



See note regarding photo on page 8.

"SpiritSpark"

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

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

June 2018

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

The word on my mind today is *preparation*. Our living room is filled with hiking gear, maps, notecards, and Matt and Natalie busily measuring out bags of dry food. I can hear the dehydrator in the kitchen, drying a batch of apples. It's the last day before they head out with their ultra-light backpacks ready for an adventure of a lifetime: thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Of course, it isn't just this one day that they set aside to prepare for this great endeavor. They have been getting their bodies and minds in shape for over a year. Decisions about work and school all took the AT journey into account, and thoughts of it have shaped our life together. I've been praying about it for months, asking God to prepare my heart for their absence and them for the hike.

I'm reminded that our whole earthly life is preparation for our eternal one. Are we conscious of this each day? In 1 Peter 1:1-15, we are encouraged to see our lives in light of eternity.

*“So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control.
Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you
when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.
So you must live as God’s obedient children.
Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires.
You didn’t know any better then.
But now you must be holy in everything you do,
just as God who chose you is holy.” (NLT)*

We aren't here to spend our days indulging our cravings, but to learn to live a holy life, set apart for God's glory. This means we are holding in mind who we are in Christ and letting thoughts of his coming spur us to be prepared for it. Our lives will look different from the people around us if we are holding eternity in mind. That's a good thing, because it could lead to conversation about God. Let's hold each other in prayer as we prepare for the ultimate journey.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca

BAPTISM on the BATTENKILL!

Come and join us on June 24th as we witness the baptism of Kristen Boudreau and enjoy a picnic beside the Battenkill at Benedict Crossing in West Arlington. As of this writing, the plan is to proceed to West Arlington after the regular 9:30 service at the church.

We will need to bring some folding tables and chairs, and maybe a canopy or two as well.

Directions: Rt. 7A to Arlington. About ¼ mile past the Arlington Rec Park, turn right onto Rt.313 west. Proceed for about 2-3/4 miles. Benedict Crossing Rd. is on the left (Pickering's Greenhouse).

Access is from Pickering's parking lot. We'll have signs or a guide. We should be able to drive right down and park close to the river.

Many thanks to the Pickering family for allowing us the use of their property for this special time.

~submitted by John Hess

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Beginning on Sunday, June 17th, the morning church service will begin at 9:30 AM instead of 10:30! Spread the word!

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Vermont Roofing has completed the Steeple and Soffit Repair.

We discussed the issue of replacing the tree that was removed at our Bonnet St. entrance. This was already brought up to some people outside of the committee and the consensus of opinion was that it would be a good idea to make this decision after our neighbors' building and landscaping is finished.

Taping and painting of the stairwell and upstairs hallway at the parsonage will be completed by Sunday June 3.

Bryan Richeimer, Chair

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

We received an acknowledgement letter from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies for our contribution of \$645.00 to the Puerto Rico Rebuild Appeal thanking us for our donation. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director states "Rest assured that the American Baptist family will continue to provide support in the areas devastated long after the news coverage has ceased." Donations can still be made at the Home Mission Societies website, www.abhms.org, or by sending a check to ABHMS at:

ABHMS
Attn: Kim Wilkins
Puerto Rico Rebuild
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

The Manchester StreetFests are soon upon us! The first one will be held on Friday, June 15th. The Missions Committee and the youth of the church will be out on the front lawn distributing free bottled water and cookies to the crowd. We will also be collecting free-will donations to be sent to World Vision for their clean water initiatives on the African continent. If you would like to contribute a case of bottled water and/or cookies to the cause, please leave them in the kitchen prior to the StreetFest.

In July, we will be collecting offerings for our local mission work and the One Great Hour of Sharing. The members of the committee will be presenting Mission Moments during the Sunday Worship Service beginning July 8th. Please consider giving generously and thank you!

Thank you for your prayers and support for our valuable mission work.

Yours in Christ's service,

Jeff Linebeck, Martha Thompson, Barbara West and Lisa Towslee

Ham and Strawberry Supper

The Ham and Strawberry Supper will take place on Saturday, June 23rd. There will be only one seating at 6:00pm. The cost of the dinner is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. The menu includes ham, homemade baked beans, broccoli salad, potato salad, macaroni salad, homemade rolls and fresh strawberry shortcake for dessert. Please call Martha Thompson at 362-3473 for reservations or to make arrangements for takeout.

We are looking for volunteers to help make the food, pick strawberries, prepare strawberries, purchase food, wait on tables, work in the kitchen, wash and dry dishes, and many other jobs that are part of putting on this delicious dinner. To volunteer, please contact Lindy Mylott at 379-1921 or Barb West at 362-3329. We appreciate anything you are able to do.



VOLUNTEER at COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD

June is First Baptist's month to volunteer to distribute food to our clients at the Food Cupboard. This will occur every Wednesday and Thursday in the month of June. The times on Wednesdays is from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon and on Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:00 in the A.M. and 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. So come and join us on some of those dates to do a great community service.

I will have a sign-up sheet with me each Sunday morning for you to take a time slot – or you can e-mail me at barbnjim23@comcast.net or call me at 362-3329 to sign up for a slot or two or any amount you wish to do.

Thank you for considering this great service to our community.

In His love,

Jim West

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST!

The women of the Mary & Martha Fellowship will be serving breakfast to the men of the church on Sunday, June 10th at 8:30 AM.

For information, please see Judy Koch.

The MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP is selling RADA Cutlery!

All profit from this fundraiser will go into the kitchen renovation fund.

Our church kitchen has been, and continues to be, a vital part of our ministry!

Speak to Judy Koch or any woman in the church to see a catalog or to get more information!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES – Holly O’Brien, Church School Sup’t.

This Saturday, June 2nd will be the Sunday School Children's Spring Fling at the Manchester Rec Park 3-5pm.

The next day, Sunday June 3rd, we will be celebrating Children's Day during our church service. The children that will be going into 3rd or 6th grade will be presented with special Bibles.

The Teen Group will be baking cookies to serve to festival goers at the next Street Fest on Friday, June 15th.

We will be having a Baptism and Church Picnic on Sunday, June 24th. This will take place in West Arlington following the regular 9:30 morning service. You will find directions in John Hess's report on page 2.

All are encouraged to take a peek at the bulletin board in the vestry for summer camp opportunities for ALL ages. Camp Sentinel has various overnight camp weeks for youth ages 5-18. There is also a week in June called Senior Ventures for ages 55+. For a full list of their program offerings, you can visit their website at <http://www.campsentinel.org/programdetails.php>

CHILDREN’S SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM!

Look for the Golden Bags! These bags will contain the information you need to donate to this vital cause! The Summer Lunch Program provides lunches to children who do not have access to the hot lunch program that is available to them during the school year.

Matthew and Natalie Sommons are beginning their hike of the Appalachian Trail! We invite you to join us is holding them in prayer. If you would like to read about their progress and see their pictures on Facebook, you can like the page called **Matt and Natalie AT Thru Hike 2018**



CAMPFIRE & SINGING ON PENTECOST SUNDAY!



Top Left: Ronan O'Brien with the perfect marshmallow!
Top Right: Holly O'Brien, Lydia Stevens, John Hess, Pengju Sui, Simon Sui
Middle Left: Emily Stevens, Pastor Rebecca
Middle Right: Emily, John, Pengju, Matt Sommons, Annie Crumb, Julia Vickery, Jeremy Crumb, Dottie Sundquist, Bryan Richheimer, Ronan
Bottom: Matthew leading the singing
Not pictured: Cheryl Hess, Russ and Glenna Taxter

DIACONATE NEWS for April-May, 2018

Each meeting we discuss joys and concerns of our members. Continuing prayers for those in need are planned.

Communion visits to ill or shut-ins are made monthly. Pastor Rebecca and a Diaconate member provide communion for up to three members.

The Fellowship fund helps meet the needs of members or community members. The fund is growing slowly thanks to the generosity of our members.

Plans for Mother's and Father's Day included flowers for mothers and another gift for fathers on June 17. The men of the church provided breakfast for mothers.

Children's Day will be celebrated on June 3. We anticipate having an earlier Sunday church service, 9:30am instead of 10:30, for the summer months. The start-up Sunday is June 17th. We have done this in the past and believe it provides more time for summer activities in families.

Rev. Jordan Dickenson will preach in Rebecca's absence on June 10th.

Pastor Rebecca's birthday is July 19th.

Each meeting closes with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Bowen and Linda Hulett, Co-Chairman of Diaconate

GAME NIGHT!



Matt Sommons, Lydia Stevens, John Hess, and Ronan O'Brien

Photos courtesy of Pastor Rebecca



Julia Vickery, Annie Crumb, Jeremy Crumb



Holly O'Brien, Cheryl Hess, Emily Stevens

Jan Casey would like to thank everyone who wished her a happy 98th birthday! She enjoyed the card she received from church with the many signatures and messages and sends her love to all!



ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO: This is another great photo from the Manchester Historical Society. It's been used before, but some details have been included that will mean something to some of you. It was taken in 1915. The man with the wheelbarrow is identified as John Balch – with Georgia LaBatt, Rosey Cummings, and June Tetreault White.

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
Parsonage Phone: (802) 362-5335
Please call to request a meeting or visit outside of regular church office hours.

FLOWERS

June 3: Bryan Richheimer
June 10: Nancy Johnson
June 17: Lisa Towslee
June 24: Russ & Glenna Taxter

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

June 3: (no child care)
June 10: Glenna & Annie
June 17: Cathy & Lindy
June 24: Holly & Ronan

