

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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Clerk: Jeannushka Fishell
Treasurer: Anne Fecto
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Instagram: @centrechurchvt
Current news/information in the larger UCC Community:
VT Conference: www.vtcucc.org / National: www.ucc.org

MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is autumn, and this is the time when the 'rubber hits the road' at Centre Church in downtown Brattleboro! Following my August leave with my children, I was quite keen to get back to work and gear-up for the busy ecclesiastic season ahead. I am doing my best to represent this church faithfully in our community with my recent participation in the Community Equity Collaborative forum (3 September) and in the wider-church on the Executive of the Windham-Union Association (13 September).

In September, we began a new sermon series entitled "Be the Church". "Be the Church" is a wider-church (United Church of Christ) motto that will help us as a church put our 'Faith in Action'. As I mentioned in a recent "Iconic Devotional Art" sermon, our mission as a church is to "worship and serve God, following the example of Jesus Christ". So, "Be the Church" will help us to implement our mission.

Beginning on 22 September with our guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, we focus for eight weeks on: Protect the Environment (22 September), Reject Racism and Embrace Diversity (29 September), Forgive Often (6 October, Holy Communion), Fight for the Powerless (13 October), Love God (20 October), and Enjoy This Life (27 October). Our 'Be the Church' themes will continue into our November Stewardship Campaign with "Care for the Poor" and "Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources". So, the last two weeks of our series "Be the Church" will *also* be the first two weeks of our four-week series on stewardship. That will bring us right up to Advent and Christmas in December! Wow! The end of the year already.

During "Be the Church", we have a colorful banner displayed in the sanctuary. I encourage you to tell your friends, relatives, neighbors, strangers, and work colleagues about our theme "Be the Church" and invite them to worship. To invite others to worship, use our new invitation cards obtained from the deacons. On the back of the invitation card is our "Be the Church" theme and its many foci.

Time flies fast in our vibrant and active church. Our congregation, due to its selfless and dedicated members, punches well above its weight when it comes to 'being the church'. I am so very proud to be a part of Loaves & Fishes and the Brattleboro Centre for Children. I am glad our church is tireless when it comes to supporting our local community and international missions through its giving to the wider church and overseas missions.

I look forward to seeing you in worship when we will inspire and strengthen one another to together "Be the Church".

Love always in Christ, Scott



Angelus

*So clear and sweet, above the symphony
Of drowsy birds, I hear a thrush's call,
A solo flute, repeating o'er and o'er
Its lovely melody, until, in awe,
I marvel that so much of loveliness
Can ever pour from out one little throat.
To me, that song is like an Angelus,
A call to prayer to all the feathered folk,
From out of the cool, green shadows, morn and eve
It bids them speak their praise and gratitude
To their Creator - Him whose loving care
Doth even mark the tiniest sparrow's fall.
And listening, in accord I bow my head,
The while my praise and thanks to Him are said.*

-from *A Year Remembered*

Esther Burnham (1983), A Women's Fellowship,
Centre Congregational Church publication.

Council Chair, BILL McCARTY

Welcome to my favorite time of the year! For the fifty-plus years I have lived here, this is my time to enjoy our wonderful New England region, especially Vermont and New Hampshire - their trees, weather, and people. But before I get too far removed, I must return to Centre Church.

Much is happening here in this wonderful 'climate' - a great place to be twelve months of the year.

We are fortunate to be able to participate and enjoy the 'climate' at Centre Church. Many of our brethren in other areas of the world do not have the opportunity or means to enjoy what many of us take for granted or assume is our right. Assuming all of this, there should, and is, a duty on us to earn and make these 'rights' available to others.

Where do we start? Right here at Centre Church! There are many areas and opportunities for us to work toward our goals. Centre Church is a place of dedication to the many values that are inherent in our Christian ethos. But it is a duty that we must accept and work toward. All of the things that are good need work to make better. Much needs to be done here at Centre Church.

Please join in, participate and contribute to the life and work of Centre Church. See a Board or Council member to join in our work.

-Bill McCarty, Council Chair



From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

We are off to a great start again with both the adult and children's choirs rehearsing weekly. The adults rehearse from 5:30-7:00pm on Thursdays and the children rehearse each Sunday after church, generally until around noon. In the adult choir we are in dire need of altos. Can anyone help? The children's choir includes children from K on up. I'm hoping this group will expand this year.

Does anyone out there in the congregation play guitar? We frequently do anthems that would sound even better with a guitar accompaniment. Please let me know if you have been keeping your talent a secret. With Mike Mario preaching in Springfield again this year, he is unavailable to use his fabulous guitar playing with the choir! He is greatly missed!

DEACONS

October is a very busy month for the Deacons.

April Harkness is the October Deacon of the month.

The Deacons will prepare Fellowship Hour for the month of October.

October 6 is World Communion Sunday. Every year we celebrate with specialty breads from other countries. If there is anyone in the church that would like to make a special cookie, bread, or food, please contact Carlene McCarty: 603.363.2050 / vtbooklady@gmail.com

There will be one new member joining our church this day as well.

October 20 is long time member Jeanne Rueter's Funeral. The Rev. Sandra Daley will officiate. Deacons Lynn Herzog, Mary Bristol, and Carlene & Bill McCarty will usher and greet. Jeanne gave so very much to this church. We hope many will come to celebrate her life.

October 27 is Silver Bells Sunday.

Heidi Mario will be decorating and preparing food for a Halloween themed children's table.

October 30, Scott, Heidi Mario, Carlene McCarty, and anyone else who would like to dress up and join us, are going to be passing out candy and toys during the Horribles Parade.

CENTRE BELLS—October 2019

The newsletter of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

MISSION & SERVICE

Our board has been busy with LOTS of discussion, lots of activities, and lots of organizing future events. One of the biggest ideas that we have been working on is to modify how we give to our local and international missions. We've asked ourselves if there is another way to donate that involves us reaching out into the community? With *Groundworks*, *Carry Me Home*, *Boys and Girls Club* and *Luz del Mundo*, we may be able to shift to a more active and visible way to donate. Of course, donating from the pews is always welcomed too! Our first opportunity will come as a Baroque concert in October, with the proceeds going to our *Luz del Mundo* scholarship fund. This fund helps to support the small local school in Cabinetas, El Salvador. On November 16, *Carry Me Home* and Centre Church will host the dinner which helps raise funds for shipping the boxes to refugee camps around the world. In the spring, Abi Healey will help us organize a group from Centre Church to participate in the *Camp for a Cause*, a fund-raiser for *Groundworks*. Hopefully these changes will help our community see Centre Church's active mission and service focus and at the same time help us reach out to others to help support these wonderful missions.

Over the summer, the Second Sunday Offerings raised funds for *Centre for Children* \$50, *Strengthen the Church* (5 for 5) \$194, *PINS/DCF* \$72, *Brattleboro Senior Meals* \$69, *Carry Me Home* \$208. *Neighbors in Need* is October's special offering. This is one of the UCC 5 for 5 offerings in which Centre Church participates in. *Neighbors in Need (NIN)* is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of *NIN* funds supports the *Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)*. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's *Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM)* to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. *Neighbors in Need* grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. We will be collecting the *NIN* special offering on **Sunday, October 13**.

There are three opportunities for mission travel coming up through VT UCC churches:

- Bethany Church in Montpelier is planning a trip to El Salvador in mid-November.
- One trip is planned in January to the U.S./ Mexican border in Brownsville, Texas with West Brattleboro's First Congregational Church (UCC). This two-week trip will work with *Team Brownsville* to feed asylum seekers waiting in Mexico. For more information, contact The Rev. Audrey Walker: 413.374.4992
- Guilford Community Church will also return to New Mexico in January to be with the Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City, and participate in witnessing at the border.

For more information, call these churches directly or speak with one of the Mission & Service Board members.

Thank you to all who support our missions here at Centre Congregational Church (UCC).

-Priscilla Svec

WINDHAM WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL FALL EVENTS

Friday, October 11, 7:00pm

The Current Economic Situation in Cuba

Dr. Jourdy James Heredia will speak about the current economic situation in Cuba; historical and contemporary impacts of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States on Cuba; advances Cuba has made in food security, understood in a comparative and contextualized lens; and ongoing challenges in the construction of Cuban socialism given perennially hostile external circumstances.

Friday, October 25, 2019

Beheading in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility

WWAC Board Member Clare Morgana Gillis will consider ISIS propaganda and the human rights questions surrounding repatriation of foreign fighters detained in Syria and Iraq.

For more information about these speakers visit [Future Events](#) on our web site:
www.windhamworldaffairscouncil.org

CARRY ME HOME

Greek Supper Benefit

Saturday, November 16

We are beginning our fifth year of collecting, sorting and shipping gently used clothing for refugees in Europe and in the U.S., from our home in Centre Church's Memorial Hall. All proceeds from the supper go to our shipping fund.

If you would like to help by purchasing ingredients, cooking, or helping with publicity, set up, decor, or clean up, please contact Alix Fedoruk: 802.355.2256/carryhomecampaign@gmail.com, or Priscilla Svec: psvec48@yahoo.com. Thank you!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON COMPASSION

Fall Events, sponsored by Compassionate Brattleboro: All programs are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm, Brooks Memorial Library. Admission is free and all are invited to attend.

October 16: *Compassion and Climate Change II: Voices from the Community*

Django Desi, BUHS student; Abby Mnookin, local 350.org organizer; Dave Cohen, mental health worker; Jessy Diamondstone, Moderator

October 30: *Compassion and Restorative Justice*

Mel Motel, Director, Brattleboro Community Justice Center; Jackie Trepanier, Program Coordinator, Brattleboro Community Justice Center; Suzanne Belleci, Director, Bellows Falls Justice Center; Mike Stostak, Restorative Practices Coordinator at Brattleboro Union High School; Sally Struble, Director of Restorative Justice at Youth Services; Samia Abbass, member of the Brattleboro Justice Center Board; Dan DeWalt, Director of Restorative Community Justice of Southern Vermont. Miriam Dror, Moderator

December 11: *Compassion: 'Work Today' and Low Barrier Employment*

Participants to be announced. Josh Davis and Emilie Kornheiser, Moderators

Compassionate Brattleboro's mission is to raise community awareness about the meaning of compassion in our lives, and ways in which compassion can influence the town's government, the organizations and institutions within the town, and—most important—among the town's citizens in our daily lives and interactions with others.

OVERFLOW SHELTER

Beginning **Sunday, November 10**, Center Church will again be serving a meal each month for the Season Overflow Shelter, SOS. Our meal will always be on the Second Sunday of the month and our focus for the meal is chicken and/or turkey. Thank you in advance for signing up each month on the Church Life bulletin board and for participating in this very important mission of our church and our community.

Everyone is invited to

TAKE a MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, October 4 • 5:30-6:00pm

Judith Reichsman will lead us in some simple InterPlay meditative forms, including a hand dance on behalf of someone or something for whom/which you have a joy or a concern.

Judith Reichsman has a master's degree in Dance and a master's degree in religion and the arts. She has played with and led InterPlay since 1989.

MEMBER CARE

When we made up the list for groups, boards or committees to host Fellowship Hour we didn't list one for the month of November. Someone suggested that we leave that month for 'Volunteers for Hosting'. So, there is a sign-up sheet on the parlor bulletin board where you can write your name.

It is good to have two people take on the hosting job together. There are many people that would be happy to give you help in doing it.

Coffee/Fellowship Hour is a good time to be together after our Sunday morning church service.

BRATTLEBORO CENTRE for CHILDREN

The Brattleboro Centre for Children was excited to get back into the swing of fall again! Some children have moved up into new classes, new children were enrolled, and some teachers have new roles. This month we will start lessons with Ben Carr, a local, professional musician, who will help lead our two oldest classes in learning to sing and play music together. There will be a concert on **Friday November 15** at 3pm in the Centre Church Sanctuary to culminate this series. We hope that a good-sized audience will be able to attend. Church members are welcome!

September 6, 2019

Dear Ms. Neale,

Thank you for getting in touch about President Trump's immigration and detention policies at the southern border. I appreciate hearing from you and the co-signers of your letter.

Like you, I am appalled by the inhumane conditions facing migrants held in border detention centers. I was one of the first lawmakers to travel to the border to inspect these facilities and meet with detainees, including mothers separated from their children. I saw firsthand the intolerable consequences of the President's unnecessary and ineffective zero tolerance policies. I strongly oppose the President's most recent proposal to allow families to be detained indefinitely.

I am working hard in Congress to block these policies, improve conditions, and reunite families. I am a cosponsor of the Homeland Security Improvement Act (H.R. 2203) which would ban family separations while ensuring independent oversight of border agencies and personnel. It would also improve training for federal border officials while increasing transparency and accountability. I am also working to pass legislation that requires federal detention facilities to meet minimum medical and sanitary requirements.

It is essential that the federal government also take steps to stem the treacherous migration of refugees through Mexico to our border. Specifically, we must implement a comprehensive regional strategy that restores and increases humanitarian funding to the Northern Triangle countries. We should also facilitate safe in-country processing of asylum claims within Central America so that refugees do not have to risk their lives to get to the United States to file their applications. It is essential that applicants for asylum at our border be treated humanely and that their cases are adjudicated in a fair and timely manner. Finally, Congress must enact comprehensive immigration reforms that avoid demonizing law-abiding migrants and refugees.

Sincerely,
PETER WELCH, Member of Congress

[received in response to a letter signed by Marion Abell, Margo Neale, and Bev Webster, published in *CENTRE BELLS* August 2019 issue]



LOAVES & FISHES



Lynn Johnson Billington, Brattleboro, Vermont

Lynn Billington, 75, of E. Dummerston, died Friday August 16 after an 18-month battle with cancer. Lynn was a spiritual person with a knack for giving and enjoyed volunteering to help those in need. She was an active member at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, she volunteered at Loaves & Fishes, sang in the Brattleboro Women's Chorus, enjoyed her knitting group and garden club, and loved to spend time with her grandchildren.

Donations in Lynn's name and mailed to:

Loaves & Fishes, 193 Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301

[Published in *Brattleboro Reformer* on Aug. 31, 2019]

It is not unusual for the obituary of one of our faithful workers to list Loaves & Fishes as a recipient of a memorial gift. We thank the family of Lynn Billington for thinking of the kitchen, which has become a community of support and common effort among its workers. Lynn made a positive difference as she volunteered her time at L & F.

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 March 26.

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

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—Valley Cares
461 Grafton Rd., #101, Townshend, VT
802-221-4213

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

The Rev. Allen Vander Meulen
109 Wantastiquet Drive, Brattleboro, VT
802.258.9191

Sylvia Eaton
86 Brets Road, Brattleboro, VT
802.254.6853

Nancy Clarke—Hearthstone
402 Hemenway St., Marlborough, MA 01752

Alta Barber
13223 N 3937 Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74003

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Steve Fecto
- 5 Duo Xi
- 23 Nina Trumper
- 29 Coralie Lefebvre
Nancy Clarke
- 30 John Trumper



Hello Gisela and the Centre Church Quilters, I wanted to share this photo of the quilt you made resting proudly on Lily's new bed in France. She loves it, and every time I see it I think of Centre Church and the beautiful day of her baptism. Thank you so much for the gift. At the moment it is really hot here, but school starts tomorrow for her, so it is a clear sign Fall is on the way! Soon, with cooler weather, the quilt will get more use.

Sincerely, Logan

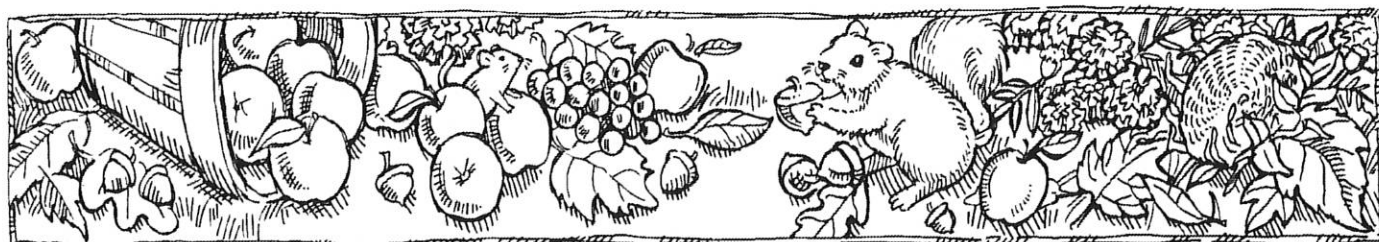
CORRECTIONS

PAT NEER, August 23

Whose birthday was inadvertently included in September's birthday list.

MARY ROBERTSON, September 6

Whose birthday was not included in September's birthday list.



OCTOBER 2019

**Holy Communion celebrated

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 7 ⁰⁰ Vitality call-in	2 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 12 ⁰⁰ Brown Bag Lunch 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Stewardship	3 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal	4 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 6 ⁰⁰ BBQ Supper 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	5 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop
6 World Communion Sunday 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship** 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 12 ⁰⁰ Deacons 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	7 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 4 ⁰⁰ BCC Board Scott on leave	8 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Personal Scott on leave	9 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Stewardship Scott on leave	10 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal Scott on leave	11 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ⁰⁰ WWAC event 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting Scott on leave	12 Scott on leave
13 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting Scott on leave	14 Indigenous Persons Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 ³⁰ AA District 8 Scott on leave	15 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ Church Council 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting Scott on leave	16 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Stewardship 6 ⁰⁰ Finance Scott & Bruce on leave	17 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal Scott & Bruce on leave	18 CB DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting Scott & Bruce on leave	19 9 ⁰⁰ Brattleboro Literary Festival 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop Scott on leave
20 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/New Members Join/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 2 ⁰⁰ Jeanne Rueter Memorial Svce 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	21 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 1 ³⁰ Compassionate Brattleboro Bruce on leave	22 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting Bruce on leave	23 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Stewardship Bruce on leave	24 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal Bruce on leave	25 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting Bruce on leave	26 9 ⁰⁰ Fall Clean-up
27 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	28 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl	29 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	30 MAIL CB 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Stewardship 7 ⁰⁰ Compassionate Brattleboro-event	31 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal		

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).



Here Comes The Autumn by Tom Harriman

Down in the farmland crows await the gleaning of cornfields, pickers are scaling ladders on apple trees, kitchens are abuzz with canning. Here comes the Autumn, across Vermont's breathtaking hills. Here comes the beautiful fall of sensuous colors and crisp nights when you leave your windows open and reach for a blanket. Here comes the visual transition that lingers but for a month, yet last in my eyes all year.

OCTOBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

Sunday, October 6, 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lam 1:1-6 and Lam 3:19-26, or Ps 137, or Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4 and Ps 37:1-9; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, October 13, 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 29:1, 4-7 and Ps 66:1-12, or 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Ps 111; 2 Tim 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 20, 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Jer 31:27-34 and Ps 119:97-104, or Gen 32:22-31 and Ps 121; 2 Tim 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 27, 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Joel 2:23-32 and Ps 65, or Sirach 35:12-17, or Jer 14:7-10, 19-22 and Ps 84:1-7; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14



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