

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

MARCH



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

Office Hours: M - F / 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Church Office: (802) 254-4730 / centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

Facebook: 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:

Christine Yost: finance@centrechurchvt.org

Council Chair:

William McCarty

Treasurer:

Anne Fecto

Clerk:

Connie Bresnahan

Custodian:

John Bertolini

MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends in Christ:

I forward to you this correspondence from the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, John Dorhauer. (see following page) John's words are ones of encouragement. John's correspondence relates to our own dear Jack Bixby and Abigail Healey who are leading the discussions and Bible studies on the "Reclaiming Jesus" statement. The correspondence offers a clarion call to the Mission & Service team that inspired and sponsored our new Open & Affirming 'welcome' signage.

John's correspondence speaks a word of affirmation to Jenifer Ambler and Roger Miller who represented our congregation in a most recent 'Church Vitality' workshop in Springfield (VT) sponsored by the Vermont Conference on 9 February 2019. One of the caveats of the workshop was: for a minister and congregation, "staying in the office and the church leads to decline and networking in the community leads to new life". To participate in this church vitality workshop, our church would need to raise \$1,500 whereby our church will receive a 'coach' and will be led to implement a specific plan for our church to reach new people. The funds to be 'coached' in church vitality are not covered in our most recent church budget approved on 10 February 2019. Nonetheless, where there is a will, there is a way. Roger and I participated in a follow-up conference call on 20 February 2019 to further explore this opportunity. We will keep the Council and you informed. Thank you. Be well.

Love always in Christ, Scott



From Council Chair, BILL McCARTY

We are now in the 'Winter Doldrums' – a time when even living in Vermont or New Hampshire can be tiresome! But remember, spring is near at hand and warmer times are coming.

Council, as is usual, has been active in dealing with many ongoing issues, the most recent being an updating of the audio/visual needs of the Sanctuary. An update of the technology is needed, but we must still remain aware of the history, needs and appearance of our 150 year old Sanctuary. To that end, a special media/sanctuary committee is being formed to investigate and collate the needs and technology available. If you have any ideas, see a committee member (to be named soon), Scott or me.

Our annual Financial Meeting was held and we adopted a new 2019 deficit budget! – I feel as if we are trying to emulate the federal budget! We must address our needs and issues soon. Perhaps we will have some answers before the Annual Program Meeting in May. If anyone has ideas, cures, or plans to assist, please advise. All ideas will be entertained!

As we all are aware at the Annual Program meeting is the time when Centre Church's new officers and Boards are elected and appointed to guide CCC for the next year. New people are needed in all aspects of the church life. Please sign up to assist. The current administration is getting old!

Council approved the Centre for Children's plans to rejuvenate and brighten the Center's entrance area with new murals. The plans are exciting and will be a great addition to their area and entrance. We look forward to seeing the new decorating and completed entrance area. It will be a needed and positive improvement to the area.

We have accomplished much since our new minister, Scott Couper has joined us in July. Many new ideas and plans are in progress. It is an exciting and active time in CCC's life.

I look forward to the changes – join us by becoming active in the new life at Centre Church.

See you all at church.

CENTRE BELLS - March 2019

The newsletter of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



January 23, 2019

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united - in purpose, in mission, in vision - is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like 'terrorist' that attach too easily to Muslims, overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ's call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dorhauer".

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Officers of the Church

Rev. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon
Associate General Minister
Justice and Local Church Ministries

Rev. James A. Moos
Associate General Minister
Global Engagement and Operations
Co-executive for Global Ministries

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

!February was a great month! We had the full adult choir for the first time since September! With everyone's hectic schedules, that is a rarity. However, when it happens it is wonderful as each section is balanced. I'm hoping this will happen again before the end of our singing season in May. Also this month we were treated to a wonderful jazz-style solo by Jeanushka who sang *Song of Bernadette*.

Also during February, Alison Hale graciously contributed to Prelude and Postlude music from both the Baroque and Romantic periods (Telemann, Godard and Faure). As always, her flute playing is glorious!

The Children's Choir sang twice during February. The first song, *Walk On*, was a freedom song in honor of Black History Month. The second piece, *Cantar*, was a song about singing together with one voice, Alleluia! The children sang it in Spanish! They have already begun working on the next song to be sung sometime during March. The message in their upcoming song is as follows "It takes a world of differences to make a difference in the world."

This month we begin the season of Lent. The adult choir will be preparing many Lenten anthems that will lead up to Palm Sunday and Easter. We hope you enjoy the reflective nature of these anthems.

Everyone is invited to the
MOMENT for PEACE
Friday, March 1 • 5:30-6:00pm

At this month's presentation, *Bridge4Unity*, we will learn about a dialogue exchange that took place recently in South Carolina among activists committed to ending racism. The meeting included people from Kentucky and the Pioneer Valley, and grew out of Hands Across the Hills. **Rev. Sarah Pirtle** will share songs and stories from these events and pass along the feeling of engagement in growth. **Rev. Sarah Pirtle** is an author, recording artist, and eleven-time national award winner who is part of both dialogue groups. She directs the Common Threads Project of Traprock Center for Peace and Justice.

BROWN BAG LUNCH GROUP

The next BROWN BAG GROUP meeting is Wednesday, March 6 at noon. This is a time to come together with your lunch sandwich or whatever and chat about anything that comes to mind. The February group got into such a deep discussion that there had to be a reminder that we were pledged to meet only for an hour. The group is open to everyone. Come join us.

WOMEN'S SPIRIT

This group is finishing up the study and discussion of *Reclaiming Jesus* and are in the process of choosing a new book to read and discuss. The group is investigating Maria Popov's blog *Brain Picking* and Mary Pipher's *Women Rowing North*. All are welcome.

DEACONS

The Deacons are going into a busy season and we have some dates for you to remember:

March 5, 2019, Shrove Tuesday, 5pm

Hope you will join us for an evening of pancakes and fruit and a short service at 6:00pm in Memorial Hall.

March 6, 2019, Ash Wednesday, 7pm

Come join us in the Sanctuary for this candlelight service of special readings and hymns. You may also come forward to receive the ashes.

April 14, 2019, Palm Sunday, 10:00am

Worship at Centre Congregational Church

April 19, 2019, Good Friday, 12:00-3:00pm

A service sponsored by BAILA (Brattleboro Area Interfaith Leaders Association) at the Guilford United Church of Christ.

April 21, 2019, Easter Sunday, 10:00am

Worship at Centre Congregational Church

We hope you will all join us for this Holy Time.

If you would like to order Easter lillies, tulips, or hyacinths, to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, an order form is available in this issue of Centre Bells, in the March Sunday bulletins, and on the CHURCH LIFE bulletin board. The deadline for all Easter flower orders is Sunday, April 7.

Our Deacon of the month for March is Lynn Herzog.

-Carlene McCarty, Deacon chair

MISSION & SERVICE

Seasonal Overflow Shelter meals continue on March 3. Please sign up on the CHURCH LIFE bulletin board to bring food and/or help serve. The last meal we have scheduled to provide is on April 7th. THANK YOU to all who made our Turkey Dinner on February 3 a success!!!

Second Sunday special offerings:

- February - Groundworks donations as of this printing are \$126
- March - will be *One Great Hour of Sharing*

On February 24, the Deacons and Mission & Service postponed the Chili Luncheon due to weather. The rescheduled date will be announced soon. Jenifer Ambler will provide slides and the story of her last trip to El Salvador.

On March 24, Olivier Lefebvre, Logan's husband and father of Lily, Ben, and Coralie, will speak about his work. From his office at Centre Church, Olivier, dba Climate Solutions, consults with NGOs, the UN, and governments around the world to improve air quality in developing nations with regard to cook stoves. Please come and enjoy a soup lunch and Olivier's talk.

BRATTLEBORO CENTRE for CHILDREN

It's sugaring season, and for Brattleboro Centre for Children it's when we run our "Real Vermont Breakfast Campaign". It's a letter-writing campaign to local sugar-makers, asking for a quart of real maple syrup to be donated to our Food Program. We have many children whose families don't have the resources to purchase real maple syrup and it is sad to think that real Vermonters may be growing up without the benefit of knowing what the real thing tastes like! When we serve pancakes and French toast for breakfast, we want them to have real syrup to put on top! We have run this campaign for two years now, and usually get about 6 to 8 quarts of real Vermont maple syrup from local sugar makers. The children can taste the difference and really enjoy it! This amount lasts us about half the year and is really appreciated. Nan usually does some tasting times for the classrooms, for comparison purposes, and one year we even had plain sap for them to taste. Many have never been to a sugar house and we are thinking about how (and where) to make that happen this year. Suggestions are welcome! Hap-



If you would like to give one or more flowers for Easter, please fill out a form for each plant ordered and return the form(s) to the church office with your check made out to:
Centre Congregational Church
193 Main Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

DEADLINE: Sunday, April 7, 2019

EASTER FLOWER ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Circle one:
IN HONOR/MEMORY/CELEBRATION OF
IN THANKSGIVING FOR

_____ 8" pot tulips@ \$15 each
_____ Easter lily@ \$12 each
_____ 3-bulb hyacinth@ \$10 each

CHECK TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

EASTER FLOWER ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Circle one:
IN HONOR/MEMORY/CELEBRATION OF
IN THANKSGIVING FOR

_____ 8" pot tulips@ \$15 each
_____ Easter lily@ \$12 each
_____ 3-bulb hyacinth@ \$10 each

CHECK TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

EASTER FLOWER ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Circle one:
IN HONOR/MEMORY/CELEBRATION OF
IN THANKSGIVING FOR

_____ 8" pot tulips@ \$15 each
_____ Easter lily@ \$12 each
_____ 3-bulb hyacinth@ \$10 each

CHECK TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

PEOPLE

IN MEMORIAM

Brattleboro - Dorothy "Dot" Atomanuk, 94, a resident of Brattleboro since 1947 passed away peacefully Wednesday afternoon, January 23, 2019 at Vernon Green Nursing Home just after being admitted following a period of declining health.

Dot was born in Erving, Mass on October 4, 1924 the daughter of Claude and Gladys (Spring) Tenney. She was raised and educated in Vernon and was a graduate of Brattleboro High School Class of 1943. She went on to attend the former Bay Path Institute in Springfield.

She had worked as a sales representative for Stanley Home Products based in Easthampton joining the company in 1963 and was the recipient of several high sales awards as a distributor. Dot retired from her position in 1999 following 43 dedicated years with the company. In her earlier years she had been employed at Holstein-Friesian Association in Brattleboro.

For many years she created beautifully decorated cakes for area families and friends both special occasion and wedding cakes.

Active civically, she was a longtime volunteer at the Brattleboro Senior Center, Meals on Wheels Program, The Thompson House and Pine Heights Nursing Home.

Dot held membership in the Brattleboro Women's Evening Club, the American Legion Auxiliary, Brattleboro Post #5 and was a life member of the VFW Carl M. Dessaint Post #1034 Auxiliary.

She loved square dancing and was a longtime member of the Green Mountain Squares of Brattleboro, The Ocala Twirlers and Friendly Squares in Florida.

Additionally, she held membership in the former Mineral Club of New England.

In her later years she enjoyed wintering in Hernando, Florida and later in Englewood.

Of her leisure time activities, Dot enjoyed summers at the family cottage on Crescent Lake in Unity, N.H., camping, swimming, gardening and collecting stamps and postcards from around the world. She also enjoyed taking cruises and traveled extensively both stateside and abroad.

She will be remembered for her endless energy, spunk, spirit of friendship and generosity. She was a long time member of Centre Congregational Church.

On September 9, 1944 at Vernon Union Church she was married to John Atomanuk who predeceased her on June 19, 1979.

Survivors include one son, James Atomanuk (Wanda) of Guilford, a daughter Alice Horton (Gregory) of Canton, CT, two sisters, Ruth Nichols of Troy, N.Y., and Beatrice Tenney of North Hollywood, CA, eight grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a son, Richard Atomanuk, a grandson, Jeffrey Horton, two brothers, Melvin and Ernest Tenney, two sisters, Myrtle Kusela and Marion Budzik, and her companion of many years, Paul Thereau.

(Scott Couper's message in honor of Dot can be found on the Church website: www.centrechurchvermont.org)



Marion Daley sends thanks from Pine Heights, where she has been living since January 10. Your expressions of sympathy on the death of her husband Darrel, birthday cards, flowers, and get-well cards on her new hip replacement have been read and re-read with appreciation for your warm thoughts and prayers.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Michael and Lisa Vose and the **Everett Family** at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston; **Roger Miller**, who is recovering from a procedure this week; **Marion Daley**, who is undergoing rehab at Pine Heights; **Marion Abell**, who is at home recovering from shoulder surgery; **Margo Neale**, whose brother died this past week; **Bonnie Girvan, Becky Day**, and **Joy & Dart Everett**, who are travelling; the family of **Dot Atomanuk**.



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 September 26.

Fran Burrows—Langdon Place
136A Arch St. #150, Keene, NH 03431

Jeanne Rueter—Thompson House
80 Maple St., Brattleboro, VT
254-4977

Nancy Clarke—Holton Home
158 Western Ave, Brattleboro, VT
254-4155

Wanda Godfrey—Vernon Hall
13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT
254-2444

Phyllis Hickok
1520 Little Blue Stem Ct., Ames IA 50014
515-337-1956

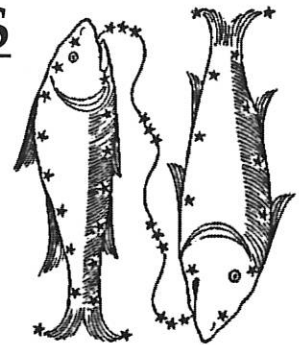
Jane Reed
461 Grafton Rd., #101, Townshend VT
802-221-4213

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Priscilla Svec
- 5 Emma Rueter
- 7 Diane Bassett
Sylvia Eaton
- 18 Haley Marcil
- 20 Katherine Fecto
- 21 Mike Robertson
- 27 Marilyn Young



New Members of Centre Church

Olivia Brisson
10 Canal St. #14, Brattleboro, VT 05301
marieclaire21123@gmail.com

Jenushka Fishell
500 Coolidge Hwy. #102, Guilford, VT 05301

Gina Hammett
127 Oxbow Rd., Hinsdale, NH 03451
603.256.3033 / hammett.gina@gmail.com

William Pearson
270 Western Ave. Brattleboro, VT 05301
billpearson815@gmail.com

Shiva Shankaran
PO Box 992, Brattleboro, VT 05301
258-4576

Sample of syndicated cartoon strip *Ophelia and Jake*, by our own Heidi Mario



ITEMS WANTED

T'wud be luvrly to find a great 5 or 10 speed bicycle & helmet, sitting in someone's garage or basement awaiting a happy rider! I can afford around \$50-75. Please let me know. Muchas Gracias!

Jeanushka Fishell, jnushka07@gmail.com



News items and articles should be submitted to the church administrator. Please contact the administrator with address changes or requests to be added or removed from the *Centre Bells* mailing list at:
(802) 254-4730/admin@centrechurchvt.org

MARCH 2019

**Holy Communion
celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	2
3 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship** 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 5 ⁴⁵ Overflow Shelter 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	4 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 4 ⁰⁰ BCC Board	5 Shrove Tuesday 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ⁰⁰ Pancake Supper 6 ⁰⁰ Worship Service 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	6 Ash Wednesday 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch 7 ⁰⁰ Worship Service	7 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal Scott Conference	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting Scott Conference	9 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop
10 Daylight Savings 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	11 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 6 ⁰⁰ Mission & Service 7 ³⁰ AA District 8	12 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Past. Relations 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	13 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional	14 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal 7 ⁰⁰ Building & Grounds	15 CB DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	16
17 St Patrick's Day 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA/ 11 ³⁰ Report Sunday 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	18 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl	19 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	20 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional	21 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal	22 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop
24 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Climate Solutions Presentation 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	25 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 4 ³⁰ Prayer Shawl	26 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	27 MAIL CB Scott VT Conference	28 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal Scott VT Conference	29 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting Scott VT Conference	30
31 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting						



MARCH LECTIONARY TEXTS

Sunday, March 3—Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration
Ex 34:29-35 1:4-10; Ps 99, 2 Cor 3:12-4:2; **Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)**

Sunday, March 10—1st Sunday of Lent
Deut 26:1-11; Ps 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom 10:8b-13; **Luke 4:1-13**

Sunday, March 17—2nd Sunday of Lent
Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 27; Phil 3:17-4:1; **Luke 13:31-35**

Sunday, March 24—3rd Sunday of Lent
Isa 55:1-9, Ps 63: 1-8, I Cor 10:1-13; **Luke 13:1-9**

Sunday, March 31—4th Sunday of Lent
Josh 5:9-12, Ps 32, 2 Cor 5:16-21; **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

OFFICE HOURS

M-F: 8:30am – 12:30pm

SCOTT'S SERMONS can be accessed at the church website: www.centrechurchvermont.org -or-
facebook page: <http://www.centrechurchvermont.org/audio--video.html> -or-
https://www.facebook.com/pg/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT-632678343519640/notes/?ref=page_internal -or-
From the website *Welcome* page, click *Audio & Video* in the top list (or click *More* or *Other* on the top right).