

MINISTER'S COLUMN, Scott Couper

Dear Friends in Christ,

Following our two sermon series 'Iconic Devotional Art' and 'Be the Church' and before the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we will throughout November recommit ourselves to the financial wellbeing of our faith community by *celebrating* a stewardship campaign. "Celebrate a stewardship campaign?!?!?" you ask, somewhat cynically and skeptically. "How can a stewardship campaign be *celebrated*?" Well, we will, for sure!

Friends, it is not far-fetched; it's not a gimmick. Think about it. How do we celebrate the birthday of someone we love? We offer them a gift, no? How do we celebrate Christmas? We 'pound the payment', looking for that 'special something' to give to a spouse, parent, child, and friend. To celebrate a wedding anniversary, we demonstrate our devotion with a unique gift that speaks to the relationship honored. When there is a graduation, we recognize the accomplishment by marking it with a celebratory gift. Human beings, for some reason, that I can't fully explain, are seemingly naturally driven to celebrate cherished relationships by offering gifts.



I see how our members clap every Sunday after Mary Milkey-May dances on the pedals and tickles the ivories – just for us. I note how Jim Bedard and Roger Brown almost knock themselves over trying to take the perfect picture to broadcast on Facebook. I see how Bonnie Girvan swoons over the gorgeous prose of many hymns. I observe how those precariously using canes delight in watching the children run around the parlor like wild hooligans during the fellowship hour! I feel how many of you appreciate when I hold your hand, thank God for your life, and pray for your home and health. I know all of you, on a cold snowy December night, almost burst with pride seeing our beautiful steeple standing proud as *the* iconic beacon shining the light of Christ in our community. I pray you feel you have invested heavily in a minister who watches the 'signs of the times', preaches the gospel using the Bible as his foundation, and who, well, just really deeply desires to be with you all. Our church is a safe place for children and recovering addicts (how amazing is that!). Our church is a place of succor for the hungry. Our church is in tune with our community and is increasingly becoming grafted to it. As a church, we appreciate how John, and now his son Jeremy, ensure our home is as neat and tidy as it can be. And all, especially the minister, are profoundly grateful for how efficiently and competently our church administrator, Bruce, manages what is our very busy church.

This November during our stewardship campaign "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" (Matthew 6:11), we will celebrate what we love! Everybody loves freshly baked bread. Bread is somehow simultaneously both a staple, that which is basic, and that which is special; so, it is a gift. Our church is that which we and our community needs and it is special, a gift from God. So, for our stewardship theme, we will examine the concept of bread from a biblical perspective and apply it to our intentions to give faithfully to our church in accordance with that which God has faithfully given to us. We will conclude on November 24 by pledging ourselves through our gifts to foster more of what we love. We love God. We love our church. We love one another. And like God, we 'so love the world' (John 3:16). This November, give to what you love.

Love always in Christ, Scott

CENTRE BELLS - November 2019

The newsletter of Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

From Music Director, MARY MILKEY-MAY

During October, the children's choir shared two new anthems entitled "Walk Together Children" (a spiritual) and "Kids of the Kingdom". Both were joyful, upbeat pieces that were well received by all who heard them. This group continues to rehearse weekly after the church services on Sundays and always welcomes new members.

Also during October, we were fortunate to have Alison Hale gift us with her flute playing. The Sonata in G by J. LeClair was a piece neither of us had previously played which made it even more enjoyable. It is always a pleasure to play with Alison!

The adult choir has been rehearsing weekly and has presented either one or two anthems every Sunday since September 8! Though our numbers have been small due to folks being away, our spirit is strong!

Thanks to Bonnie Girvan, we will be having a guest harpist early in November. Her friend is willing to play during the 'gathering music' as a prelude to her upcoming concert at Centre Church later on this month. What a treat it will be. Thanks Bonnie for arranging this special guest!



DEACONS

The Deacons will be hosting the **Annual Harvest Dinner** on Sunday, November 24 in Memorial Hall directly following worship. There will be sign-up sheet on the CHURCH LIFE bulletin board. Please sign up.

The Deacon of the month for November is Carlene McCarty.

BRATTLEBORO CENTRE for CHILDREN

BCC will host a Pre-Holiday Music Class Showcase and Book Sale on Friday, November 15 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. This will be the culmination of a six-week music lesson series with professional musician Ben Carr and early educator Melissa Dawson.

Melissa Dawson is a trained family therapist with a background in early childhood development. She has training in early childhood music and movement and children's yoga. Melissa has lead music and movement classes for children in different formats for almost ten years. She is passionate about sharing her love of music with children and teaching children and parents about movement that encourages healthy child development.

Ben Carr is a musician focused on the performance and education of drum set, percussion, and ukulele. He teaches privately and at various schools and daycares. He is a graduate of the James Hill Ukulele Initiative.

We are very pleased to present this event in the lovely atmosphere of the church's sanctuary. The showcase will be followed by a book sale, with proceeds set to augment the center's library. Our whole school is invited. Church members who would like to attend are also welcome.

-Nan Mann



MISSION & SERVICE

November looks like it might also be a busy month, just as October was. In October, the Special Offering was the UCC appeal, *Neighbors in Need*. We hope to have Susan Howes light our Peace Candle in November to honor the work of Brattleboro's *HELP Fund*, as we collect the special offering. In the last few months, our congregation has donated \$300 to *Brattleboro Senior Meals* and \$300 to *Carry Me Home* through our Special Offerings and Mission & Service funds.

On Sunday, October 20 we held the concert by the musical ensemble *Musica Eclectica*. This talented trio donated their time and talents to benefit the *Luz del Mundo Scholarship Fund* in El Salvador. Thank you Jesse Lepkoff, Dana Maiben, and Christien Beeuwkes. We were also able to sell a few El Salvador items to add funds to this year's scholarship contributions. We look forward to future sales and donations from our M&S table at the Christmas Bazaar in December, which will have new items from Jenifer Ambler's trip in November.

Speaking of the upcoming trip to El Salvador, Jenifer Ambler will be traveling with Montpelier's Bethany Church, leaving November 5 and returning November 13. Jenifer would LOVE to have others from Centre Church accompany her. We have not had a larger group go recently. There is still room on this trip. Also, she would like to take soccer balls and a couple of pumps with her to Cabinetas. If you would like to travel, donate funds or donate soccer balls or equipment for this trip, please speak with Jenifer or another member of the M & S.

On Sunday, December 8, we will begin serving dinner at the Seasonal Overflow Shelter, SOS, at the Austine School Campus. The SOS will be in the same building as it has been for the last two winters. We will be serving dinners on the second Sunday of each month. Though M&S committee members act as leaders each month, the congregation makes this mission happen. Look for the sign-up sheet on the Church Life bulletin board outside the parlor.

THANK YOU in advance for your contributions!

On Saturday, November 16, Centre Church will host the bi-annual Greek Dinner, the main fund raiser for *Carry Me Home* and their postage fund (see below). Please save the date on your calendars, and sign up on the forms on the CHURCH LIFE bulletin board if you are able to donate ingredients, cook dishes ahead of time, or help out on the day of the event.

Carry Me Home is in its fifth year collecting 'gently' used clothing for people fleeing zones of conflict, in Europe and the USA. Sorting and packing is done most Fridays from 9:30am-12:00noon at Centre Church, and new volunteers are always welcome. They are currently collecting winter clothing only. For children ages 4-7: tops, bottoms, and jackets. For men: thin dark socks, jackets, t-shirts. For women: leggings and jeans sizes M-L. For all ages: new, unused underwear and sturdy winter shoes/boots. Donations may be placed behind the table on the stage in Memorial Hall. Checks to pay shipping costs (tax deductible) may be made out to *Carry Me Home*, and mailed to or submitted in the church office, or you may go to <https://bit.ly/2oAzDHs> to donate via Paypal.

On Sunday, November 17, we will unveil our 'Gratitude Board'. The congregation will have the opportunity to write something for which they are thankful. The board will then be placed in front of the church giving people downtown walking by church the opportunity to add what they are thankful for. We hope to bless this board on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24. We hope that you will all participate, young and old alike.

-Priscilla Svec, Mission & Service Board

CARRY ME HOME Annual Greek Supper Benefit Saturday, November 16, 5-7pm Centre Congregational Church



Tickets, sold at the door:

\$15 for ages 12 and over / \$8 for ages 6-11
free for age 5 and under / \$35 maximum per family

For more information / to purchase tickets, contact:
Alix Fedoruk carrymehomecampaign@gmail.com, or
Priscilla Svec psvec48@yahoo.com.

A SILENT AUCTION BASKET REQUEST

The Board for Mission & Service is putting together a 'Made in Brattleboro' basket, filled with homemade food/kitchen items for our Christmas Bazaar. Can you contribute anything from your kitchen or pantry? I have homemade pickles and jam. What's in your cupboard? If you can help, contact Priscilla Svec: 802.387.2373/psvec48@yahoo.com.



UPCOMING TALK

by Ambassador Peter W. Galbraith

*The Betrayal of the Kurds:
A firsthand report from Northeast Syria and
an analysis of the consequences"*

Friday, November 8, 7:30 pm
Centre Congregational Church Sanctuary
193 Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301

Ambassador Galbraith will discuss Trump's green light, the Turkish invasion, the Rojava revolution, Russia's triumph and the loss of American dominance in the Middle East, and what it means for ISIS. He will also cover his efforts to get children out of the ISIS camps in northeast Syria.

Sponsored by the Windham World Affairs Council

Dear Ms. Neale:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the need to hold the Trump administration accountable for its aggressively anti-immigrant agenda. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue.

Congress has a constitutional obligation to serve as a check and balance on the executive branch – and ensure that the President is acting in line with our values as a nation of immigrants and refugees. But by systematically separating families, dramatically slashing the number of refugees we admit, locking up an unprecedented number of immigrants who have never committed any crimes, to attempting to build a medieval wall on our border, President Trump has embraced a xenophobic vision of America that abandons our very identity as a welcoming home to immigrants and refugees.

As both a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I have worked tirelessly to halt President Trump's assault on immigrants and refugees. Earlier this year, I denied billions of dollars he requested for his childish wall. Just this week, I refused to provide any funds to allow ICE to unjustifiably expand its detention capacity so it can detain families and children who pose no threat to the public.

At every hearing involving immigration officials of the Trump administration, I have aggressively pressed for legal justifications for cruel and ineffective policies and called officials out when they have misled the public. Just recently, at a Judiciary Committee hearing involving multiple immigration officials, I exposed how the administration misled the public to believe it had a plan to reunify families that it heartlessly separated – when indeed there was no plan at all. You can find video of the hearing in full, [here](#).

Please know that I will never stop defending immigrants and refugees and fighting all attempts to demonize and vilify those communities. I will continue to use every position I hold in the Senate to keep the Trump administration in check. Thank you again for contacting me. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY, United States Senator

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





ORDER 2019 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

To give one or more poinsettias for Christmas, please fill out the form below for each plant ordered and return to the church office with your check made payable to: *Centre Church* addressed to:

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

by **Sunday, December 1**. The plants will decorate the sanctuary from December 15 to the 24. You are invited to take yours home after Christmas Eve Service.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Circle one:

IN HONOR / MEMORY / CELEBRATION
OF / THANKSGIVING FOR

\$14.00 _____

Donation toward other decorations _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Circle one:

IN HONOR / MEMORY / CELEBRATION
OF / THANKSGIVING FOR

\$14.00 _____

Donation toward other decorations _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Circle one:

IN HONOR / MEMORY / CELEBRATION
OF / THANKSGIVING FOR

\$14.00 _____

Donation toward other decorations _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

The Centre Church annual Christmas Craft Fair

Friday, December 6 from 5 - 7pm
Saturday, December 7 from 9am - 1pm
(followed by the Messiah Community Sing
in the Sanctuary)

There will be soups and desserts
available for purchase Friday night.

Saturday, there will be:

- Coffee & waffles with real maple syrup for breakfast.
- Silent auction with many great items.
- Quilt raffle made by the Church Quilting Group.
- Hand-made items for adults and babies.
- Hand-made wreaths (available for early ordering).
- SERV table with Central American items.
- Holly Café Lunch available for purchase.
- Fabulous homemade cookies of many varieties.



Everyone is invited to

TAKE a MOMENT for PEACE

Friday, November 1 • 5:30-6:00pm



George Harvey will read two chapters from his book, *Notes from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Wee Folk*.

This book is sometimes described as an environmentalist metaphor for the human condition and what, perhaps, it should be. George, however, suggests that it is instead simply a statement of the truth: We are always surrounded by innumerable Wee Folk, who can provide us with examples of a different, possibly sometimes better, approach to living.

George is best known for writing, blogging, and hosting TV programs on energy and climate change.

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 October 26.

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

Wanda Godfrey—Vernon Hall
13 Greenway Dr., Vernon, VT 05354
802.254.2444

Phyllis Hickok
1520 Little Blue Stem Ct., Ames, IA 50014
515.337.1956

Jane Reed—Valley Cares
461 Grafton Rd., #101, Townshend, VT 05353
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 05301
802.258.9191

Sylvia Eaton
86 Brets Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301
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

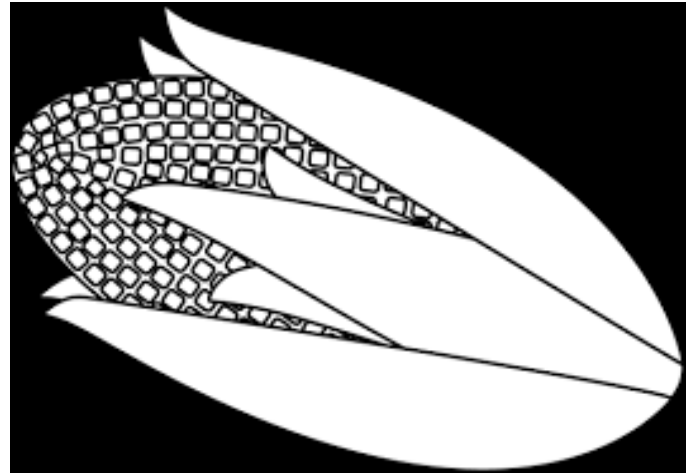
- 1 Michael Mario
- 2 Judy Palmer
- 3 Joanne Clark
- 5 Fred Edmonds
- 7 Wayne Randall
- 11 Shiva Shankaran
- 13 David Henry
- 14 Brady Hammett
Emma Hammett
- 26 Abi Healey



Congratulations

To The Reverend Stephen Peterson
for being one of seven new 'incorporators'
elected to servant leadership of
New England Kurn Hattin Homes.

We are very proud of you and thank God
for your service to the world.



From the Comic Strip *Ophelia and Jake*
by Heidi Mario



NOVEMBER 2019

**Holy Communion celebrated

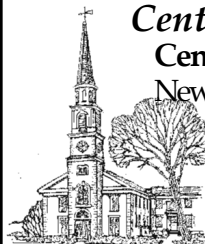
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 5 ³⁰ Moment for Peace 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	2 10 ⁰⁰ Vitality Tune-up 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop Scott@VT Conference
3 End Daylight Savings 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship** 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Children's choir 12 ⁰⁰ Deacons 12 ³⁰ Gleaning event 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	4 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl	5 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	6 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 3 ⁴⁵ BCC Board 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ Stewardship	7 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal	8 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ⁰⁰ Windham World Affairs Council event 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	9
10 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Space Envisioning 3 ⁰⁰ Windham Union Annual Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	11 Veterans Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 ³⁰ AA District 8	12 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	13 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting	14 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal Scott@VT Conference	15 CB DEADLINE 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 3 ⁰⁰ BCC recital 7 ⁰⁰ VT Music Therapy Concert 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	16 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop 5 ⁰⁰ Greek Dinner Fundraiser for Carymehome
17 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	18 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl 1 ³⁰ Compassionate Brattleboro	19 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 1 ³⁰ L & F Steering Committee 6 ⁰⁰ Council Meeting 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	20 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting	21 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ³⁰ Quilting Ministry 3 ³⁰ Fundraising 4 ³⁰ Women's Spirit 5 ³⁰ Choir Rehearsal	22 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 7 ⁰⁰ Windham World Affairs Council event 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	23
24 Thanksgiving & Pledge Sunday 9 ⁰⁰ Book Study 10 ⁰⁰ Worship/FIA 10 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting 11 ³⁰ Harvest Luncheon 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	25 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 1 ⁰⁰ Prayer Shawl	26 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 11 ³⁰ Loaves & Fishes 6 ⁰⁰ AA Meeting	27 MAIL CB 8 ⁴⁵ Devotional 5 ³⁰ AA Meeting	28 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 ^{00am-6^{00pm} AA Alcathon}	29 OFFICE CLOSED 7 ³⁰ AA Meeting	30 9 ⁰⁰ Hanging of the Greens 11 ⁰⁰ Writing Workshop

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



**Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, November 3**

**Remember to turn your clocks
back one hour.**



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

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY TEXTS

Sunday, November 3, 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Hab 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Ps 119:137-144 or Isa 1:10-18 and
Ps 32:1-7; 2 Thess 1:1-4, 11-12, **Luke 19:1-10**

Sunday, November 10, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Hag 1:15b-2:9 and Ps 145:1-5, 17-21 or Ps 98 or
Job 19:23-27a and Ps 17:1-9, **2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17**,
Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, November 17 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Isa 65:17-25 and Isa 12: or Mal 4:1-2a and Ps 98,
2 Thess 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, November 24, Reign of Christ
Jer 23:1-6 and Luke 1 68-79 or Jer 23:1-6 and Ps 46,
Col 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

193 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-2842

Office Hours: M – F / 8:30am–12:30pm

Church Office: 802.254.4730 / admin@centrechurchvt.org

Website: www.centrechurchvt.org

Facebook: [Centre Congregational Church-Brattleboro VT](https://www.facebook.com/Centre-Congregational-Church-Brattleboro-VT)

Instagram: @centrechurchvt

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: Jeremy Bertolini

2019



NOVEMBER

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

centrechurch@centrechurchvt.org

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
193 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

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