

MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends:

Greetings On the last Sunday of July, I preached a message entitled "Soul Investment" that requested our church explore, research, and discern if our Finance and Endowment committees should begin the process of investing our church's funds in ethical and sustainable growth investments. The theme of my message is that while we can never hope to be pure from all sin, we can together faithfully 'move in the right direction'.

Soon after I preached this message, Allen Myrick also spoke to us through the Spirit, that continues to move us through his poetry. For Friday, February 8, 2008, Allen wrote this devotional prose:

*Your work on me has just begun.
There's much more you have to do
Before your purpose is fulfilled.
Loving kindness grafted in me,
growing through me is your will--
Faithful, patient, resourceful
love poured out, naught held back.
What a task you've set for yourself!--
to form in me the very love
you gave to all the world in Christ,
to make an ambassador
for you to humankind.*

*Do not leave your work half-done;
Finish the job you have begun!*

In writing "Soul Investment", I wanted to emphasize that more often than not God's salvific intent is directed to groups of people rather than to individuals. God and Jesus when praising or admonishing, often refer to 'tribes', 'nations', 'generations', 'cities' such as Jerusalem, and even to 'empires'. Paul speaks of and to 'churches' as much as to 'persons'. Hence, sin is corporate or social as much if not more than it is private or individual. This is major theme in the works of two prominent theologians, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*Santum Communio*) and Reinhold Niebuhr (*Moral Man and Immoral Society*).

In writing "Soul Investment", I also wished to avoid being a hypocrite, the worst accusation Jesus leveled at his foes. A hypocrite is someone who promotes him or herself to be self-righteous while judging and shaming those who are no more fallible. Two years ago, in prayerful response to the witnesses of our friend Daniel Sicken and member Bill Pearson, I disinvested from TD Bank due to their underwriting of a fossil fuel pipeline running near or through indigenous lands. In July, I invested the proceeds from a home sale into an investment portfolio that follows a "Sustainable Equity Strategy". The strategy uses 'general avoidance criteria' to ensure that that my funds do not invest in tobacco, alcohol, porn, weapons, or nuclear power. Companies that have good public health policies, protect the environment, maintain a fair workplace, positively impact communities and practice good governance with transparency are favored.

Outside our church we fly a banner that proclaims "A Just World for All". There is evil and sin within systems from which we can't hope to completely extricate ourselves. By seeking even modest investment returns, the church and I are both guilty of Jesus' admonishment in the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21). Nonetheless, we can 'move in the right direction'. As Christians, our choice is simple. We can reject the teachings of Jesus Christ and refuse to improve. Or, we can accept the teachings of Jesus Christ (as radical as they may be), confess our falling short, ask for forgiveness, and seek means by which to 'move in the right direction'.

Love always in Christ, Scott

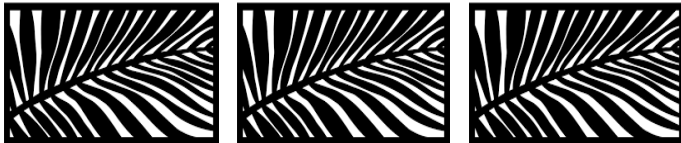


CENTRE BELLS – September 2022
The newsletter of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

Music has been alive and well at Centre Church this summer. We have had several folks step up to the plate to provide special anthem and offertory music each week. Shout-outs and thanks go to Athena Burke, Alison Hale, Matt Kennedy, Lynn Herzog (recorder ensemble), Teddy Martin and Sue Rowell. Each of these folks added his/her special talents to our summer music program, for which I'm extremely grateful. On August 28, we will enjoy a combined choir as Centre Church hosts the traditional Union Service. On September 4, I will be taking a vacation Sunday and Teddy Martin will be subbing for me. Come and enjoy his exquisite piano music!

Beginning in September, the choir will gather again for our weekly rehearsals. We will meet for the first rehearsal on Thursday, September 8 at 5:30pm. We will be singing on Sunday, September 11, and will continue singing throughout the year. We will meet regularly on Thursdays for rehearsals. Please join us if you are a singer! We'd love to have you!



DEACONS

Even though it has been a hot and humid summer, the Deacons have diligently done their duties every Sunday to keep the sanctuary as clean, cool and welcoming as possible for our wonderful and faithful congregation!

Duties on other days included assisting at the well-attended Memorial Services for Dee Keller and Allen Vander Meulen in June.

On July 17 we polished all the brass, organized the banners, dusted the Chapel, and made sure we had sufficient supplies.

While our own Rev. Dr. Scott Couper was on vacation, the Deacons worked with our visiting minister, Rev. Dr. David Stinson, at the August 21 service and the August 28 Union Service.

Flowers donated for Sunday services are always welcome. A sign-up sheet is in the Parlor!

We look forward to some cooler weather and the return of more folks for in-person Sunday services. Thank you to those that attend on Facebook too!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

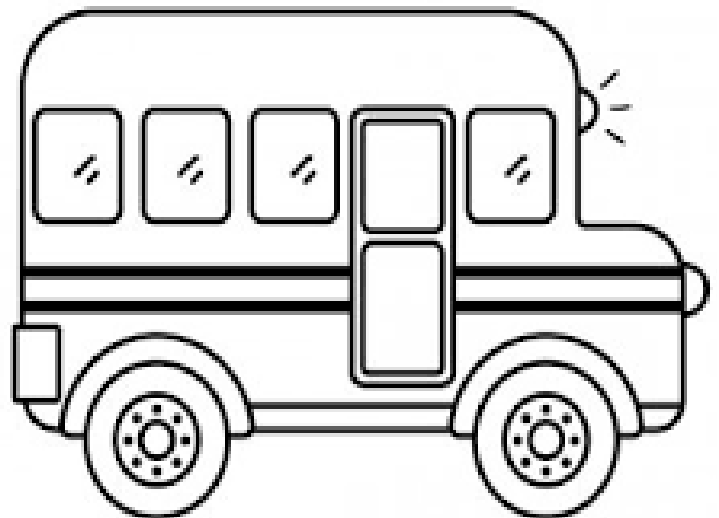
This month, Christian Education gets back into full swing with classes for children and the annual Ice Cream Social, both on Sunday, September 11. Please join us as our Second Sunday Fellowship Hour takes place outside (weather permitting) with ice cream sundaes for all! We will have registrations available for families to let CE know more about their children so we can have classes planned appropriately and hopefully have regular attendance. Activities will also be planned for children too young to be interested in classes, but they will be connected so that Faith in Action will continue for everyone who attends.

We have surveyed families about timing and children's interests and are planning to put those things together with our weekly Children's Messages. Laura Slate, Kate Weeks, Anne Doesburg, and Nan Mann are spearheading the team and will lead children's times, classes, and activities as they are able. We welcome others who want to help out, either to volunteer or to join CE, so please contact Nan Mann if you'd be willing to be a part of our group that works for the education of the children of Centre Church.

A change for this year is that we are hoping to do a monthly thematic lesson on the Second Sunday of each month (because the children really enjoy Fellowship Hour!) and activities will be offered on the rest of the Sundays each month. As mentioned, the Children's Messages will continue weekly.

As we are every year, we are excited for this annual kick-off and look forward to serving the children and youth of Centre Church.

-Nan Mann, chair



GREEN@CENTRE

FLEA

ANTIQUES **Art work**

Vintage Hand-made items
Clothing

Garden collectibles

Baked Goods Pottery

Arts&Crafts & Glass

MARKET

193 MAIN ST
BRATTLEBORO

SEPTEMBER 17
CENTRE CHURCH

girvangardens@gmail.com

9am-2pm

Thank you for your interest in the Flea at Green@Centre!

Lawn space and tables are limited!

Please provide your information & deliver it to us via email: girvangardens@gmail.com.

Confirmation will then be sent to you, along with payment information. Payments must be made no later than September 10.

Date: Saturday, September 17 (Rain date: Sept 24)

Location: Centre Church lawn, 193 Main Street, Brattleboro

Acceptable items: Crafts, Antiques, Artwork, Baked goods, collectibles, Garden items, Vintage clothing

Table Fee: \$20 / 8' table – limited number available !

Name:

Business name if applicable:

Type of products:

Phone/email:



FUNDRAISING

Dear Friend / Member of Centre Congregational Church, our church needs your help!

We are holding a Welcome Center Non-Event fundraising event starting in **August, 2022**.

Instead of baking for days on end and making enough sandwiches to feed the world, we are asking everyone to contribute money directly to the church. We have done this several times in the past and have always received the money to reach our goal.

As everyone knows, the last two years have been difficult, especially for the fundraising committee because we were isolated and non-functional.

NOW is the time to make up our losses, reach into our pockets and help.

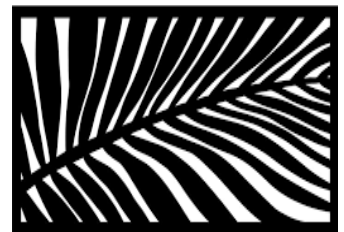
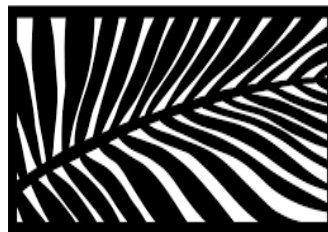
Please make payments to this event with a note that your contribution is earmarked for the *Centre Church Welcome Center Non-Event*.

We are hoping to reach our goal of \$3000 before the end of summer.

We thank you for your effort on behalf of our wonderful congregation.

Sincerely,

The Fundraising Committee



MEMBER CARE

Member Care met for a luncheon gathering in early July at the home of Marion Daley in Putney. Since three of our members are in Vermont on scattered months of the year, this has become a once-a-year gathering. It was an 'everyone-brings something for the salad bowl' event topped off with dessert and ice tea. It was a hot July afternoon. We stayed inside with the air conditioner going while we made some plans for the coming months.

Much of what we are able to do in helping people is not reported in this newsletter, but we had a request from Darlene LaPlante. She had a mighty fall in July outside of Market 32 on Canal St. She is recovering at home and sends her appreciation to Margo Neale for the ride home from Emergency, and for get-well cards, flowers, and food from other members and friends of Centre Church. She sends a big "Thank You".

Marilyn and Arnold Young send thanks for the prayers of the people for their daughter, Susan. In June, Susan was helicoptered to Dartmouth for a six-hour surgery to repair a tear in the aortic artery near her heart. She has made an amazing recovery since then.

It is always fine to report on happy meetings, healings, and hope for the future.

-Marion Daley

PEOPLE



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

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

Bob Keller
153 Spruce St., Brattleboro, VT 05301
802.257.4588

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

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

Dot Vander Meulen—Pine Rock Manor
1 Harvest Circle #301, Lincoln, MA 01773
781.430.6210

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

Sandra Grace Stencel Obituary

Sandra (Sandy) Stencel passed away on August 10, 2022 at the age of 82 in Spofford, New Hampshire with her family surrounding her. Sandy was born to Oliver and Elna Kibben in Sterling, Colorado on September 5, 1939. She grew up on a ranch near New Raymer, Colorado, graduated valedictorian of her high school class, and attended Colorado State University. In 1958, Sandy married Everett Stencel. They lived in Ft. Collins, Colorado while Everett finished veterinary school. After Everett graduated in 1963, the couple moved to Curtis, NE to establish a veterinary practice and eventually farm the Kibben family farm. Following Everett's death in 1989, Sandy purchased the Curtis Flower Shop and continued her involvement in numerous organizations and activities. As a talented artist, Sandy was known for her animal art on almost any paintable surface. She was active in 4-H, Scouts, the Congregational Church, Curtis Easter Pageant, Medicine Creek Economic Development Board and Chamber of Commerce, Medicine Valley Foundation and School Board, Chapter CG PEO, TeamMates, Star Theater Board, and many other activities over the years. Sandy took great pride in being an active member of the community and was awarded the Citizen of the Year for Curtis in 2012. After living in Curtis for over 50 years, Sandy moved to Spofford, NH to be with her companion, Dr. Clyde Johnson. Together, Sandy and Clyde shared a love of cooking, reading, traveling, enjoying nature, and visiting family and friends all over the country, spending winters in Florida.

Sandy is survived by her sons Mark (Margy) of Valentine, NE; David (Kathleen) of Lincoln, NE; Brian (Tammy) of Beaverton, OR; and daughter Linda (Kirk) Hartman of Lincoln, NE; companion Dr. Clyde Johnson; and sister Janet Kohl of Berthoud, CO, and numerous grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Everett, and her sister Carol Unruh of Kenai, AK.

Interment will be at the Curtis Cemetery in the fall. A Celebration of Sandy's Life will be held in Spofford, NH on September 10, in Curtis in mid-October, and in South Venice Florida at a date TBD. An Open-House in Sandy's memory will be held at:
313 N. Shore Rd., Spofford, NH
on Saturday, September 10 from 2:00-5:00pm.

Memorials can be sent to any of Sandy's favorite interests including the music ministry at Swanzey N.H. Congregational Church, the Venice, FL Presbyterian Church, Curtis Community Foundation, or any charity of your choice where you can make a difference in the lives of others.

DONALD ASHWORTH OBITUARY

Donald R. Ashworth, 94, passed peacefully into the arms of our heavenly father from his home in New Braunfels, TX on October 15, 2019.

Born July 15, 1925, in Brattleboro, VT to Fred and Julia Ashworth, he was raised in Guilford, VT, and graduated from BUHS. An Army Veteran, he served proudly in the Korean War. He was a musical talent and sang for many years in the choir at Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro and led his own band for decades playing for many events. He was predeceased by his wife Betty Lou of 56 years. They had 4 children, survived by three, and 5 grandchildren.

He was a caring and loving father and grandfather. He was patient, kind, and had a great sense of humor along with an unmatched wisdom. He will ALWAYS be GREATLY MISSED!

[Published by Brattleboro Reformer on Oct. 26, 2019]



Email message from Beth Crutcher:

We sure are going to miss everyone. This most welcoming and loving church ever! -B

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Alex Day
Emma Day
- 4 Gary Carrier
- 6 Mary Robertson
- 10 Jim Bedard
- 17 Elizabeth Fecto
- 23 Joy Everett
- 24 Bonnie Girvan
- 29 Rebecca Day



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Addison & Adelaide Minott



NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Rennie Washburn: 802.579.8583

Seth Marcil:

59 Maple Ave. #119, Keene, NH 03431

Beth, John and Kira Crutcher

14 Barbara Lane, Hudson, NH 03051

Mary Wanda Godfrey Obituary

Vernon - Our beloved mother and grandmother, (Mary) Wanda Godfrey passed away peacefully in the early hours of January 19, 2022 with her children by her side at Vernon Green Nursing Home.

Born in Cabin Creek, WV to Albert and Isabel (Arbaugh) Baumgartner, she was raised by her mother, who instilled in her a strong faith, consistent and compassionate nature, and the example of perseverance through life's trials. A lifelong learner, she excelled in academics and went on to graduate from West Virginia University with a Master's in Biology and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. It was at WVU that she met fellow student and future husband, John Townsend Godfrey. They married in June 1953 and began their 57-year adventure until his passing in 2010.

Over her long lifetime she was a lab tech, homemaker, mother, biology teacher at BUHS, volunteer, and patient listener. She was a member of Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro and AAUW. After retirement she enjoyed many winters in Sebring, FL until settling permanently in Vernon, VT.

Mom is survived by her two children, Jim Godfrey and wife Kim of Universal City, TX and Mary Gwen Godfrey of Granville, MA as well as her two grandsons, John and Tim Short, who brought her much joy. She was predeceased by her oldest son, Johnny, in 1968.

Mom has been lovingly cared for over the past several months by the wonderful staff at Vernon Green, and prior to that at Vernon Hall. We extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every staff person in these facilities for their extraordinary kindness to our mother and to us. Especially in this time of COVID. The efforts made by our health care facility workers cannot be over-appreciated.

Per her wishes, there will be no services. Private burial in Tyler Cemetery will take place in the summer. Rest well, Mom. You are so loved.

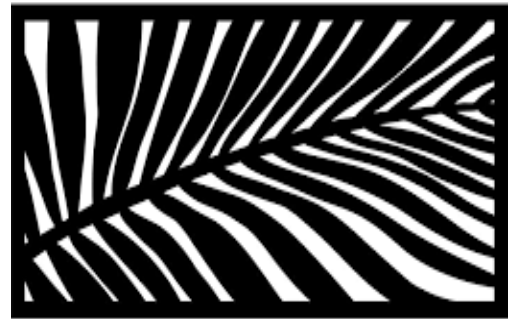
Should one wish, donations may be made to Vernon Homes, 61 Greenway Drive, Vernon, VT 05354 or Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT.

To share a memory or send condolences to the family, please visit www.atamaniuk.com.

Dear Scott,

I can't thank you enough for the beautiful gift you granted Annie, me, my family, and so many people who love her. Brattleboro will always be an affirming, positive place for Annie (and by extension, me), and the [memorial] service you led [on Saturday, July 16] will be a treasured, comforting piece of the puzzle forever.

With deep gratitude, Katie Skerry



Jane S. Reed Obituary

Brattleboro- Jane Wilson Scott Reed, 94, a resident of Brattleboro for the past 45 years, passed away peacefully at Pine Heights Nursing Home on July 4. Janie, as she was known to all, could light up a room with her smile.

Janie was born in Akron, Ohio on July 14, 1927, the daughter of Winfield and Ruth (Potschner) Scott. She was raised and educated in Akron. She graduated from Stephens College in Missouri with an Associates Degree and then attended Denison University where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Following graduation, she worked as a designer for Heisey Glass Company in Akron a producer of fine crystal. One of her many designs is now a collectible. On June 26, 1954, at First Presbyterian Church in Akron, she was married to the Reverend Robert H. Reed. The Reeds moved to Long Branch, New Jersey in 1955 where their two daughters were both born. In 1960, they moved to Paramus, New Jersey to start a new church, Trinity United Presbyterian Church. Janie took part in a wide variety of volunteer activities in the church and community. In addition to being one of the charter members of the church, she sang in the choir and directed plays for presentation during worship. Active in Civil Rights, one of the high points of those years was marching in the historic March on Washington in August 1963 with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1970, the family relocated to Portland, Oregon. There she was ordained a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. She obtained a degree in Library Science and became the school librarian for Robert Gray Middle School. In 1979, Janie and Bob moved to the Brattleboro area and she became the assistant librarian in the children's department of Brooks Memorial Library. They split their years between their Brattleboro and Marlboro residences.

Janie enjoyed acting in community theatre and took part in many productions of the Actors Theatre and the Vermont Theatre Company. She loved all forms of art, especially calligraphy, teaching classes, and created numerous posters for plays. She loved watercolor painting and contributed paintings to an annual Brattleboro Senior Center calendar.

An active member of Centre Congregational Church since 1981, she served as a deacon.

Janie was predeceased by her husband on December 7, 2017. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by her only sister, Christine Scott Shelhart.

Janie leaves behind two daughters, Nan Reed Mann of Brattleboro and Susan Rowell of Newfane and her husband Robert Rowell, three grandchildren, Louisa-Marie Mann, Dr. Ali Nemeti and husband Nick Nemeti and Flint Rowell and his wife Audrey Tin Latt, 2 great grandchildren, Eve Louisa Nemeti and William Nathan Rowell and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be conducted in Centre Congregational Church at a later date. Burial will follow in King Cemetery in Marlboro where she will be laid to rest beside her husband.

Memorial contributions may be made to Centre Congregational Church Book of Remembrance or Brattleboro Centre for Children's Starfish Scholarship Fund, which she helped to found.

To share a memory or send condolences to Jane's family, please visit www.atamaniuk.com.

SEPTEMBER 2022

****ZOOM events**
***Holy Communion**

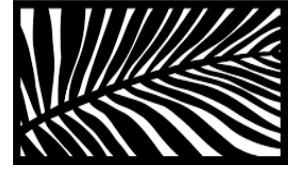
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10 ⁰⁰ UCC Devotional** 1 ⁰⁰ Quilting ministry 4 ⁰⁰ Sermon discussion** 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit Scott on leave	2 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ⁰⁰ Gallery Walk / Green@Centre Scott on leave	3
4 9 ⁰⁰ Book Discussion 10 ⁰⁰ Worship*	5 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED 4 ³⁰ Christian Ed Board 7 ⁰⁰ Pub Theology	6 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 12 ³⁰ BAILA	7 11 ⁰⁰ Staff meeting 12 ⁰⁰ Help Fund 7 ⁰⁰ VT Humanities First Wednesday	8 10 ⁰⁰ UCC Devotional** 1 ⁰⁰ Quilting ministry 3 ³⁰ BCC Board 4 ⁰⁰ Sermon discussion** 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	9 CB DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 12 ⁰⁰ L&F Board	10 2 ⁰⁰ Open House for Sandy Stencil
11 9 ⁰⁰ Book Discussion 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA 11 ³⁰ Fellowship Hour	12 7 ⁰⁰ Christian Theology	13 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	14 11 ⁰⁰ Staff meeting 12 ⁰⁰ Help Fund 6 ⁰⁰ Mission & Service	15 10 ⁰⁰ UCC Devotional** 1 ⁰⁰ Quilting ministry 4 ⁰⁰ Sermon discussion** 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	16 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	17 9 ⁰⁰ Flea Market
18 9 ⁰⁰ Book Discussion 10 ⁰⁰ Worship / FIA	19 4 ⁰⁰ Compassionate Brattleboro 7 ⁰⁰ Pub Theology	20 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	21 11 ⁰⁰ Staff meeting 12 ⁰⁰ Help Fund 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 6 ³⁰ NAACP	22 10 ⁰⁰ UCC Devotional** 1 ⁰⁰ Quilting ministry 4 ⁰⁰ Sermon discussion** 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	23 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ⁰⁰ WWAC event	24
25 10 ⁰⁰ Union Worship E. Dover UCC	26 7 ⁰⁰ Christian Theology	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	28 MAIL CB 11 ⁰⁰ Staff Meeting 12 ⁰⁰ Help Fund	29 10 ⁰⁰ UCC Devotional** 1 ⁰⁰ Quilting ministry 4 ⁰⁰ Sermon discussion** 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir rehearsal	30 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes	

SCOTT'S SERMONS can be accessed at the church website: www.centrechurhvermont.org -or- facebook page: <http://www.centrechurhvermont.org/audio-video.html> -or- 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).



SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS
Sunday, September 4 , 13th Sunday after Pentecost Jer 18:1-11 and Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; Deut 30:15-20 and Ps 1; Philem 1:1-21 ; Luke 14:25-33
Sunday, September 11 , 14th Sunday after Pentecost Jer 4:11-12, 22-28 and Ps 14; Ex 32:7-14 and Ps 51:1-10; 1 Tim 1:12-17 ; Luke 15:1-10
Sunday, September 18 , 15th Sunday after Pentecost Jer 8:18-9:1 and Ps 79:1-9; Amos 8:4-7 and Ps 113; 1 Tim 2:1-7 ; Luke 16:1-13
Sunday, September 25 , 16th Sunday after Pentecost Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15 and Ps 91:1-6, 14-16; Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Ps 146; 1 Tim 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Centre Bells is published monthly by **Centre Congregational Church, UCC**
News items, articles, address changes, and requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list should be submitted to the church office:
802.254.4730 / admin@centrechurhvt.org



SEPTEMBER



2022

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

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

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

Office Hours: M – F / 8:30am–12:30pm

Church Office: 802.254.4730 / admin@centrechurchvt.org

Website: 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 / National: www.ucc.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

Administrator: Bruce Landenberger: admin@centrechurchvt.org

Financial Secretary: Emily Houle: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Custodian: Emelio McCalla

Council Chair: Lynn Herzog

Treasurer: Anne Fecto

Clerk: Jenifer Ambler