



He is risen!



## "SpiritSpark"

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

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

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

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**APRIL 2022**

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

Dear Church Family,

This is the month where we enter into the heart of the gospel story ~ the good news for all of humanity. The Apostle Paul wrote about it to the people in Corinth.

*<sup>1</sup> Dear friends, let me give you clearly the heart of the gospel that I've preached to you—the good news that you have heartily received and on which you stand.*

*<sup>2</sup> For it is through the revelation of the gospel that you are being saved, if you fasten your life firmly to the message I've taught you, unless you have believed in vain.*

*<sup>3</sup> For I have shared with you what I have received and what is of utmost importance:*

*The Messiah died for our sins, fulfilling the prophecies of the Scriptures.*

*<sup>4</sup> He was buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead after three days, as foretold in the Scriptures."*

Is this the news that *you* have heartily received and on which you now stand? Have you fastened your life firmly to *this message*? Christ's life, death, and resurrection change everything, making it possible for us to stand dressed in his holiness and be welcomed into our heavenly home with God. The same Holy Spirit that stirred Jesus' body back to life, stirs us to life here and now, and will again when God determines it is our time to rise. Pain and weeping remain for the night, but the resurrection morning is coming.

I hope that the events of Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter will help you experience the heart of the gospel with fresh eyes and a clean heart. We are

looking forward to seeing the creative work you have been engaging during Lent, as you set aside time to be with the Lord each day. It is so important to understand and internalize Christ's entering into suffering and death, so he could emerge victorious on the other side. We gain courage and confidence that with him, we will make it through to what awaits us on the other side of our suffering and death as well.

*<sup>55</sup> So death, tell me, where is your victory?*

*Tell me death, where is your sting?*

*<sup>56</sup> It is sin that gives death its sting and the law that gives sin its power.*

*<sup>57</sup> But we thank God for giving us the victory as conquerors through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One.*

*<sup>58</sup> So now, beloved ones, stand firm, stable, and enduring.*

*Live your lives with an unshakable confidence."*

*1 Corinthians 15:1-4 & 55-58 (TPT)*

Please come and bring someone who needs the Living Hope of the gospel with you!

May we all experience God's grace and peace,

*Pastor Rebecca Sommons*



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## **PRUDENTIAL**

Rebecca reported that Grace Initiative Global is working in Manchester and Dorset to welcome Afghanistan refugees and is requesting to hold an orientation meeting in our vestry and they will arrive in April. We have 6 members from the congregation who have volunteered to help them. These people will attend training at the end of March.

Yard clean-up will need to be addressed and Christmas greenery and broken branches need to be removed. Paul and Maurie have volunteered for this and would welcome the help of any others that would like to help.

Filters for the air purifiers have been ordered.

The Prudential Committee is looking at getting a new sprayer head for the dishwashing sink in the kitchen. We are continuing to look into stopping the smell in the kitchen.

The railing for the Bonnet Street entrance continues to be considered. Initial drawings were reviewed by the Prudential Committee and the final drawing and cost will be discussed soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Hess

## **MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP**

The Lasagna dinner hosted by the Fellowship was a great success. Eighty-five dinners were sold and a profit of \$1046 was realized.

On April 14, 2022, the Fellowship will help set up for the Maundy Thursday service potluck Supper.

A new sprayer head is needed in the dishwasher kitchen sink and the Mary Martha Fellowship will pay for it.

The Easter cross returns and the congregation will share in placing bouquets on the cross. We are grateful to Peggy Brockett for her share in making this tradition continue.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

## **DIACONATE COMMITTEE**

At this monthly meeting, the committee worked on filling in the Communion/Hospitality schedule.

When Covid was very active and the congregation was meeting by zoom, the Diaconate, at Pastor Rebecca's suggestion, formed shepherd groups so that the majority of the congregation would receive occasional calls to keep in touch. We are still making some calls and, if you would like a call once in a while, please let Cara Davenport know.

As mentioned earlier, the Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper will be held April 14, 2022 beginning at 6:00 pm. Bring a food item of your choice to share and also a piece of artwork you have created from any art medium you choose to enter the life story and passion week of Christ.

The dinner will be followed by a communion service and the sharing of your artwork.

A Good Friday service is planned for April 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm. Help is needed to get the cross upstairs for this service as well as the cross for the flowers. If anyone is willing to help with this, let Pastor Rebecca know.

We are grateful to be able to celebrate the Easter season as we did before Covid.

Martha Thompson, Secretary



### **MISSIONS MOMENTS**

The Mission and Outreach Committee was able to donate \$300.00 to Capital City Rescue Mission. Neighbor to Neighbor will receive \$50.00 to help with their programs.

We wish to thank all who have donated to help support our projects.

In God's Love,

Linda Bushee, Missions Secretary

### **NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR**

The new program director, Suzanne Eisinger is in place and getting to know everyone. Neighbor to Neighbor was able to add another new member to our board. We welcome Anta Sheldon, the town clerk.

We are working on a fund raising project called Calendar Cash which sounds like it will be a fun project.

If you are interested in volunteering or need help with daily errands, etc., please call the office of Neighbor to Neighbor at 801-367-7787 or you can call Martha Thompson for more information.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER**

The Christian Education Committee held a family game and dessert night on March 26. It was a fun evening of games and fellowship. Looking ahead to April, an Easter egg hunt is planned for Easter morning for any children who would like to participate. The egg hunt will happen at 10:00, between the children's Sunday school lesson at 9:30 and the church service. The egg hunt will be indoors.

In May, the committee has planned a Ladies Tea, Talk, and Craft on the 21st from 1-3. Please bring a tea snack to share along with a craft or project to work on while enjoying some fellowship. Children, teens, and adult ladies are welcome to attend.

In June, we are planning a Pentecost Sing-Along on the 5th. More details about locations for gathering will be coming as we get closer to the date.

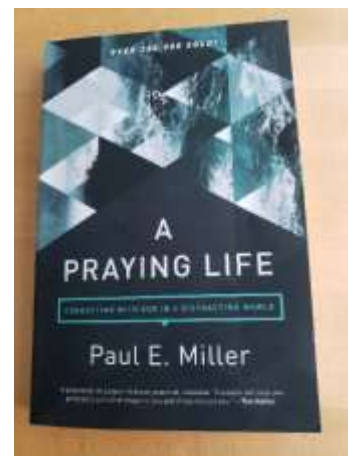
Jeremy Crumb and Craig Keith will be sharing the remainder of the adult and teen Sunday school class sessions. Jeremy will be starting a new series this Sunday, April 3. Craig will be finishing the season with a study later this spring. The children's class is continuing to meet each Sunday. Both classes meet at 9:30.

For His Glory,  
Annie Crumb



A Special Mission Night!  
On March 30th, the First Baptist Church Family joined together to welcome Salome and Faustin Ntamushobora. After a potluck dinner, we heard their powerful story and we learned about the ministry they founded ~ TL Africa , which stands for Transformational Leadership in Africa. To learn more, you may visit <https://www.tlafrica.org/>

The Prayer & Study group continues to meet every other Tuesday at 7:00 pm via zoom. We have begun the study of A Praying Life, a book which helps us grow a culture of prayer by developing a more personal relationship with God. If you would like to receive a zoom link to join us, see Pastor Rebecca.



### **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

Pastor Rebecca continues to remain open and eager to meet with church family. These get-togethers have taken a different look as they have moved away from set office hours. She has, instead, met on an as needed basis. She is happy to meet with you in person, over the phone, or through zoom. When the weather is good, she often meets people outside and talks while taking a walk. She is open to any ideas you may have. Pastor Rebecca's phone number and email are included here. Feel free to reach out to her anytime throughout the week. (802) 688-3024 rebeccasommons@gmail.com

### **CHURCH EVENTS for APRIL**

- 3 Hymn Sing at church
- 4 Uplift at 3 pm at church
- 5 Prayer Group and Book Discussion of chapters 3-4 at 7 pm via zoom
- 5 Mission Meeting at church at 3 pm
- 6 Seeking God Together at the Sommons' house at 11 am
- 7 Interfaith Council Meeting via zoom at 11:45 am
- 7 Prudential Meeting at 5 pm at church and via zoom
- 7 Choir Practice at 7 pm at church
- 10 Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 am
- 12 Deacon Meeting at 4:30 pm at church
- 14 Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service at 6 pm at the church
- 15 Good Friday Service at 5 pm at the church
- 17 Sunrise Service 6:15 am at the Dormy Grill  
Special Easter Sunday School Class and Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am.  
Easter Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am
- 18 Uplift Meeting at 3 pm at the church
- 19 Prayer Group and Book Discussion for chapters 5-6 at 7 pm via zoom
- 27 Seeking God Together Meeting at 11 am
- 28 Choir Practice at 7 pm at the church

### **FLOWERS**

April 4: Maurie Hill (in memory of mother, Millie Hill)

April 11: Jenny Sprague (in memory of father, Moe Thompson)

April 18: Peggy Brockett (in memory of grandparents, Edith & Willard Thompson)

April 25: Jim West (in memory of father, Lewis West)



The First Baptist Church family would like to extend their love and prayers to Craig and Kay Keith in the passing of Kay's mother on March 15. We rejoice with them that Sammie is at peace with her Lord!

