

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont 05301  
centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

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BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301



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Assisting the Music Director  
Music Director  
Financial Secretary  
Interim Minister  
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**CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP**

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301  
Office Hours: M - F: 8:30am - 12:30pm  
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Facebook: Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro  
Current news and information in the larger UCC Community:  
VT Conference: [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) / National: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN,  
Rev. Bert Marshall  
Resurrection Bread**

The day of Easter passes quickly, it seems. After forty long days of Lent, the final push through Holy Week, the ritual remembering of Jesus' suffering and death – the long march explodes into a bright flash of pageantry and then fades abruptly into a strange and silent landscape of vague, shifting forms that move swiftly away as we turn toward the next items on society's agenda. Over there, an empty tomb appears. Behind it, a hill with a hundred wooden crosses. Buzzards, dry bones, blood. Shadows from a distant past. Shattered bodies and broken dreams.

If you followed Jesus of Nazareth to that hill, your dreams are really broken now. Your dreams are broken and your heart is pounding with fear and your head is aching with the pain of failure and disillusionment. You're angry, too. You're angry because you were dumb enough to follow this loser, and now you're a loser, too. And other people saw you following him around with that idiotic grin on your face for three years, and they also think you're a loser. Big time.

Isn't this great? This is just great. Then some of the women come running back from the tomb. They're out of breath. They can hardly speak. They say it's empty. You say 'What's empty?' They say 'it's empty, it's empty. The tomb! The body's gone. He's not there. Come on, we'll show you!'

But you didn't go. Neither did most of your friends. In fact, hardly anyone went. Why didn't *everyone* jump up and go – all the disciples, the Twelve, the whole gang? You don't know. It's hard to get up off the floor when your dreams are broken in pieces and you're aching with pain and fear. It's hard to walk out the door when you think you're a loser and all your hopes have just been crushed under a Roman boot heel. Forget the alleluias. You've got enough to worry about. You've got problems of your own to deal with. You gotta look out for yourself. The authorities are probably looking for you now, too.

The Easter pageant passes quickly, it seems. Especially for those who think they have no need for resurrection. Especially for those who are quite sure there must be a logical explanation for all this (the body was stolen or hidden; he didn't actually die; the women went to the wrong one; the whole story was made up; etc.). Easter has become, by and large, a cultural event of a rather dim magnitude. Perhaps this is unavoidable, and even acceptable, or possibly even good.

Resurrection, however, is something else; something entirely different. It is God's ability to bring life directly out of death. Anywhere, any day. It is the presence of Christ in our neighbors and in ourselves. Right now. A noticeable, detectable presence. This presence is especially powerful wherever there are broken dreams, broken hearts, and losers. Those are the people who first saw and understood *why* the tomb was empty, even if they couldn't all describe what had happened, even though their descriptions were not the same. *Something happened* that overwhelmed them, changed them, transformed them, empowered them. Rescued by resurrection, they began to practice resurrection.

We observe a holiday, and then life returns to normal. The early disciples – Jesus' motley band of followers – experienced a miracle, and their lives were never the same again. And while we cannot expect to re-create and re-enact a miracle every year on command at Easter, we *can* be more alert for Christ's appearances in our midst. Resurrection is all around us. The bright flash of pageantry we experience on Easter Day should be the beginning of a journey each year: a journey of discovery and hope in which the risen Christ does, indeed, appear in our midst. You only need to see through the masks and disguises. You only need to remove the barriers in your own life that prevent you from seeing.

The Easter pageant passes quickly, it seems. But resurrection sticks to you like glue. It follows you everywhere. You can't shake it loose. It's in those shadowy perceptions at the edge of your vision. It's in every broken heart, every broken dream, every idiotic grin, every lost soul – every place where hopelessness dwells, every land where oppression and fear reign, every street where injustice holds sway. It's in the breaking of bread, the sharing of a cup. Look around in the coming weeks. You can see it if you try. Presence. The shattering of reality. Life out of death.

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



**CENTRE BELLS** The Newsletter of  
Centre Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
April 2016

## From Council Vice-Chair, MATT KENNEDY

It's April, which means spring is officially here, though based on the weather the past few months you'd be forgiven for wondering what season it really is. With spring comes rebirth: a renewed sense of hope and optimism about what is to come. As we move into April these feelings are growing within Centre Church. Rev. Bert and Mary Milkey-May continue to find new ways of inspiring us on our spiritual and musical journeys. We continue to celebrate the church's bicentennial, with Rev. Bert's very successful presentation of "The Gospel of Mark ALIVE!" in March drawing in a diverse audience of both members and friends, and the Centre and Friends Musical Cabaret and Luncheon coming up on April 24. We look forward to coming together to shape the future of the Centre Church at the Annual Program Meeting on May 22, and the process of forming the search committee for the settle pastor is well on its way. So as we look out the window and watch nature again spring forth, let us also contemplate what each of us can do, by ourselves and all together, to help Centre Church continue to grow and thrive for another 200 years

## From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

Welcome to Spring!! .....and as we enter into this lovely, new, budding season, the music committee would like to remind and invite you to participate in the upcoming Cabaret, scheduled for Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, following the church service. We will be gathering downstairs in Memorial Hall for a light lunch and "light" entertainment. In order to make this happen, we need your talent and skills. If you'd like to participate in the Cabaret, please see Matt Kennedy, Mike Mario, Virginia Kneubel, Jenifer Ambler, Jim Bedard, Joanne Clark or myself. I am happy to set up rehearsal time with folks on Thursdays, late afternoon up until 7:00 PM and Sundays after church. If you aren't sure what you might be inclined to do, bring some ideas and we'll help you sort it out!! We're looking for anything light with the theme being Emmys, Grammys, Oscars, Tonys (EGOTs) We will also need help with set-up, serving, clean up etc. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board near the office. Please sign up as soon as possible! Anyone who is participating in the Cabaret should plan on being at the run-through on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM. At this time we will be setting up mics, and running through the program, beginning to end. Please save this date too!

On another note, thanks go out to Michael Ball for his recent donation of two fabulous, small file cabinets to serve as temporary storage for the choral anthems in the choir room. This has been a great help and will make it much easier to keep things tidy in our rehearsal space. Thanks also go to Ernie May who has purchased and donated several new anthems for our choral library.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the choir members who dedicate a rather large chunk of time both on Thursdays and Sundays to prepare the service music each week. These folks have worked so hard! We typically have 5 or 6 anthems on which we are working during each rehearsal in order to be well prepared for the services. This means we pretty much use every single minute of each rehearsal! If you have a chance, take a moment to thank a choir member. Each one has made a huge commitment and I am so appreciative of this wonderful group of singers! They are a joy!!



## CHURCH LIFE

### BOARD of DEACONS

This month's Deacon's Doings is dedicated to our dear Mary Bristol. As a deacon, Mary worked tirelessly and cheerfully, going "above and beyond" in everything that she did. In addition to the numerous deacon's duties, Mary took it upon herself to hang the paraments, polish the silver, wash and iron linens, help to organize the deacon's closet, etc., etc.! She rarely missed a Sunday, and always offered her assistance to the other deacons. Her smile and humor made her a joy to be around.

Mary, thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for your commitment to Centre Church.

With love and gratitude, Your fellow deacons

**WOMEN'S SPIRIT...**is always happy to have others join them every Thursday afternoon at 4:30 in the library for a warm time of sharing ideas. The group is still working with Marcus Borg's book **CONVICTIONS**. You do not need to own the book to be a part of the group who read and share during the hour they meet.

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



#### **Spring Bulbs**

**Remember to order from Centre Church Fundraising. Order forms will be available each Sunday in April after church at coffee hour.**

## BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @ CENTRE CHURCH

**Sunday School:** every Sunday from 9:00 - 9:45 for ages 4+

**Faith in Action:** during the worship service for ages 5+; every Sunday except Communion Sunday, the 1st Sunday of the month.

**Nursery Care:** every Sunday during Sunday School and Worship for ages 0-5.

### FAITH IN ACTION

We are delighted with the success of our new-this-year program. *Faith In Action* takes place during worship, following the children's message, and is for the children ages 6 and above. Members of our congregation have been taking turns volunteering to help the children with projects like making meals for the overflow shelter, sending cards to shut-in members, delivering food to the food shelf, and tidying up our church's garden beds. There is so much they can do to help the missions of Centre Church!

But they do need supervision. We are wondering if YOU would be willing to volunteer one Sunday, just one!, to help our children learn about and understand how we can put our Faith In Action.

More volunteers mean the children get to meet more adult members of our congregation, enhancing the important understanding of church as family and community, as well as the adults getting to know our wonderful children.

The Board of Christian Education will provide materials and ideas, all we need is one Sunday of your time. Please consider saying "Yes" and contact Abi Healey to volunteer: 258-8990 / [abigail.m.healey@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.m.healey@gmail.com)

Sunday April 10, immediately after church, we will host a potluck lunch in Memorial Hall in lieu of Fellowship Hour. Please sign up to bring a dish and join us that Sunday. At that time we will also make a brief presentation about *Faith In Action*; hear from current Faith in Action volunteers, find out what's expected of the adults who volunteer with the children, and inspire each other to get involved! Please sign up and join us on April 10!

### JOB OPENING

The Christian Education Board is looking for someone to work in the nursery on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position from 9am to 11:30 am weekly. Person must be 16 years or older. See Nan Mann or Rev. Bert to apply. Thank you.

## ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

**BOOK STUDY:** an adult group book study currently reading *Rumi: The Life and Work of the Great Sufi Poet* by Annemarie Schimmel.

**Sunday mornings, 9:00-10:00AM**

**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS:** Led by the Rev. Sandy Daly, a group of adults gather in Chesterfield, NH at Hallelujah Farm to discuss how and where God is moving in our lives and what we are being called to be and do. Directions to Hallelujah Farm are in the church office.

**Fourth Monday of each Month, 7:00-8:30PM**

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Bicentennial Banner that hangs in the front of the sanctuary was an easy one to create—or recreate. Easy because it is the same one Marilyn Young sewed in 1991 for CCC's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Twenty five years later all Marilyn had to do was change that number 1991 to 2016. The banner has the white church on a blue background. Thank you Marilyn.

You may have passed that small wall hung cabinet in the hallway without ever noticing it. Last Sunday I spotted Heidi Mario unlocking the glass front door. "What is she doing?," I wondered. Curiosity drew me to see that she was placing printed cards, identifying those historic items on display.

Stop and take a look.

-Marion Daley

## ORDER *This Jewel on Main Street*

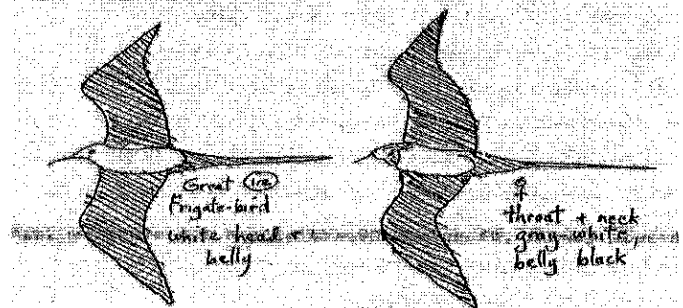
The history of Centre Congregational Church published for our bicentennial year, is available for sale every Sunday during coffee hour. For those who do not intend to be in the area and wish to buy a copy of this remarkable book, you may purchase it by sending a check for \$20.00 to cover the book and shipping, made out to Centre Church. Please send your orders to:

**Marion Daley**

**PO Box 445**

**Putney VT 05346**

Dot Vander Meulen will be happy to autograph the book before they are packed and mailed to you



## BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE

The Board for Mission & Service cordially invites all to a brunch honoring our UCC missionary in Guatemala, Gloria Vicente, on **Saturday, April 23** at 10am in the parlor. [see accompanying article] At that time Ms. Vicente will speak informally and show some slides of her work in Guatemala. On the following day, **April 24**, she will be speaking during our Sunday service. Bob & Dee Keller are helping to coordinate her travels around Vermont during the last week of April.



Our April Special Offerings are for scholarship funds for two summer camp programs for youth.

The *Star Island Scholarships* enable interested Centre Church youth to attend summer camp sessions on this island off Portsmouth, NH. Star Island programs are founded on the traditions of the United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalism. A number of our youth and some Centre Church adults have attended Star Island in the past and have meaningful and lasting memories of their time there. Any Centre Church young person should notify Mission & Service Chair Priscilla Svec if you are interested in applying.

The *Nell Sather Scholarship Fund*, administered through the WSESU school district in memory of a local educator, enables Brattleboro area youth to attend local summer camps.

## PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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

Friday, April 1, 5:30-6:00PM,  
Centre Church Parlor

This month we will join Richard Brady in reflecting on spiritual life at home.

Richard is a teacher in the tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. In 2008 his partner, Elisabeth, and he founded the **Mountains and Rivers Mindfulness Community**, which meets weekly in Brattleboro and Putney. A retired high school mathematics teacher, Richard co-founded the **Mindfulness in Education Network** and served as its first president. He writes on mindfulness in education and offers workshops.

More information about Richard is available at:  
[www.mindingyourlife.net](http://www.mindingyourlife.net).

## **GLORIA VICENTE** WILL BE WITH US APRIL 23 & 24

Our Missionary Relationship began with Gloria in 2007 when she went to Guatemala to serve as an advisor and support person with the Guatemalan Cultural Action organization. She worked with women in the micro loan and savings project including teaching alternative and cost effective ways of cooking meals.

Gloria was born in Guatemala in 1975 but her family moved to the U.S. when she was five years old because her grandparents and other family members were killed in the terrible civil wars at that time. She grew up in Chicago where her family was accepted as refugees. When she finished college she worked for six years with organizations helping Latin American workers and communities in the Chicago area. Then, in 2007 she felt called to return to Guatemala to serve those in need. She said, "Coming from a family who survived a civil war and a father who has believed in justice, peace and human rights has inspired me... to follow Jesus Christ's life and teachings of compassion and love of one's neighbors..."

During the eight years of our Centre Church relationship with Gloria, members of our Mission and Service Committee have learned about her continuing service in Guatemala and shared that with our congregation. Marty Fern's sister, Rev. Sue Bowman, met with Gloria in 2007 at a church conference and later Joanna Reuter, on her way to El Salvador, stopped in Guatemala to spend some time with Gloria and her husband, Santos. Through the years as Gloria's family grew to include 3 children, Joanna has provided pictures of them which have been posted on our Mission & Service bulletin board. Some years ago Jeanne Reuter organized a project to send Christmas gifts to Gloria's children and our congregation also sent the family a Prayer Shawl.

Gloria's family has now returned home to Chicago and Gloria has been traveling to many churches in different states to report about her important work in Guatemala with Global Ministries. We look forward to her being with us on **Saturday, April 23** when we are all invited to share a brunch with her and on **Sunday, April 24** for our worship service together.



# APRIL 2016

\*Holy Communion  
celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 5 <sup>30</sup> Moment for Peace 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	2 9 <sup>30</sup> SEVIA Benefit—Carry Me Home
3 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study/ Sunday School 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship* 10 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting	4 4 <sup>30</sup> Prayer Shawl	5 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 3 <sup>30</sup> Fundraising 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	6 12 <sup>00</sup> Luncheon Group 5 <sup>30</sup> Bicentennial	7 9 <sup>00</sup> BWC 9 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 7 <sup>00</sup> Choir Rehearsal	8 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	9 9 <sup>00</sup> BWC Rehearsal
10 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study/ Sunday School 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship/FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> FIA gathering 11 <sup>30</sup> Music Committee 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting	11 4 <sup>30</sup> Prayer Shawl 7 <sup>30</sup> AA District 8	12 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 6 <sup>30</sup> Meeting Night 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	13 4 <sup>00</sup> DKG 6 <sup>15</sup> Race Dialogue	14 9 <sup>00</sup> BWC 9 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 7 <sup>00</sup> Choir Rehearsal	15 <b>CENTRE BELLS DEADLINE</b> 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> BMC Concert 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	16 7 <sup>30</sup> Rock Voices Concert
17 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study/ Sunday School 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship/FIA 10 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting 5 <sup>00</sup> Overflow Shelter 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting	18 4 <sup>30</sup> Prayer Shawl	19 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	20 12 <sup>00</sup> BALL 6 <sup>30</sup> Church Council	21 9 <sup>00</sup> BWC 9 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 7 <sup>00</sup> Choir Rehearsal	22 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	23 9 <sup>00</sup> chandeliers 10 <sup>00</sup> Brunch— Gloria Vincenti
24 9 <sup>00</sup> Book Study/ Sunday School 10 <sup>00</sup> Worship/FIA 11 <sup>30</sup> Music Celebration 6 <sup>00</sup> AA Meeting	25 4 <sup>30</sup> Prayer Shawl 7 <sup>00</sup> Spiritual Conversations	26 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	27 <b>MAIL CENTRE BELLS</b>	28 9 <sup>00</sup> BWC 9 <sup>30</sup> Quilting Ministry 4 <sup>30</sup> Women's Spirit 7 <sup>00</sup> Choir Rehearsal	29 11 <sup>30</sup> Loaves & Fishes 5 <sup>00</sup> 9 <sup>00</sup> DKG 7 <sup>30</sup> AA Meeting	30 8 <sup>00</sup> -5 <sup>00</sup> DKG



A word of good cheer would be warmly received by church members and friends who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, or housebound as of March 25th.

## JEANNE RUETER

Thompson House, 80 Maple St.,  
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-4977

## NANCY CLARKE

Holton Home, 158 Western Ave.,  
Brattleboro, VT 05301 254-5005

## WANDA GODFREY

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## MARJORIE SPRAGUE

Nason Center, Room 221  
Breckenridge Village, 36859 Ridge Road  
Willoughby Ohio 44094 (440) 497-5208

## DON STOCKWELL

Vernon Green, 61 Greenway Dr.,  
Vernon, VT 05354 254-6041

Please let Bruce know if we've missed someone

## BIRTHDAYS

4 Nancy DiMauro  
9 Douglas Gray  
Cody Balin  
11 Amy Balin  
12 Kai-Ming Pu  
14 Graeme King  
Judi Miller  
Deborah Brown

17 Arnold Young  
Aleksa Secrest  
19 Beverly Webster  
Julie Ball  
22 Margaret Harriman

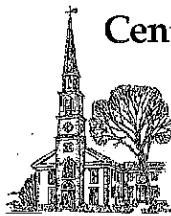
24 Elissa Gray  
25 Alison Hale  
27 Anne Doesburg  
Dawn Pollard  
29 Susan Cay

## ANNIVERSARIES

1 Dart & Joy Everett  
4 Alice & Donald Stockwell  
12 Holly & Matt Kennedy  
13 Judi & Roger Miller  
21 Deborah & Stephen Brown



**Centre Bells** is published monthly by  
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News items and articles, address changes, or requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list should be submitted to the church administrator at:  
802-254-4730 / [centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org](mailto:centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org)