

## MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

This year's Advent sermon series entitled "**Tear Open the Heavens**" will be taken from the prophet Isaiah's imperative: "If only you would tear open the heaven's and come down!" (Isaiah 64:1).

When simply silently reading Isaiah, this verse may be easy to overlook. Yet when the prophet's words are read dramatically out loud, the verse is stunning! Isaiah is quite provocative, to say the least. Not just to our ears! But I am sure also to God's – for Isaiah is indeed deliberately trying to *provoke* God into taking some kind of action.

For Advent to be Advent, we too must be provocative. We, like Isaiah need to wait so hard and for so long that it almost hurts. And who among us is already there? I know so many who are agonizing over the news of our brother Samuel Rodriguez in Apopa, El Salvador, a parishioner of our sister church at Las Cabanitas. He has been picked-up in the dragnet, 80,000 in prison, 8,000-10,000 innocent, 200 have died, mostly poor families suffer, implemented by the government's suspension of *habeas corpus* for suspected gang members. It seems that even in the rush to justice there exists injustice!

Likewise in the Holy Land, the place of peace to which we look for love and faithfulness to God, injustice reigns with the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinians in the quest to inflict justice upon the brutal murders perpetrated by Hamas.

Closer to home, we have actually heard argued in front of the Supreme Court the bizarre case of a domestic abuser who advocates that he has a seemingly sacrosanct Second Amendment right to own and use assault rifles when our country suffers a never-ending litany of mass shootings. It is almost unbearable!

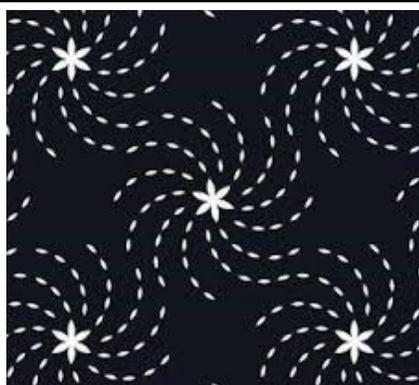
This Advent we also impertinently cry out to God, "If only you would tear open the heaven and come down!" In other words, "God, will you finally DO SOMETHING?!"

And yet, God *did*, God *is*, and God *will* continue to do something.

Jesus, Emmanuel, 'God with Us' walked our Earth and shared with us the words, the mind, the heart, the actions, and the wisdom of God. Through the Holy Spirit, the Christ that was Jesus, dwells within us today so that we demonstrate the words, mind, heart, actions, and wisdom of God. And God will, as Jesus prayed, with us, someday, establish the realm of God on Earth just as it is established in heaven.

This Advent season, please do not miss a worship service. Wait with me until it hurts, if it already does not hurt too much already. Anticipate with the leaders of our church the coming of the Christ in Jesus. With families in our church, let us remind ourselves of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace – all leading to the day of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem when we worship around the light of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve.

Be well. Love always in Christ, Scott



**Advent Daily Reading** from Quinn G. Caldwell's book, *All I Really Want* (Abington Press, 2014).

Read it alone, join in on line each day to make a comment about the reading and/or join in a discussion on the four Sunday's of Advent to discuss that day's reading or perhaps one from the previous week. Check on the bulletin board and in *eNews* for updates.

The book can be purchased online or locally through Everyone's Books. \$19.99. Questions? Contact:

Priscilla Svec: 802.505.8925 / [svecpriscilla4@gmail.com](mailto:svecpriscilla4@gmail.com) or

Scott Couper: 786.622.8473 / [centrepastor@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:centrepastor@centrechurchvt.org)

## CENTRE BELLS — DECEMBER 2023

The newsletter of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

## Council Chair, LYNN HERZOG

Although signs of Christmas are all around us (as I write this before Thanksgiving), in the church we are still thinking of stewardship. It is time for each of us to think how we can strengthen and improve the church. Financial gifts are most important, because they pay our hardworking, talented, and dedicated staff, and money keeps the heat on and the lights burning, and also indirectly supports the important work of Loaves and Fishes, Brattleboro Centre for Children, and Carry Me Home. But the donations of your time and talent are also important.

Our worship service is enriched by the choir's music, the Children's Message, the sanctuary decorations, and the Hospitality Time – all of which are done by volunteers. And there is so much more that goes on behind the scenes – sending out mailings (like this *Centre Bells*), cleaning the kitchen, tending the garden, visiting and sending cards, fixing things, serving on committees, quilting for a cause, helping at Loaves & Fishes and Carry Me Home and the Brattleboro Centre for Children, etc., etc. Volunteers are more than just the icing on the cake – they are the cake, and the backbone of the church. Many, many thanks to all who volunteer their time and talents! And if you are not already volunteering, please think about ways you would enjoy helping. We should all fill out the Time and Talent card along with our Stewardship Pledge, and return them to the church office or put them into the offering plate. As a congregation, we all benefit from each other's gifts. Thanks to all!



## From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

Advent is nearly upon us and the choir is busily preparing special music for this season. The pianos will have been tuned, the organ will have been tuned and we will be ready to fill the Sanctuary with special music. And, speaking of special music, the Friends of Music at Guilford will be holding their annual Messiah Sing at Centre Church on December 2 at 1:00pm. If you love to sing Handel's masterpiece, come with your score OR borrow one there. If you would prefer to just listen, that's fine too. This year, they will be using the organ and David Neiweem (retired professor from University of Vermont) will be playing. I knew David when I lived in Burlington, and in fact, he replaced me at the First Unitarian Church when I moved to MA in 1984! He's a terrific player! It promises to be a wonderful event!



## DEACONS

### ADVENT WREATH

In 1839 a Lutheran minister in Germany created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart with twenty small red candles and four large white candles. The red ones were lit on weekdays and the white ones on Sundays during Advent.

Evergreens were eventually added as a symbol of everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle represents God's unending love and eternal life.

Red berries are used as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and death; pinecones signify new life.

The candles we use on our Advent Wreath atop the beautiful wrought iron stand are lit by church families along with a meaningful liturgy on the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve.

December 3 - Purple/Hope

December 10 - Purple/Love

December 17 - Pink/Joy

December 24 - Purple/Peace

December 24 - White/Christ

May you all feel the hope, love, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ!

To All Members and Friends of Centre Church

As some of you know, I will be retiring from my position as Church Administrator at the end of December, and beginning a new chapter in my life, pursuing other interests and making more time for family and friends.

I have enjoyed working with all of you, am grateful for the support and love that I have received over the years here, and wish you all much success in your worthy missions and the spiritual growth of the church.

With Love,  
Bruce



## MEMBER CARE

In October we celebrated Silver Bells Sunday, recognizing people who have been members 25 years and more. Erick Strickland brought to our attention that two long time member have not been added to that list. They are Anne Doesburg and Roger Brown. We appreciate all their membership has brought to Centre Church these many years.

Last January "Coffee Hour", renamed "Hospitality Time", started up again after a long absence due to the pandemic. Most of the congregation gathers there for a time of conversation and refreshments. Thanks to those people who take the up the task of preparing and serving refreshments. The coffee is supplied by the Member Care Board.

In October, we were served by the Choir and Music Committee, in November by the Endowment and Finance Committees, and in December by the Personnel and Local Church Discernment Committees.

We will start 2024 in January with the Board of Deacons and the Board for Christian Education.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Marion Daley, chair



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education: At our November meeting, we decided to not have a Christmas pageant this year. We do not have enough children attending consistently. We are working with the Deacons on ways the children can be included in the worship services during Advent.

By the time this come out in the December *Centre Bells*, we will have started having the children make Christmas cards that will be sent to our sister parish in El Salvador.

We have been discussing hosting an activity for families with young children at a time other than Sunday morning. Sometime in January will be our first activity. We plan to include families with young children who live in our community and do not currently attend Centre Church.



## BRATTLEBORO CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

We finally feel like we are truly coming out of the pandemic. While COVID-19 is still a concern, it does not seem to have the overwhelming impact on our Centre that it has had for the past three years. That's the good news. On the other hand, some families are still struggling and others have moved across state lines to continue to find work. Housing is a struggle for some and we have several families in need for the holidays. Our young children have energy and enthusiasm, and are reconnecting and making friends and developing skills but some are still challenged by socializing as many were born during lockdown and the pandemic is all they've ever known. To help normalize their lives, we are putting out a plea for support on the Giving Tree, sponsored by Mission & Service, anonymous gifts for the upcoming Christmas holiday. If you are willing and able to help a child in need this Christmas, please contact Nan Mann in the BCC office:

802.254.0300 / [brattleborocentreforchildren@gmail.com](mailto:brattleborocentreforchildren@gmail.com)  
or simply pick up an ornament off the tree on whatever Sunday morning it appears. Thank you so much for your generosity and love.

-Nan Mann, Director BCC

## MISSION & SERVICE

---

Thank you to all who participated in so many ways in November. Centre Church did a tremendous amount of mission work.

- We sent \$500 to the *HELP Fund* (September's Second Sunday)
- We sent \$518 to UCC's *Neighbors in Need* (October's Second Sunday)
- We supported *Loaves & Fishes* through our Second Sunday Offering and Harvest Sunday food drive
- We supported *Loaves & Fishes* through the apples picked and donated by the Kacik family. THANKS Drew, Christina and Dalia. And from apples picked at Green Mountain Orchards! THANKS GMO!
- We provided dinner at Groundworks on November 19
- We provided Memorial Hall for the Brattleboro Youth Group's monthly meeting. They did several service projects including sorting clothes, bagging salt, sugar and flour, and making brownies.
- Maybe some of you bought a turkey and/or an entire turkey meal for a local family needing help this Thanksgiving through Food Works.
- We prayed for our sister parish community and members who were taken by the government and placed in jail. Our prayers continue for Samuel. May he be released! SAFELY!!!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL TOWN AND COMMUNITY and for your Prayers!!!



In December, there will be other ways to give and support others:

- **December 1**, buy a gift for someone from the Mission & Service table at the Church Bazaar. Money raised will go to the *Luz del Mundo Scholarship Fund*, supporting the students in Cabanitas, El Salvador.
- **December 3**, the sanctuary Christmas tree, our "Giving Tree", will be decorated with paper ornaments listing a child's name, age, and wish list for Christmas. Maybe you'll take one of these and buy the suggested gifts for that child. All wrapped presents will need to be returned by December 17.
- **December 10**, the Second Sunday Offering will be the *Christmas Fund*. This Fund supports the retired clergy who may not have been able to earn retirement funds due to their location of their ministry. For example, in Vermont, a minister might serve several very small congregations.
- **December 17**, gifts for the *Giving Tree* ministry are returned. Maybe you'll help make an item for Centre Church's meal for Groundworks.
- **December 24**, donate to the offering this Christmas Eve and you'll support the church's *Samaritan Fund*. This fund supports local people who come to the church in need and speak to the Rev. Dr. Scott Couper.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AFAR.

Thank You Centre Church Members and Friends!! You are awesome, hard working, dedicated servants through your devotion to others. May 2024 be a year filled with opportunity and dedication to serving others.

### CCC QUILTERS UPDATE



The quilters at Centre Church (CCC) have invited friends, neighbors and community quilters to join us on Thursdays at 1:00pm at Carlene McCarty's home to quilt items for the fall craft shows. So far the ladies who have joined us include Joanne Clark, Patti Reardon, Marion Abell, Sheryl Willis, Meg Harriman, Margit Brosnan, Bonnie Girvan, Mindy Nadolski, Sharon Tyn-dall, Deb Brown, Janis Brown, Carlene McCarty, and Anne Doesburg

We have 19 items for sale; that is 800 pieces made. THANK YOU, LADIES Join us on **December 1 & 2**: at the Christmas Bazaar, 5:00-7:00pm Friday / 9:00am-4:00pm Saturday in the Centre Congregational Church parlor.

## **PROJECT FEED**

**"How can we live with ourselves if our neighbors are living with hunger?"**

*Project Feed* runs from November 1 through December 31, 2023

### **Hunger has become an epidemic.**

Our friends and neighbors are having an increasingly difficult time putting healthy, nutritious meals on the table. Often hidden, hunger affects countless individuals and families in our community. In fact, there are over 6000 people in our area that regularly use a food shelf or community kitchen. These individuals include senior citizens, veterans, refugees and working families with children who do not earn enough to make ends meet. *Project Feed the Thousands'* mission is to address this epidemic.

### **Everyone can help.**

*Project Feed the Thousands* is unique in that **EVERYONE** can participate in some way. Whether you choose to make a cash contribution, pick up an extra non-perishable food item every time you go grocery shopping **YOU** are helping **YOUR** friends and neighbors fill a critical gap – the need for the most basic of human needs – **FOOD!!**

### **How Centre Church's people can help.**

Everything people at Centre Church donate to in the name of *Project Feed* goes directly to *Loaves & Fishes*. These were put into family grocery bags and boxes of food delivered to people at Dalem Chalet and the housing projects. We were also able to set up a market for our Afghan Refugees. Some of the food is directly cooked into meals which we serve to the homeless. Hotel population, and home bound people. Donations of money gave us the ability to purchase more food from the Food Bank, wholesale, and local farms.

### **What we need**

Pam Carr and Teri Robinson, who faithfully package up to 46 bags of staples twice a week have a list of needed items:

- Canned goods especially with pop top lids: baked beans, beans, canned chicken, tuna fish, deviled ham, hash, fruits, and vegetables, spaghetti sauce
- Dry goods: crackers, individual packets of rice and mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, pasta meals
- Afghan and other refugee food needs: rice, red beans, garbanzo beans, flour, oil, yeast, sugar
- And of course, cash donations

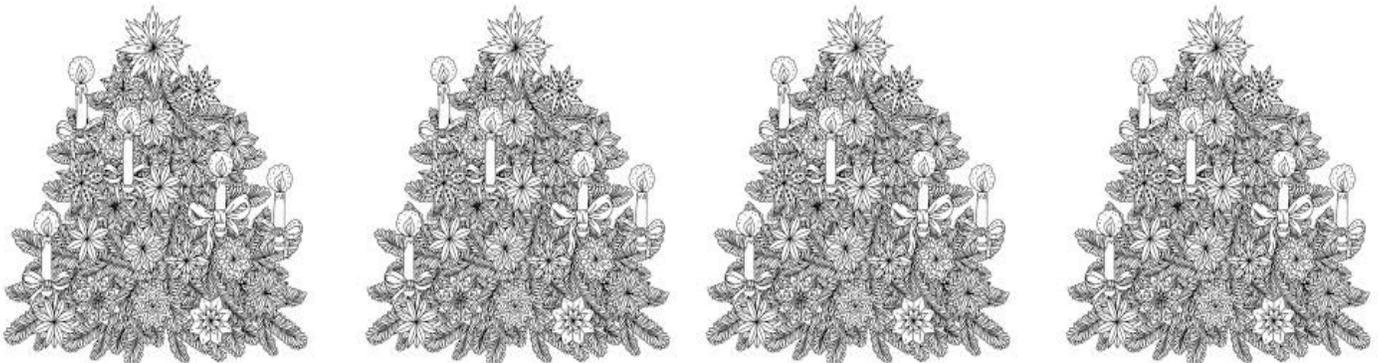
### **How to donate to *Loaves & Fishes*?**

There will be a bin at the church or people can deliver to *Loaves and Fishes* or people can directly order from Amazon and have food delivered to Centre church( 193 Main Street)

Donations of checks can be made out to *Loaves & Fishes* with *Project Feed* in the memo.

**With YOUR help we can make a difference in our communities – with dignity, courtesy, and respect for those less fortunate than ourselves.**

**THANK YOU! Ruth Tilghman: 802-258-1765 / rtilgh09@aol.com**



# 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 November 26.

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

**Alice Stockwell**—Vernon Hall  
13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT 05354  
802.254.8091

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

## BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Deborah Cope
- 12 Holly MacLean
- 13 Alice Stockwell
- 15 Sarah Gray
- 22 Lee Moore
- 24 Mary Ellen Bixby  
Sen Pu
- 31 Roger Brown



## NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

**Margo Neale:** [margonealevt@gmail.com](mailto:margonealevt@gmail.com)  
**Al Rydant:** 603.283.8506  
**Karen Rydant:** 603.290.1858

## NEW FRIENDS OF CENTRE CHURCH

**Brad Henry**  
140 Elliot St. #201, Brattleboro, VT 05301  
802.246.7854 / [mr.bradhenry@outlook.com](mailto:mr.bradhenry@outlook.com)

**Julian Muller**  
89 Wantastiquet Dr., Brattleboro, VT 05301  
504.416.9213 / [julian@mdcnola.com](mailto:julian@mdcnola.com)

Dear Scott,

Thank you soooo very much for such a beautiful service to honor my dad [Howard Deitz, Sr.]. I am still getting messages from people who attended that are telling me what a beautiful service it was. My family and I were honored to have you do the service and appreciate you very much. A million 'Thank Yous'.

Vicki Goulas, Putney, VT



Dear Friends at Centre Church,

I hope you all are well. I wanted to share an update on the use of the Muslim prayer space at Centre Church. There continues to be a regular gathering for Friday (jumu'a) prayers every week. The prayer time has been moved to 1 pm because of daylight savings and shorter days. Every week we have 9-12 people gathering for Friday prayers. The group is made up of Muslims born within the United States and of immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Senegal, and Sudan.

As you can imagine, for this group of Muslims, it is a blessing to have a space for fulfilling a religious obligation and for connecting with each other weekly. A Muslim new to the Brattleboro community who recently moved from New Jersey to work at the Retreat said this: "I am so happy to find a place for Friday prayers." Your support of the Muslim prayer space is touching many people and is engendering gratitude in many. The people using the prayer space have collected \$350 as a donation for Centre Church - a very small token of our appreciation and gratitude.

Thank you and God bless you!

Dr. Amer Latif



# DECEMBER 2023

\*\*ZOOM events  
\*Holy Communion

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 12 <sup>00</sup> World AIDS Day 1 <sup>00</sup> Jum'a Prayer 5 <sup>00</sup> Gallery Walk/ Green @Centre 5 <sup>00</sup> -7 <sup>00</sup> Holiday Craft Show	2 9 <sup>00</sup> -4 <sup>00</sup> Holiday Craft Show 1 <sup>00</sup> Messiah Sing
3 <b>Poinsettia Order Deadline</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship*/Advent I 11 <sup>15</sup> Hospitality Time	4 4 <sup>30</sup> Christian Ed Board	5 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	6 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 7 <sup>00</sup> VT Humanities First Wednesday	7 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	8 <b>CB DEADLINE</b> 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 12 <sup>30</sup> L & F Board 1 <sup>00</sup> Jum'a Prayer	9
10 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>15</sup> Hospitality Time	11 6 <sup>00</sup> Deacons meeting	12 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	13 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> Mission & Service	14 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>00</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	15 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 1 <sup>00</sup> Jum'a Prayer	16 9 <sup>00</sup> Buddhist 1/2 day Sitting
17 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> Hospitality Time 4 <sup>30</sup> Groundworks Meal	18 1 <sup>00</sup> Compassionate Brattleboro	19 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	20 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> Church Council 6 <sup>30</sup> NAACP	21 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>00</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	22 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 1 <sup>00</sup> Jum'a Prayer	23
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> -9 <sup>00</sup> AA Alcathon 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> Hospitality Time 7 <sup>00</sup> Worship	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> -6 <sup>00</sup> AA Alcathon	26 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>00</sup> Dharma evening	27 <b>MAIL CB</b> 11 <sup>00</sup> Staff meeting 12 <sup>00</sup> Help Fund 6 <sup>00</sup> WWAC Salon	28 1 <sup>00</sup> Quilting ministry 4 <sup>00</sup> Women's Spirit 5 <sup>30</sup> Choir Rehearsal	29 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 1 <sup>00</sup> Jum'a Prayer 7 <sup>00</sup> Local Music Shocase	30
31 <b>New Years Eve</b> 9 <sup>00</sup> -6 <sup>00</sup> AA Alcathon 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Discussion 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship / FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> Hospitality Time						

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



## DECEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

**Sunday, December 3, 1st Sunday of Advent**

Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

**Sunday, December 10, 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isa 40:1-11 and Ps 85:1-2, 8-13 or 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

**Sunday, December 17, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps 126: or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve**

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4; 19-26; Rom 16:25-27; **Luke 1:26-38**

**Monday, December 25, Christmas Day**

Isa 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20

**Sunday, December 31, 1st Sunday after Christmas /New Years Eve**

Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148; Gal 4:4-7; **Luke 2:22-40**



**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](mailto:admin@centrechurhvt.org)



**DECEMBER**



**2023**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 8  
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

**Scott's days off:** Friday and Saturday

**Church Office:** 802.254.4730 / [admin@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:admin@centrechurchvt.org)

**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**

**Minister and Teacher:** The Rev. Dr. Scott Couper: 786.622.8473 (cell)  
[centrepastor@centrechurchvt.org](mailto: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:** Emily Houle: [finance@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:finance@centrechurchvt.org)

**Custodian:** Emelio McCalla

**Council Chair:** Lynn Herzog

**Treasurer:** Anne Fecto

**Clerk:** Jenifer Ambler