



## "SpiritSpark"

**The First Baptist Church  
of Manchester Center, VT**

**P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555**

[www.fbcmanvt.org](http://www.fbcmanvt.org)

fbcmanvt@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

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**APRIL 2019**

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### **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the worship surveys in March. The deacons took the 21 surveys and used them as a basis for our discussion concerning our worship services. I thought it might be good to share the results with you in my monthly letter.

First of all, I want to thank you for your flexibility in welcoming music played through the computer for preludes and postludes, since this frees our musicians from the pressure of preparing several pieces to share each week. Of course it is lovely when they have time to prepare something special, but it is important that it is always their choice to do so.

One of the changes that the deacons and I are making in response to the survey results is to remove the official "greeting time" from our order of service. We still want to warmly welcome visitors and connect with everyone, but we can be intentional about doing this before the service and at the fellowship time following the service.

In an effort to streamline the opening of the service, we would like the Worship Assistant to be the one highlighting the announcements in the bulletin. If anyone has something they would like to have announced, they can give a note to the Worship Assistant prior to the service.

Another small change will be to sing the Doxology only when we haven't already sung a song together during the offering. For instance, if there is special music or the choir sings during the offering, then the whole congregation will sing the Doxology. If the congregation sings a hymn or chorus during the offering, then that song will stand alone.

Since the children have a story and picture or craft corresponding to the sermon upstairs in Children's Church, we will not be continuing to have the Children's Conversation during the service. The children will still be a part of the service and be dismissed for their class prior to the sermon.

The deacons and I are encouraged by the warm-hearted embrace of different kinds of music, both old and new. Some of you mentioned that you would appreciate singing the new songs you are learning more regularly, so they can become familiar. We will hold that in mind as we choose music for the services.

Thank you again for the thought and prayer you put into your answers. We are seeking to follow the Holy Spirit's leading for our church family, so that our worship services help us to focus on God and grow to be more like Christ.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

### ***Easter Flowers***



*Due to a number of people expressing their allergies to Easter lilies, we are trying a new approach to beautifying the sanctuary this year. People can still honor a loved one, by signing up on the sheet in the vestry and making a donation of any size toward a floral bouquet from Lily of the Valley. The names will be recorded in the bulletin as they had been other years. If we receive more money than needed for a beautiful Easter flower arrangement, we would like to put it toward a container that would have summer plants and be located by the Bonnet Street door.*

*Thank you for your graciousness with this change.*

### **COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

The annual Manchester Area Community Easter Sunrise Service will be held at **6:30 AM on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** on the porch of the Dormy Grill (Union St.) overlooking the golf course.

The Rev. Rebecca Sommons, pastor of First Baptist Church, Manchester will bring the Easter message. Following the Sunrise Service, coffee, cocoa and donuts will be served at the First Congregational Church vestry. The public is cordially invited.

~Rev. Skip Dickenson

## **Mary Martha Fellowship**

**Next Meeting:** The MMF will be meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Sat. morning, April 20th to prepare bouquets for the Easter cross. Refreshments will be provided by Barb West and Linda Hulett.

**Cookbooks:** The Middlebury Baptist Church is raising money for a mission trip by selling their church cookbooks. MMF purchased 10 of them and they will be included at the Basket Party. If there are any left over, they can be purchased for \$10 each.

**Flowers:** With Easter coming we have been made aware that some of our members are allergic to Easter lilies, our pastor for one.

We are encouraging the congregation to consider selecting other plants or flowers such as azaleas, hydrangeas, forced bulb plants or spring bouquets. There will still be a list going up for names being honored for inclusion in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

~submitted by Martha Thompson, Secretary

## **MARY & MARTHA Field Trip**

Mary and Martha Fellowship would like to invite our church family to join us on a field trip. We will be carpooling to the Wild Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens in Deerfield, MA. We are planning a potluck picnic after the butterflies and gardens. The date will be Wednesday, July 10th. The cost will be \$16.00 for adults, \$12,50 for seniors We will meet at the church at 8:30am. Hope you can join us.

~submitted by Judy Koch, Mary & Martha Co-President

## **Prudential Committee**

Highlights from The Prudential Committee meeting of March 8, 2019:

The roof damage from the recent wind storm has been repaired.

A color was selected for the conference room. Painting to start soon.

We voted in favor of giving Jeremy the funds needed to update our computer and speed it up.

Happy Spring! Got Mud???

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Richeimer,  
Chairman

## Missions Committee

**Lansdale Baptist Mission Trip:** Pastor Rebecca shared that a group of youth from The Lansdale Baptist Church, her former church, are planning a mission trip to Rutland. Some from our church may participate in this project.

This group will arrive here before the project begins and we are hoping to provide hospitality. The trip is planned from June 16th to June 21st.

**Abolish Global Slavery:** Jeni Pedzinski, a missionary we support, may be here in September so we can meet her. There will be more to follow about this event.

**America for Christ:** During the month of March the America for Christ offering was received and many thanks to all who contributed. They do some wonderful work. We also received donations for local missions, one gift designated for The Heifer Project.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 4:45.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

## Diaconate Committee

The demands on our Fellowship Fund continue to be high. Please consider increasing your giving to this critical need.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a Seder meal at the Israel Congregation Synagogue at 6 pm. You will find a poster with more information in this newsletter.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> there will a Maundy Thursday potluck and foot washing at 6 pm in the vestry. Our Good Friday service will be on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. The ringing of the bell and the start of silence will begin at 3.

We have chosen not to put lilies in our sanctuary this year. Several friends and members of our congregation have allergies. You may provide a different type of plant or you may choose to donate money for flowers that will be put in the sanctuary. If you want to do this in the memory of a loved one, be sure to provide that information.

~submitted by Kelsey Towslee



Thank you, Carol L.

## THE INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF THE NORTHSHIRE

**Honoring First Responders:** A subcommittee has been formed to honor first responders in our area. The idea was inspired by the emergency personnel who responded to the tragic accident that took Darryl Davis' life and the impact it must have had on them as well as their work at many other stressful events.

**Passover Seder:** The Israel Congregation invites the community to attend a Passover Seder meal led by Cantor Scott Buckner on Sunday, April 7, 2019 beginning at 6:00 [P.M.](#) at the synagogue. Every congregation contributes to the dinner. Consider adding this to your calendar, a thoughtful way to lead up to Easter.

**Member Congregations:** Member houses of worship include First Baptist, First Congregational, Israel Congregation, St. Paul's Catholic Church, East Arlington Federated Church, Rupert Methodist Church, United Church of Dorset and Rupert and Zion Episcopal Church.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

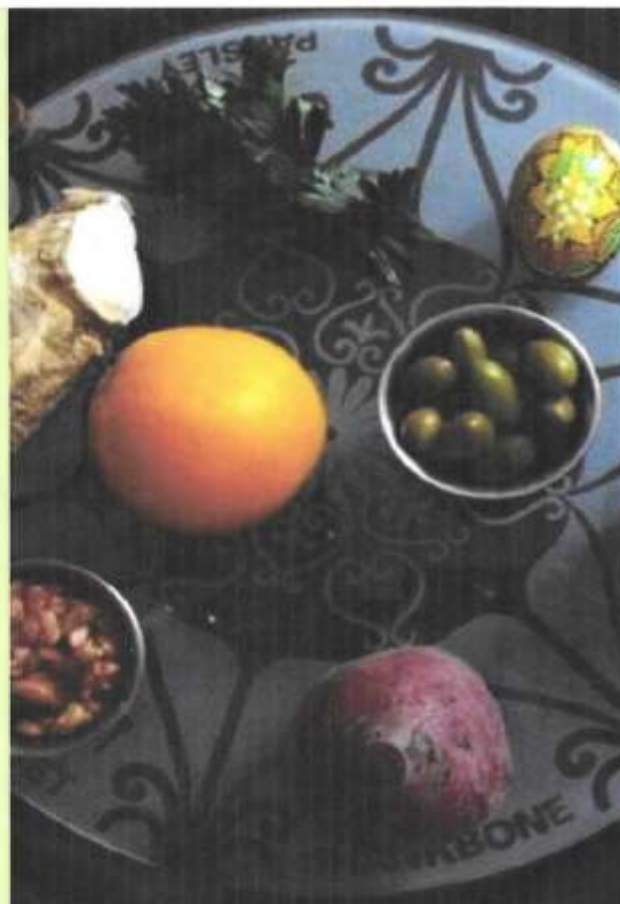
### Join your neighbors at the Northshire's Interfaith Seder!

This is a marvelous community event sponsored by the Interfaith Council of the Northshire and hosted by Israel Congregation of Manchester.

When: Sunday evening, April 7th  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Where: Israel Congregation of Manchester  
6025 Main Street  
Manchester Center, VT

*RSVP by April 1<sup>st</sup> as seats are limited!*  
802-362-4578

The next Interfaith Seder will be in two years – so don't miss out on this wonderful community-wide event led by Cantor Buckner



## **Christian Ed Corner**

Our Sunday school classes continue with a class for young children through fifth grade, a class for sixth through twelfth grade, and an adult class. Classes meet at 9:30 every Sunday through May 19. Please note Sunday school classes will not meet Easter Sunday.

Our Cabin Fever Potluck and Game Night was a fun evening filled with fellowship and laughter. Thank you to all who contributed the delicious dinner and dessert options, as well as the variety of games. We hope to have another game night in the future!

The youth group will join with the Dorset Church youth group again for a Pizza and Bowling event on Saturday April 6. The event will start with pizza for lunch, followed by two games of bowling at Slate Valley Lanes in Granville.

The Christian Education Committee is planning to host a family friendly activity center during the Street Fest on June 21. The Street Fest events, hosted by the town of Manchester, draw a lot of families with children. This will be a great opportunity to introduce our church to local and visiting families.

We are excited to be hosting a Women's Retreat on Saturday July 13 from ten to two o'clock at First Baptist. Look for more details soon.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Annie Crumb



**Photos from the Cabin Fever Pot Luck & Game Night**

## RIGHT NOW MEDIA

If you have not yet set up a RightNow Media account, there are a few different ways it can be done.

You can click the link below to create your free account. This will give you instant access to 20,000 Christian Video Resources.

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/fbcmanchester>

You can also register for RightNow Media on your smart phone by texting the following text code for our church account. This is for both church members and visitors. Just text our keyword: RightNow FBCMANVT to 41411 and you will get registered to our RightNow Media account.

A third way is to access the registration posted on our Church website [www.fbcmant.org](http://www.fbcmant.org) If you have friends or other family members who are interested, remember they can also register at no charge.

See Pastor Rebecca, Jeremy Crumb or Russ Taxter if you have questions or need help.



Did you know that your First Baptist Church has a Prayer Team? There are about 25 people who have committed to praying for each submitted prayer request.

Prayer requests are kept confidential. When asking for prayer for someone other than yourself, please ask permission to add them to our prayer list.

If you or someone you know needs prayer, send it to [fbchurchatprayer@gmail.com](mailto:fbchurchatprayer@gmail.com).

Although we don't keep official track, we have had over 160 prayer requests since we started in Oct 2018 and, because the information is on our church website, we have had requests from all over the world.



F.O.C.U.S.  
This Sat. April 6, Jim  
Johnson is planning on  
sprucing up the outside of  
the church. Contact Jim at  
362-3039 to see how you  
can help.

**OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER  
OUR FACILITY TO THE FOLLOWING AA GROUPS EACH WEEK.**

Equinox Group: Mon-Fri from Noon to 1:00 pm  
Thursday Morning Men's Group: Thursday 7:30-8:30 am  
Primary Purpose Group: Sunday 7:30-8:30 pm

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Office Hours 9:30-12:30 AM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
Pastor Rebecca's e-mail address: [rebeccasommons@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccasommons@gmail.com)  
Pastor Rebecca's cell phone: (802) 688-3024  
Church office Phone: (802) 362-1555  
Parsonage Phone: (802) 362-5335  
Please call to request a meeting or visit outside of regular church office hours.

**FLOWERS**

April 7: Peggy Brockett  
April 14: Jenny Sprague  
April 21: Easter Memorial Lilies  
April 28: Jim West

**CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

April 7: Lisa & Annie  
April 14: PALM SUNDAY  
April 21: EASTER  
April 28: Jenny & Cheryl



The First Baptist Church Family would like to extend their love and prayers to the families of John and Cheryl Hess and to George and Lisa Hess. Shirley, mother of John and George, went to be with the lord on Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

