



“SpiritSpark”

The First Baptist Church
of Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

January 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

We embark on our kitchen renovation project at the beginning of this new year! It has been a long time in coming, including much dreaming, giving, planning, hard work, and waiting in the last several years. Now, the old will be replaced by the new. There will be some disruption and adjustment during the process, so we would do well to commit ourselves to prayer, patience, and participation, as the Spirit leads us.

God has drawn my attention to the New Testament Book of Hebrews for the next sermon series. It records the way Jesus' coming renovates the faith of Jewish believers. The author writes about how the Old Covenant is fulfilled and changed by the New Covenant initiated by Jesus' life and death.

No matter what our faith background may be, God initiates movement in our relationship with him. This ongoing renovation requires us to hold our beliefs with open hands, letting God rearrange and breathe newness into our lives and our understanding. Some beliefs remain in a deepened, expanded form, while others are let go because they are no longer needed to serve God's purpose.

I hope that you will be able to enter this new year with open hands to let God's Spirit move in your life and bring about God's purposes in fresh ways, as he always does through Jesus Christ.

With Joy and Hope,
Pastor Rebecca

WARNING

The members of the First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, Vermont are hereby warned to meet in their house of worship at Manchester Center on Sunday, January 26, 2020, following worship and lunch for the following purposes:

- 1.) To hear the reports of the Officers and Committees for the past year and act thereon.
- 2.) To elect Officer and Committees for the coming year.
- 3.) To discuss any other business proper to come before the Annual Meeting.

Martha Thompson, Church Clerk

Further information regarding the ANNUAL MEETING on SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th:

If you or your committee is responsible for a report, please give that report to Jeremy Crumb by JANUARY 12th. They need to be printed and prepared to hand out on January 19th, the Sunday BEFORE the annual meeting. Thank you.

As in the past, you are advised to bring your own sandwich for the luncheon. Beverages will be provided.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

- Replacement of Emergency Exit door at stairway by kitchen installed
- Manchester Medical neighbors have agreed to provide four handicap parking spaces during Sunday service
 - Signs will be provided by Prudential Committee
- Both sanctuary pianos were tuned in December
- Kitchen renovations are on schedule for January and grant applications for funding are on-going

Respectfully submitted, Bryan Richheimer, Chair

MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship held their first Cookie Sale on December 7, 2019 and it was a great success. Forty-five pounds of cookies were sold and we cleared \$360. Thank you, Dottie, for your leadership in this new project and to the ladies who baked and worked that day.

The fellowship provided clothing to four children for the Interfaith Holiday Project. Thank you for your generosity.

Our Friends at Home Project sent out some baskets with goodies and small gifts of all kinds and some folks received amaryllis which are so much fun to watch as they grow.

A Basket Party is planned for the last Saturday in March.

Our next meeting will be January 12, 2020 at 8:30 A.M.
submitted by Martha Thompson

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee continues to review requests for funds made by different charitable organizations. The month of January will be devoted to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Fund.

Another appeal that has been made is from the church in Lebanon, NH. that experienced a terrible fire last year. They are getting ready to rebuild and need help raising the funds. We will be sharing information about that project during a mission moment in January.
~submitted by Martha Thompson

COOKIES FOR THE CUPBOARD – 2019



Judy Koch, Lindy Mylott, Dottie Sundquist

The Mary & Martha Fellowship held its first annual Cookies for the Cupboard holiday cookie sale on Saturday, December 7th. Forty-five pounds of cookies were sold at \$8.50 per pound. THANK YOU TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS OF INGREDIENTS AND COOKIES! Many kind customers rounded up to ten dollars and our end of the day sales neared \$400! We are gearing up for the second annual sale, charging more per pound, continuing with great PR, and storing the adorable gingerbread men who graced the corner of Main and Bonnet St, as well as the huge 'Cookies' sign (strategically placed on our lawn at the Northshire Bookstore crosswalk) . A good 90% of the customers were new to FBC, some local and many out-of-towners.

Submitted by Dottie Sundquist - 2019 Chair of Cookies for the Cupboard

CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGES

As Russ and I attempt to get our mail delivered to our new residence, it occurs to us that there are others who probably need to update their address, phone numbers, etc. in the church directory. Although the church is not ready to update the printed version at this time, we can update the online version at any time. This allows access for anyone with a computer (see Russ for password) and will make for an easier update to a new printed version whenever the time is right.

Also, there are some of you who were not a part of FBC when we put our current directory together. We would love to include you! We would need your name, address, phone number(s) and email.

Please provide any information, updated or new, you have to Russ and he will make the online changes for you.

~submitted by Glenna Taxter

REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

Please continue to remember our FBC fellowship fund.

We added three new members to our church family this month! Brittany Dombroski was baptized, and Jacob Dombroski and Cara Davenport joined our church family. We welcome you all!

The young adult group is still planning on getting together soon. If anyone knows of anything that you believe would be good to do, please let me know.

We are working on getting an Alpha class together at the church or to work with another church to run a course. If you have questions, see John Hess or Linell Pike.

Our next meeting is on January 8th at 9:30 am.

Submitted by Kelsey Towslee



Lorraine Wilkins has been packing up the kitchen in preparation for the upcoming renovation!

Out with the old. In with the new! It's finally happening. After 10 long years of raising funds and donations, the kitchen finally will get a fresh look and become much more efficient. The work begins this week. We are looking for someone to clean the ovens and the outside of the stove. The top and back will get a new look as well so unnecessary to clean those. Someone has said they would clean the refrigerator, but if you are just "chomping at the bits to clean", I am sure she will be happy to not have to do it. If all goes as expected, we should see everything done by the end of the month. However, construction does not always go as planned (Our schedule is not everyone else's), so please have patience as we await this wonderful renovation project to be completed. I am one excited church member. I hope all of you are as well.

Thank you, God, for the many hands and hearts that have given of themselves to make this dream become a reality.

Lorraine

CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUSE – 2019!



NOTE from CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School will resume for the children and adults on January 5th (no tweens and teens that day, since Matt is away). The adult class will begin a new study through Right Now Media on the book of Jonah.

Dear Baptist Family,

You are such an amazing community of people! I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your very generous gift that I received on Christmas Eve. The gift certificate to Ye Olde Tavern is perfect. It is one of our favorite places to go for dinner. We will be thinking of you all when we go out for our special dinner. Also, thank you for the cash that was included in the gift. I plan to use it towards something special. I have not yet decided what that will be, but I will try to remember to let you know when I do decide.

I wish all of you a New Year filled with blessings! It is so hard to believe that we are not only starting a new year but also a new decade! Where did this last decade go?

You are all so supportive of me and I truly appreciate that from each of you.

Much love,
Barb

INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF THE NORTHSHIRE

Cantor Scott Buckner of the Israel Congregation has been appointed the new chairman of the Council succeeding Jim Gray.

The Council will be sponsoring a Martin Luther King, Jr. service on Sunday, January 19 to be held at the Dorset Church at 3:00 P.M. Rev. Dr. Jim Gray will be delivering the message. An Interfaith Choir is planned under the direction of Tom Salmon, music director at the Dorset Church.

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

Pastor Rebecca's cell phone: (802) 688-3024

Church office Phone: (802) 362-1555

Please call to request a meeting or visit outside of regular church office hours.

FLOWERS

January 5: Poinsettias

January 12: Poinsettias

January 19: Bill & Martha Bowen

January 26: Russ & Glenna Taxter

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

January 5: Holly & Ronan

January 12: Lisa & Annie

January 19: Maurie & Linell

January 26: Dottie & Bryan

