for what was to be is not now to be.  
Pain that throbs and fades and throbs again  
resides where hope once was,  
and as it falters  
emptiness remains.*

*Love fills the void.  
Love endures when all else drains away,  
holds fast when others holds are lost.  
Hope may dim, but love is sure  
and cannot be denied.  
Some gifts are given, then withdrawn,  
but such is love that where it lives  
hope once again can find a place, and both together make all new.*

As I reflect on Allen's wisdom, I recall the tragedy of Jesus' crucifixion and the disillusionment of the disciples. Yet, we experienced last month on Easter Day the resurrection followed. I recall my own recent divorce. Yet, I pray a life-long relationship awaits. I mourn the loss of Pat Austin (who we remembered on March 22), Gisela Robeck (who we will remember on May 7), Dee Keller (who we will remember on June 22), and The Rev Dr Allen Vander Meulen II (who we will remember on June 25). Yet, we celebrate the arrival of new members (Lee and Carolyn, Tom and Caitlin, John and Beth) and the fellowship of new friends (Gabi and Teddy, Jackie, Martha, Daniel, AJ, Matthew, Mark, Andrew, and Isaac). Some beloved ministries conclude while others are gifted to us unexpectedly (Afghan resettlement co-sponsorship efforts and the 'Green at Centre').

I thank God that I belong to a community of faith wherein I can experience the losses and pain of life and gains and celebrations of life. The ties that hold our community fast together is Love. Love draws us to God. Love draws us to one another. Love conquers loss and pain. Love fosters new blessings and opportunities.

During the post-Resurrection season of Easter, we will learn more about our Christian faith with a sermon series entitled "Christian Symbols: Signposts of Devotion" and a sermon series on comparative religion entitled "Christianity and Islam: Siblings in Faith". My prayer is that all that we hear, all that we study, all that we sing, all that we pray, and all who we serve will bring us closer to God and closer to one another in love.

Love always in Christ, Scott



**CENTRE BELLS – May 2022**  
The newsletter of  
**Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

## Council Chair, LYNN HERZOG

The theme of our Council meeting this month seemed to be "Let's Get Together". Many church activities (except worship) stopped during the pandemic. The relative lull in COVID that we are experiencing now seems like a good time to get together again, to restore our communal life. We have been worshipping together for almost two months now, and it is satisfying in so many ways. We will continue to require masking and social distancing in the worship service, because we have both older, at-risk people, and young un-vaccinated children. But we will relax the rules for an optional coffee hour once a month, on the second Sunday. Dart has volunteered to make the coffee. Everything else will be pot-luck. Our previous coffee-hours were sumptuous feasts, but we are not trying to re-create that – just an opportunity to get together and socialize (and a chance to meet our new members).

We would also like to have the 'almost-annual' Church Picnic this year. But instead of going to Memorial Park, we would like to have it on the church lawn, using our 'new' space – 'the Green at Centre', where many other events will take place during the summer – stay tuned.

An important event coming up is the Annual Program Meeting, on Sunday, May 22 at 11:00am. This is where we learn what our boards and committees have been doing during the year, and what they plan to do next year. We will elect new members for these boards and committees. We will hear from the Long-Range Planning Team and vote on our new Vision Statement. We will get an update on our financial situation and hear from the Church Futures team that was formed at the Financial Meeting a few months ago when we voted to limit withdrawals from the endowment to \$50,000, to be reconsidered after six months. May is only three months after February (when our meeting was held) but we will be reviewing our situation at this time, in hopes of avoiding a separate meeting later. The pleasure of your company is not just requested, it is required. Well, not really, but we do need to have a quorum.

Hope to see you there.



## From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

Holy Week is now over and much appreciation goes out to our choir folks who sang beautifully for all the services. When I looked at my notebook (where I have a record of all music played and sung each Sunday), I realized it had been three years since we had been in person on Easter! 2019 was the last time! What a joy it was to be back in the Sanctuary!

Special thanks go to Matt Kennedy for his trumpet/trombone playing on Easter Sunday. He gave all the hymns quite a boost with his trumpet! We also enjoyed having Bill McKim join the tenor section and Lisa Keller join the sopranos! Thanks to both of them! It was wonderful having several church folks come up to the choir loft to sing the traditional "Hallelujah Chorus" at the conclusion of the service.

The choir will continue to sing on Sundays for a couple more months until the summer break! We are always happy to have you join us!



## DEACONS

The Deacons are happy to announce that Lisa Keller has agreed to serve as a Deacon, as she says, on a per diem basis. We all know of her dedication to our church and are sure she will be a helpful addition! WELCOME, LISA!

A very special thank you to Bill McCarty for his many, many years of service to Centre Congregational Church in a variety of ways. We will miss his wisdom and dependability as he leaves the Deacons at the end of May.

It is encouraging to see our in-person Sunday attendance growing each week, including ten or twelve as Facebook participants. Thank you to our faithful Technology Team!

We all look forward to warmer weather when everyone can gather on the church lawn and enjoy fellowship following Sunday worship.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In April Christian Education managed to help the children celebrate the end of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter. In Church School we made a 'road' of palm fronds and during children's moments we learned why rabbits and eggs are symbols of Easter and spring as well as the stories of the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem and the Easter resurrection.

Looking forward into May, we will make Mother's Day cards for some of our area shut in members and begin to look into ways we can enjoy spring, perhaps by helping out in the church gardens and maybe learning something about the Islamic faith of our new Afghani neighbors. Plans are being made for more service projects and of course volunteer help to teach, lead, and give a children's message or two are always welcome.

-Nan Mann, chair, Christian Education

The *Sunday Spirit Book Discussion* group continues to meet each Sunday morning at 9:00am in the Heritage Room / Financial Office in the Wells Wing. We read orally and discuss at the time. Newcomers are always welcome. We are now two-thirds through Suzanne Simard's *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* (2021) and finding intriguing parallels between the interactions of trees and the interactions of humans.

For more information contact Judy Palmer:  
[judithp41@gmail.com](mailto:judithp41@gmail.com) / 603.353.0590



## BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

A true sign of spring is happening at Brattleboro Centre for Children. This month we are hatching butterflies! One of our families donated five Painted Lady caterpillars to us and we are eagerly studying the life cycle of the butterfly. Our habitat is in the church nursery, so if you want to observe (please don't touch the habitat!) you may go in and check them out. Painted Ladies form in a chrysalis and take a couple of weeks to hatch. We will then feed them sugar water and when they are strong enough, we will set them free in the garden. This is an especially happy project for our school as our logo is the depiction of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly, which you can see on our twentieth Anniversary banners and on the wall going down stairs to our entryway.

Happy spring!



## MISSION & SERVICE

Dear Friends,

The new mission *The Green at Centre* is really blooming this year into a very active and engaging community forum: a place for us to be with the greater Brattleboro community in an 'outside of the building' way. Starting on May 6, the first Friday of every month until December, we will be hosting a monthly Gallery Walk event that will include music, art, and food. This mission gives us a means to engage with the community in many ways: labyrinth walks, outdoor services, concerts, tag sales, and more. This all requires group effort. As many of us as possible need to be part of the activities by bringing family and friends. The more of us, the more people we will attract; it is not a 'woo-woo' idea. It is the science of math and attraction.

OK, enough preaching. On a practical note, we need many hands to help with setting up. There are tents, tables, and chairs to set up and break down. Also, don't forget balloons to tie onto the hedge and hosting inside for the art display (that person gets to sit, if they like). I will put up a monthly sign-up for helping hands.

Spreading love through joyful activity,  
Bonnie Girvan, [girvangardens@gmail.com](mailto:girvangardens@gmail.com)

## MEMBER CARE

**New member profile:** Lee Moore

Lee Moore and his wife Carolyn have been in Brattleboro for about two years. They moved here to be close to their daughter Sara, and her two young children. Their other daughter, Deborah and family also live in further north in Vermont.

Lee told me that he and Carolyn met in college. They married and she taught school while Lee attended Oberlin Seminary in Ohio. She got her P.H.T. 'pushing hubby through', a common experience in those days. (I got one too! Marion D)

They moved to Wyoming for his first pastorate in a town of 1000. Lee joked that besides being the preacher, he was the custodian. Sara was born in wonderful Wyoming.

After that, his career took a big change. He became part of the national staff of the United Church of Christ based in New York City. This position in Christian Education of Youth and Adults took him traveling all over the United States.

His next career change took him to the work of becoming an interim pastor. He served in ten different congregations - some in Vermont.

Lee and his wife enjoy sailing and have sailed on Lake Champlain, in the Caribbean, and in Long Island Sound, to name a few.

You can bet I was curious why his wife joined Centre Church as an associate member. The answer was a surprise. She has joined the Guildford Community Church. These two will have the opportunity to be involved with both congregations.

We welcome them to this historic, and still working church, in the middle of downtown Brattleboro with congregants from VT and NH.

-Marion Daley, *Member Care*

## PEOPLE

### B I R T H D A Y S

- 4 Bruce Landenberger
- 11 Bernadette Meyer
- 16 Jackson Grobe  
Karen Rydant  
Dawn Grobe
- 18 Li-Ming Pu  
Arthur Freeman
- 25 Albert Rydant



## ANNIVERSARIES

20 Fred & Carol Edmonds



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 April 26.

**Gary Carrier**—Dirigo Pines  
c/o Allison Carrier Lucy  
16 Page Place, Orono, ME 04473  
207.944.0030

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

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

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

**Alice Stockwell**—Vernon Hall  
13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT 05354  
(802) 254 5504

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

## NEW FRIENDS OF CENTRE CHURCH

**Isaac Evans-Frantz**

1199 Bonnyvale Rd., Brattleboro, VT 05301-2577  
802.399.4173 / [isacef@yahoo.com](mailto:isacef@yahoo.com)

## NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

**Judy Myrick** (after May 10)  
1802 Tulpehocken Rd. #232  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
610.743.8713 / [ajmyrick54@comcast.net](mailto:ajmyrick54@comcast.net)

**Margo Neale:** [margobneale@gmail.com](mailto:margobneale@gmail.com)

**Holly MacLean & Scott Hoes**  
30 Fairground Rd. #209  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

**Alice Stockwell**  
Vernon Hall, 13 Greenway Dr.  
Vernon, VT 05354  
(802) 254 5504



# MAY 2022

\*\*ZOOM events  
\*Holy Communion

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship* 12 <sup>00</sup> Deacons' meeting** 2 <sup>00</sup> Ecclesiastical Council	2 4 <sup>30</sup> Christian Ed 7 <sup>00</sup> Pub Theology	3 Eid al Fatr (Ramadan ends) 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Afghan Team	4 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff Meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 7 <sup>00</sup> VT Humanities 1st Wednesday	5 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion** 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir rehearsal	1 Program Meeting reports due 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 12 <sup>00</sup> L & F Steering Comm. 5 <sup>00</sup> Gallery Walk / Green at Centre	7 2 <sup>00</sup> Gisela Robeck Memorial Service
8 <b>Mother's Day</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> Fellowship Hour	9 7 <sup>00</sup> Christian Theology Bible Study	10 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Afghan Team	11 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff Meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> Mission & Service 7 <sup>00</sup> Climate Conversation	12 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 3 <sup>30</sup> BCC Board 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion** 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir rehearsal	13 <b>CB DEADLINE</b> 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 1 <sup>00</sup> Alta Barber Graveside Service	14
15 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 5 <sup>00</sup> SOS Meal	16 4 <sup>00</sup> Compassionate Brattleboro 7 <sup>00</sup> Pub Theology	17 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Afghan Team	18 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff Meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> Church Council 6 <sup>30</sup> NAACP	19 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion** 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir rehearsal	20 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Concert Epsilon Spires	21 10 <sup>00</sup> AIDS Walk
22 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> CCC Annual Program Meeting 3 <sup>00</sup> Windham Union Annual Meeting	23 7 <sup>00</sup> Christian Theology Bible Study	24 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Afghan Team	25 <b>MAIL CB</b> 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff Meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund	26 10 <sup>00</sup> UCC Devotional** 4 <sup>00</sup> Sermon discussion** 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir rehearsal	27 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes	28
29 10 <sup>00</sup> Union Worship Guilford CC	30 <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7 <sup>00</sup> Pub Theology	31 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Afghan Team				

SCOTT'S SERMONS can be accessed at the church website: [www.centrechurchvermont.org](http://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](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).



## MAY LECTIONARY TEXTS

**Sunday, May 1, 3rd Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Ps 30; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

**Sunday, May 8, 4th Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 9:36-43; Ps 23; Rev 7:9-17; Jn 10:22-30

**Sunday, May 15, 5th Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 11:1-18; Ps 148; Rev 21:1-6; Jn 13:31-35

**Sunday, May 22, 6th Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:9-15; Ps 67; Rev 21:10, 22-22:5; Jn 14:23-29  
or Jn 5:1-9

**Sunday, May 29, 7th Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:16-34; Ps 97; Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21,  
Jn 17:20-26



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# MAY



# 2022

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**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

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**Website:** [www.centrechurchvt.org](http://www.centrechurchvt.org)

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

**Current news/information in the larger UCC Community:**

VT Conference: [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) / National: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP**

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**Clerk:** Jenifer Ambler