

Renewing Congregations

Skimming through some old document files, I discovered this pastor's piece I wrote for the February 2001 newsletter at the Lee MA Congregational Church. That's right: sixteen years ago I wrote this! Here it is in slightly edited (mainly shortened) form.

Last November, an issue of *The Christian Century* magazine featured some articles on the theme: "reconfiguring congregations." One of them, by Anthony B. Robinson, was entitled "Renewed Life." Robinson, who is senior pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) in Seattle, sees seven ways that mainline churches are, or ought to be, changing:

From civic faith to the practice of transformation. Churches need to ask bottom-line questions, such as 'What is the deep purpose of the church?' and 'What is the purpose of our particular church?' People are seeking alternatives in a society that seems so destructive of human relationships and so afflicted with violence and greed. The church offers a way of life that is grounded in human transformation, healing, spiritual development, making disciples, faith in community. Material affluence has failed to satisfy our deep longings for purpose and meaning. "Those seeking a church today," Robinson writes, "need more than a committee assignment. They need and seek a whole new way of life."

From assuming the goods to delivering the goods. Robinson says, "Churches cannot serve a host of side dishes while neglecting the main course. Worship must be the central and formative experience in the life of the congregation. Today, the traditional and classical marks of the church – *kerygma* (worship and proclamation), *didache* (teaching), *koinonia* (community and fellowship), and *diakonia* (service) – must take precedence." These, after all, are the characteristics that make us unique, that make us *church*.

From givers to receivers who are also givers. We have been taught, out of context, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," but it is also true that the giver occupies a position of control. We are accustomed to giving to whom and whatever we *choose* to give. Receiving, Robinson reminds us, whether it be material assistance or forgiveness, "makes us vulnerable." The church must learn to receive again — grace and forgiveness from others, and from God through the sacraments and rituals of the church. It's easier to share when you know what it's like to receive what you're sharing. From that well of understanding and mercy, our giving takes on a new dimension.



From board culture to ministry culture. Many established congregations have elaborate structures of boards and committees set up to "run the church." Such structures were created long ago to imitate either corporate structures or voluntary organizations. Some congregations today are finding that this arrangement does not meet their needs, and so they are experimenting with new models in which members are asked "to be engaged in ministry rather than to run the church itself." Robinson reports that he knows a 900-member congregation "at which all but three committees have been abolished, replaced by a host of 'ministry teams.' Even in churches where such an innovation seems too drastic, board and committee members can be encouraged to develop an ethic of ministry. Church committees should frequently ask themselves: What is the big picture? How does our work connect with our story, our scriptures, our tradition?"

From community organization to faith-based ministry. This is a reminder that the church is not just another civic or community organization. The world needs to hear something different from us. The world needs to hear the gospel from us. The work of the church is not just social or political or economic — it is also spiritual, faith-based, Christ-centered. We are disciples who are called to witness and service.

From seeing the budget as an end to seeing it as a means. Many churches try to survive by adopting an annual rallying cry of “making the budget.” Robinson says, “It doesn’t require extended reflection to see that “making the budget” is not a cry that is likely to capture people’s imaginations.” He continues: “When ‘making the budget’ becomes our goal, chances are that we are not asking the essential prior question, ‘What are we trying to accomplish?’, or ‘What is our business?’ Congregations must see the budget as a means and as a tool for ministry and mission. We need to break the pattern of letting the budget determine what is possible.”

From passive to active membership growth. Essentially, because mainline Protestant churches no longer have a guaranteed market share in their communities, it is more important than ever to reach out. Robinson’s own experience points to a combination of outreach, hospitality, and shared ministries as a path to membership growth. People are encouraged to invite others to church. Most of us, he suggests, can manage that stunningly simple phrase for calling disciples in the Gospel of John: “Come and see!” That’s all you need to say. The outcome of the invitation is not up to us; our task is simply to invite, and to welcome when the invitation is accepted.



Today, sixteen years later, nearly halfway through 2017, I believe more than ever that the mainline church *must* step out boldly in some new directions if it is to survive and flourish in the new century. Here are seven ideas for doing so. How might Centre Church respond? As we continue to move together through this transitional time, let us resolve to grow in the spirit, tend the garden of healing and transformation, walk together on the path of discipleship, sing the songs, listen to the stories — and *be the church* in bold new ways!

Blessings & Peace,
Rev. Bert

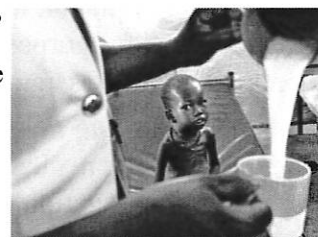


The World Council of Churches’ Global Day of Prayer to End Famine was May 21, but a special appeal continues.

THE SITUATION

Famine has officially been declared in South Sudan and, for the first time in recent history, there is a very real possibility of four famines - in Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Yemen - breaking out all at once. Twenty million people face starvation within the next six months. International aid officials warn that this is one of the biggest humanitarian disasters since World War II. Increased investment in international humanitarian assistance at this moment is critical to help these people in crisis. In addition, we see that continued funding for peacebuilding programs that prevent violent conflict are critical pieces that help address root causes of poverty and famine.

To address the current famine, the global humanitarian community is ready to scale up the response to avert a catastrophe, but requires additional funds immediately to do so. Let’s do our part through our prayers, generous contributions, and advocacy with the U.S. government to release emergency funding to meet the catastrophic needs of these four countries and support robust funding for diplomatic, development, and peacebuilding tools, which are critical to our security, and to the well-being of others around the world. We must act now, before it is too late.



On-line: [Emergency Appeal for East Africa Famine at http://www.ucc.org/disaster_south_sudan_famine](http://www.ucc.org/disaster_south_sudan_famine)
By mail: Make checks payable to United Church of Christ with memo note: “International Emergency Relief Fund – East Africa Famine.” Mail to: United Church of Christ, Financial Services Office, 700 Prospect Ave. E., Cleveland, OH 44115

Trusted, on-the-ground partnerships enable the church around the world to get food resources directly to the people who need them. UCC Disaster Ministries already has sent \$85,000 generated through the 2017 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering . . . , which provided food, nutrition supplements, safe water, sanitation, fast-maturing seeds, farming tools, and support to keep pupils and teachers in school. Through IMA World Health we deploy mobile clinics, therapeutic feeding and medicines, and are supporting partners like Sudan Medical Care.

Let’s Advocate –
Call for U.S. leadership to generate the funds needed to avert catastrophe. Urge Congress today to save lives in these four countries by maintaining robust foreign assistance funding as it considers the 2018 budget.

From Council Chair, MATT KENNEDY

About the time you receive this we will be preparing to celebrate Pentecost, after which we will enter what many may view as the least celebratory time of the liturgical year. Lent has passed and the joy and celebrations of Easter are beginning to fade, while Advent is far off in the distance. In fact, even the name of this cycle, "ordinary time," seems to support the notion that it isn't a very exciting time. There are, however, many things to celebrate here at Centre, including two recent events.

At the end April members and friends joined with Buildings and Grounds, the Deacons, and the Centre for Children for a Spring Spruce-Up Day. In the spirit of Earth Day (which was also that day) a list of "to-dos" was posted on a bulletin board in the parlor and people of all ages went to work sprucing up the church, inside and out. The day also included the annual cleaning of the sanctuary chandeliers, a task that takes a fair bit of coordination among the many hands that help. If you've never seen the raising or lowering of the chandeliers it's quite a sight. Thank you to all that helped organize the day and to the many hands that made light work of the tasks at hand. Given the success of the day I think this would make a great annual tradition!

On May 6th we held a Financial Brainstorming Session. The gathering started with a light fare breakfast, followed by a presentation of the church's current financial status, then a talk about stewardship and passion. Next came the focus of the session, a series of small group discussions that lead to the creation of lists of ideas for gathering support for Centre's financial needs from three areas: within the congregation, the greater Brattleboro community, and other/broader resources. The many members and friends present brainstormed a wide range of ideas and, continuing the spirit of the previously mentioned passion, at the end of the ses-

sion everyone was asked to put their name on at least two items they would be willing to follow up on/get involved with. I would like to take a moment to thank Holly Kennedy, Marion Abell, and Rev. Bert Marshall for their help in putting on the Brainstorming Session. A list of the ideas will be made available, and people will have an opportunity to collaborate on carrying them forward.

As you can see, there are plenty of things to keep us excited these next several months.

~Matt



BOARD of DEACONS

DEACON'S DOINGS

The PLEDGE PLUS Program has just begun!!! The cards are available in each pew, marked in red on the special offering envelopes. If you find yourself with some extra cash just put it in an envelope on any Sunday! We will keep you up-to-date on how well this goes. The Deacons were happy to help get this event off and running!

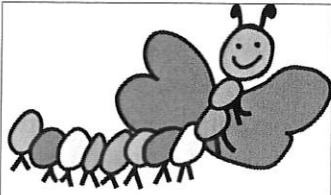
Flowers from your gardens are welcomed over the summer months. Just sign up in the parlor or give Hilary a call for a date. We are excited to see what beautiful bouquets arrive in the next 4 months!

~Carlene McCarty, Deacon

CENTRE BELLS

The Newsletter of
**Centre Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**
June 2017

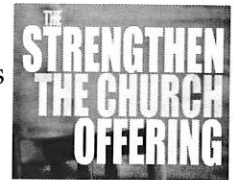
BOARD FOR MISSION & SERVICE



Brattleboro Centre for Children

The June Second Sunday Offering on **June 11** will be for Centre for Children, Centre Church's own child care facility for almost 15 years now (for history buffs, looking back, the first director was hired in September 2002!). It provides quality care to children from infants to preschool age, many from families who struggle to pay for a safe place for their children. Our church has helped in many ways through the years, including waived rent and paid insurance when the Centre was starting out. Anything we can give through our Second Sunday Offering helps them to better serve the children in their care. On June 11, all offering income not otherwise designated will go to Centre for Children. If you miss that week and still want to give, just clearly mark "Centre for Children Second Sunday Offering" on your check or envelope.

It's also the season for the UCC-wide Strengthen Our Church offering, so envelopes for this offering will be available through June for those who may choose to give.



Stay tuned over the next few months as we plan to make October "Homecoming Month" for Centre Church! Sunday, October 1, is World Communion Sunday, when we display international flags in the sanctuary, including the flag of El Salvador where our Sister Parish is located. On Gallery Walk night – Friday, October 6 – there will be a dinner and special speaker. On Sunday, October 22, we will have an International Potluck after church. More details to follow!

There are plans afoot to do another medical mission to El Salvador from October 28 to November 4 this fall! The clinics would be held in another community, due to various logistics, but there would be a visit to our Sister Parish church, plus opportunities to see the sights and experience the culture, of course. Total cost with airfare is anticipated to be in the \$1500 ballpark. The group is seeking medical professionals, especially dentistry and eye care, as well as laypeople willing to just pitch in and help. Contact Jenifer Ambler for more information: 802-380-2805 or amblerj@sover.net.

Brattleboro Area Hospice holds its 19th annual Memorial Planting Service on June 4 at 4:00 p.m. The simple service includes a responsive reading and singing by the Hallowell Singers. Plant flowers and perennials, create memorial messages on stones and place them in the garden, and listen to beautiful music, all to honor and remember loved ones who have died. Everyone is invited, so encourage family members and friends to come with you!

The event takes place at the Hospice Memorial Garden located at Living Memorial Park in Brattleboro. The garden is on Guilford Street, on the hillside adjacent to the road, directly across from #150 Guilford St. Plants will be provided. As we plant we'll read the



names of those who have died in the past year. If you would like BAH to include a name not already on our hospice list, please call (802) 257-0775 by May 29 to let us know. Please wear clothing suitable to the weather. A few chairs will be available for those who need them. Feel free to bring a blanket to sit on. Afterwards we'll enjoy light refreshments. The service will be held even if there's light rain. If it's raining heavily we'll postpone till Tuesday, June 6, at 5:00 pm. If you're in doubt about whether the service is taking place because of rain call the hospice office at 257-0775 starting at 2:00 pm on June 4 and press "4" for a special message.

~Connie Baxter, BAH Bereavement Care Coordinator

From Music Director, MARYMILKEY-MAY

MUSIC NOTES

Musical highlights during the month of May included Peter Abell singing and playing his banjo along with Alison Hale sharing her flute talents. I am deeply grateful for their willingness to share their time and talents with the choir!

June is nearly here! The choir's last Sunday will be June 4th. Typically, we sing through May, but since folks will be at Guilford on May 28th, and since Pentecost is on the 4th, the choir has agreed to sing on the 4th. Please take a moment to thank a choir member for his/her dedication throughout the past year. Every member has worked hard and has taken the commitment seriously. Without such dedication, things would be quite different! Meanwhile, I am still looking for volunteers for summer music. I have two so far. If you can help out in this way, please let me know!

Having just written the Music Director's report for the May 21st meeting, honestly, I don't have much to add. I hope to see you all throughout the summer and I will put one more plug in for more choir members in September. We really are a fun group!

Start-a-Card

Member Care sends cards: get-well, sympathy, some birthday, graduation, and thinking-of-you cards. Even in this day of instant communication via phone, Skype, Facebook, and email, a letter via USPS is special.

Sometimes you would like to send a greeting to a church friend you have not seen in a while....or to one who is hospitalized, or not feeling well, or just to say "hello."

Beginning in June, Member Care will make this an easy thing to do. "START-a-Card" is what we're calling it. (Maybe you can offer a better name.) There will be couple of cards in the church parlor addressed to an individual you may know. We're inviting you to sign it and we'll stamp and send it.



"A letter always seemed to me like immortality because it is the mind alone without corporeal friend." ~Emily Dickinson

Upgrading Our Kitchen with Gratitude and Thanks



Our Kitchen Renovation Team (KART) has been working on upgrading our church kitchen with some new appliances. After serving us well for several decades, our appliances are worn out, increasingly expensive to maintain and are no longer safe. These necessary upgrades in equipment will ensure that we can continue to serve more people at community suppers, welcome Loaves and Fishes, Centre for Children, and others who prepare delicious meals there.

Through generous donations from church members, friends who support Loaves and Fishes, memorial gifts, and grants, we are happy to announce that we are going ahead and ordering a single oven gas range, a convection oven, a double door freezer and single door refrigerator. It is with heartfelt gratitude and thanks that we can accomplish this project. If you feel so inclined, you can still participate by sending your contribution to the church office, labeled for the kitchen upgrade.

Kitchen Renovation Team (KART)
Building & Grounds Board
Church Council



SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee started meeting weekly in May. We understood not all members would be able to make every meeting, but those that were able to make the meeting were very productive. We continue to do homework between meetings. We felt it was important to increase our time and energy working on the Church Profile. We have grown together as a strong committee. We continue to ask tough questions of ourselves and of our church family. Completing the Church Profile is challenging and taught us a lot about ourselves and our church.

~Anne Fecto

BRATTLEBORO CENTRE for CHILDREN

In the past year Brattleboro Centre for Children hired 3 new teachers, all assistants, and rehired one who had taken the summer off. Fully staffed now, we look forward to being fully enrolled as well. As of this month we have 37 students enrolled, with room for 42. We hope to fill out spaces with new infant families.

Sharlene Braskie, the centre's Assistant Director, retired in January 2017, leaving a void in administration, professional support and centre history. Sharlene had been with BCC for 10 years, worked in all four classrooms as a lead teacher, and managed the centre as an Interim Director. She has offered to maintain a presence in the centre by doing a monthly nutrition curriculum for the preschool class and to "sub" for the office staff when needed. In her absence Nan hired Karen Cribari as an Office Manager. Karen comes from experience with Youth Services, bringing an understanding of young people, young families, non profits, and community based service work. She helps in the classrooms, giving teaching staff time for planning and meeting, as well as in the office.

After her surgery in June 2016, Nan recovered nicely and has since been able to return to full-time work (at a slightly reduced hourly workload). She was grateful for the church members' support and assistance in her recovery.

In November 2016, Bob Neubauer retired from his many years of being president of the board. James Cera, a church member and parent of two BCC children, stepped up to the position. Rev. Jack Bixby joined the board and Leah Bratton, an experienced Early Childhood center director and consultant, joined the board as Secretary.

In the preschool the curriculum this past winter was Travelling Around the World, an interest that arose from the children themselves when one 4-year-old came in asking "What are pyramids and where is Egypt?" From that exploration, they continued their "travels" to Italy, France, Spain, Ireland, Japan, China, and Russia, often choosing the next country to visit by the children's own curiosity (asking "What country is

Thank you to all of the families and individuals who pitched in to clean up the playground on April 22, giving up their Saturday to help. We appreciate being part of such a generous and handy community! ~BCC

that?" pointing to the world map on the wall). They have learned what the flags look like, studied art and architecture of each country, learned what animals live there and even studied cultural aspects like music and dance and traditional or historic clothing. They have made "passports," learned songs, read stories and eaten food representing these countries. It's been a wonderful introduction to cultural differences and building curiosity about the world outside of Brattleboro. Younger children's classes have focused on developmental skills, seasonal and local interests.



Jubilee's passport

Donations continue to be of great value, particularly around feeding the children. We are members of the Vermont Food Bank and while we do order from them and contribute with a membership fee, that provides us with the opportunity to acquire many things free of charge as well. This helps our grocery bill as we provide 2 meals and snack daily, free of charge to the families. We also benefit from two meals a week that Loaves and Fishes prepares for us. We continue to have weekly donations of bagels from Bruegger's Bagels, a tradition that has continued for nearly 3 years now. With it we offer an opportunity for parents to visit the office and have coffee and a bagel with their child or with Nan. It's a nice time to relax, get to know each other, and catch up. In addition, Nan wrote letters to local sugar makers this spring, requesting donations of real maple syrup to provide that taste of real Vermont for our children. To date, 8 sugar makers have donated quarts of real maple syrup to the centre and we've had pancakes with real maple syrup twice so far! Of course, we also thank the many people (church members included) who donate to us regularly as well. ~Nan Mann, Director



CHURCH LIFE

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE
Friday, June 2 • 5:30-6:00PM
Centre Church Parlor

This month **Muriel Wolf** will offer selected readings from the anthology "How do you pray?" edited by Celeste Jacobini, then invite group members to engage in silent contemplation and sharing about the role of prayer in their lives. Muriel is currently enrolled in the two-year program in Spiritual Guidance Training at the Rowe Conference Center.

Prayer Chain . . . Coming Soon!

May we pray for you?

It has been our custom for many years at Centre Church to submit prayer requests on those little cards found in the pew racks. The pastor reads these prior to our time of corporate prayer. Usually he asks if there are others that have not been submitted and people speak their requests. Most are requests for healing. Sometimes people share a joy or tell of an answered prayer.

Member Care would like to expand the opportunity to seek support in prayer. An email system is being set up. If you would like to participate in this ministry, email Sen Pu (pusenpu@gmail.com) and she will set up a distribution list. That way when she get a request she can send it out to all those volunteers.

What if you don't use a computer but still want to be one of the *pray-ers*? Then you should contact Marion Daley at (802)387-5822 and she will set up a telephone prayer chain.

SUMMER UNION SERVICES

at our **BRATTLEBORO AREA CHURCHES**

June 25 - 1st Congregational Church, W. Brattleboro

July 30 - Dummerston Congregational Church

August 27 - Centre Congregational Church

A reminder to all that worship for all four congregations on those Sundays takes place at the host church! More details to come as they are made available.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @ CENTRE CHURCH

Faith in Action during the worship service for ages 5+; nursery care provided during the service for ages 0-5. Every Sunday except Communion Sunday, the 1st Sunday of the month.

ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

BOOK STUDY: Join a self-led book study group currently reading *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, by Amy-Jill Levine. Copies are available at Everyone's Books for about \$15.00. Everyone is welcome in the church library!

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

WOMEN'S SPIRIT . . .

This group meets each Thursday at 4:30 in the church library and is open to everyone. *GOD IS NOT ONE* by Stephen Prothero is being used as an in-depth study of the eight "rival religions that run the world." Discussion is open and invited with no one's ideas being challenged as right or wrong.



ORDER *This Jewel on Main Street*

The history of Centre Congregational Church, published for our bicentennial year, is still available for purchase from the office or during coffee hour following Sunday services.

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 made out to Centre Church. This covers the \$15.00 book and shipping. Please send your orders to:

Marion Daley

PO Box 445

Putney VT 05346

Dot Vander Meulen will be happy to autograph the book before it is packed and mailed to you.

Friends,

The next **CHURCH POTLUCK** is in Plainfield, MA, and you're invited! Please come join us at 70 S. Central St (01070) on **Sunday, July 16**, from 2 – 6. We'll provide hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, basic condiments. The pots/bags/boxes-of-luck you bring will round out our afternoon meal together! We've got a stack of real plates and a drawer of utensils, but if you bring your own place setting (real or paper) that will be a big help. If you've got a favorite portable chair, that would be good, too! We'll have iced tea and lemonade—BYOB (to share?). The Mapquest directions are simple and accurate. See you then! ~Kare & Rev. Bert



"There is no such thing as too many deviled eggs."

Jan Karon, *Come Rain or Come Shine*



All Church Picnic 2017



The Kiwanis Shelter at Living Memorial Park has been reserved,— the list of "who is bringing what" from the Member Care Board members is made, — the grill masters have been recruited, — all in preparation for the Annual All

Church Picnic. This is one of the fun events it is a joy to prepare for each year.

All are invited to attend right after Church on **Sunday, June 11**. Member Care provides the hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, buns, rolls, condiments, potato chips, cold drinks, paper goods, and charcoal. All you have to bring is a dish to share. This year if your last name begins with a letter from A–L, please bring a dessert. If your last name begins with a letter from L–Z, please bring a salad and a serving utensil.

There will be games for the children to play. We have found over the years that the adults prefer this as a chance to have conversation. Last year our picnic day was a windy and cool one. This year we're ordering sunshine!

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 May 24.

DON WEBSTER

50 Highlawn Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301 257-1434

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

Vernon Hall, 13 Greenway Dr.,
Vernon, VT 05354 254-2444

PHYLLIS HICKOK

1520 Little Blue Stem Ct.
Ames, IA 50014 (515)292-9196

ROBERT & JANE REED

461 Grafton Rd., #201
Townshend, VT 05353 (802)221-4213

KAREN GETTY PETER

Langdon Place, 136 Arch Street, Room 152
Keene, NH 03431 (603)357-3902

Please let Hilary know if we've missed someone.

BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP

JUNE 7 is the date for the next meeting of the Brown Bag Group. Everyone is welcome to join a group of persons who bring their lunch and share in conversation for an hour. It's surprising how that hour flies by as ideas about church programs as well as the latest adventures in fighting ant and mouse invasions. In May we shared a delicious apple cake that Hilary, our church secretary created. (Thanks, Hilary.) Come and enjoy the warmth of every day people you see at church but never really get to know.



Everyone is invited to a special coffee hour after the worship service on **Sunday, June 4**, to honor Mike and Julie Ball, to thank them for all their contributions to the life of Centre Church, and to wish them luck and Godspeed in their new community. Their new address, as of June 20, is:

Julie and Michael Ball
1303 E. Mumford Drive #1
Urbana, Illinois 61801

JUNE 2017

*Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 7 ⁰⁰ Choir Rehearsal	2 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	3
4 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship* 11 ³⁰ Ball reception 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	5 2 ⁰⁰ BCC 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	6 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	7 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch	8 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	9 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 2 ⁰⁰ Ball/Charter for Compassion 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	10
11 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA All Church Picnic 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	12 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	13 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 6 ⁰⁰ Meeting Night 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	14	15 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	16 12 ³⁰ Centre Bells deadline 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	17 1 ⁰⁰ Party for Virginia Knuebel
18 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	19 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	20 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	21 12 ⁰⁰ Ball 3 ³⁰ Fundraising Committee	22 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	23 Office closed 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	24
25 10 ⁰⁰ Union Service: 1st Congo, W.B. 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	26 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl 7 ⁰⁰ Spiritual Conversations	27 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Search Committee 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	28 Centre Bells mailed	29 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit	30 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Alina Secrest
- 4 Hannah Svec
- 7 Roger Ketcham
- 9 Jack Bixby
Don Webster
- 10 Roger Miller
- 12 Carolyn Smith
- 13 Jenifer Ambler
- 16 Pat Verboom
- 18 Bob Keller
- 19 Marion Abell
Patti Neubauer
- 23 Allen Vander Meulen
- 24 Alta Barber
- 26 Morgan Randrup, Jr.



A PARTY FOR VIRGINIA:

Everyone is invited to a party for Virginia Knuebel on **Saturday, June 17**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Centre's parlor. This is an opportunity for Virginia to visit with folks, enjoy some food together, and generally have a nice time with everyone while she's still able. Please bring a potluck dish to share, if you can, and help celebrate all that Virginia has meant to our church and congregation.



I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June.

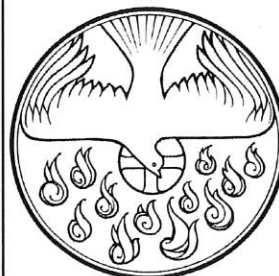
L.M. Montgomery,
Anne of the Island

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Darlene & Rene LaPlante
- 12 Arnold & Marilyn Young
- 14 Myrna & Ralph Melroy
- 17 Allen & Judy Myrick
- 19 Alice & Gary Carrier
- 25 Mike & Julie Ball
- 26 Bob & Jane Reed
Marion & Peter Abell
- 28 David & Rennie Washburn
- 30 Jim Bedard and Lisa Keller

June Lectionary Texts:

- 4 Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30•Ps 104:24-34, 35b•
1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21•John 20:19-23 or
John 7:37-39
- 11 Gen 1:1-2:4a•Ps 8•2 Cor 13:11-13•Matt 28:16-20
- 18 Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7)•Ps 116:1-2,12-19 or Ex 19:2-
8a•Ps 100•Rom 5:1-8•Matt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
- 25 Gen 21:8-21•Ps 86:1-10, 16-17 or Jer 20:7-13•Ps



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

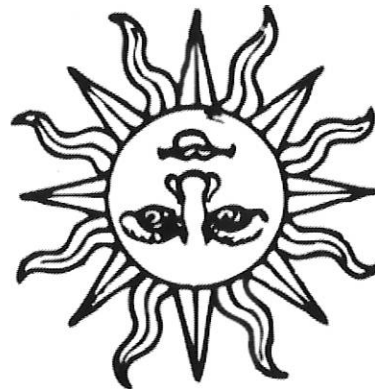
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