



See note regarding photo on page 6.



“SpiritSpark”
The First Baptist Church
of Manchester Center, VT
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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons
June 2022

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

I’ve been enjoying a new devotional book this spring that I read in the quiet of the morning. It’s called *Intimate Conversations* and is written by Alicia Britt Chole. One of the devotionals that stood out to me was entitled “Every Choice is a Seed.” She encourages readers to “*picture your spirit as though it were a garden. Day after day, choice after choice, every choice is a seed, and in the realm of choice, **every** seed bears fruit...May God strengthen us to plant well!*”

As you put seeds in the ground this spring, I encourage you to consider what seeds you are planting in your soul. I planted some morning glory seeds around my mailbox, and saw today that the seeds have sprouted with little leaves blowing in the wind ~ evidence of my prior choice. I realize that my body shows evidence of the food I choose to take in, and my mind shows evidence of what I’ve been reading. For my soul to be beautiful and kind, I need to choose seeds of truth and grace from quality time with God.

This is not to say that the beauty and growth in our life is all up to us. The seeds of Christ-like character grow as we align with the Holy Spirit's direction and work in our lives. It is then we will enjoy the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. This list is found in Galatians 5:22-23, and the verses just before it describe the fruit of seeds planted by the sinful, selfish nature. God doesn't control our life; he waits for us to invite Him in as the Master Gardener. When we make that choice, beauty that brings delight to Him, to us, and to those who know us abounds. It's better than the blue blossoms that will one day greet each driver who passes our house. So I echo Alicia ~ *"May God strengthen us to plant well!"*

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca



DIACONATE

The Diaconate happily met with Jim and Bonnie Lincoln to discuss church membership and when you read this will already be members of our church. They have been attending for some time and have shared their talents and prayers with the church and members. The picture of an old drawing of our first church at Factory Point Cemetery has been beautifully framed by Jim and can be seen in the vestry.

Linell Pike and Jenny Russell will serve communion on June 5, 2022.

Craig Keith will preach on Barnabas on July 24 and Cara Davenport will preach on July 17, 2022.

A special meeting of the Deaconate was called to hear the testimony of Theresa and Ken Taylor who, now that they have moved back to Manchester, wish to join with our church. We are very pleased to have this talented couple in our midst and welcome them with open arms. They will be joining on June 12, 2022.

Our next meeting is planned for June 7, 2022.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

Welcoming New Members ~ Jim and Bonnie Lincoln
with Diaconate Chair Cara Davenport



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Beginning on Sunday, June 5th, the morning church service will begin at 9:30 am instead of 10:30! Spread the word!

JUNE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD

June is First Baptist's month to volunteer to distribute food at the Food Cupboard.

Wednesdays: 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon

Thursdays: 10:00 to 12:00 in the morning and 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon

Fridays: 2:00-4:00 in the afternoon

Call Lindy Mylott (802-379-1921) if you can help!

Thank you!

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

At our May meeting, MMF would usually have had a breakfast prepared by our men, but Covid reared its ugly head and several people were sick.

However, if things go well, the women will cook breakfast for the men at our regular meeting June 12, 2022 (not on Father's Day.) Lisa Towslee will prepare a sign-up sheet.

We are disappointed to tell you that we have made the hard decision to cancel our Ham and Strawberry Dinner for this year. The high food prices were a critical factor in that decision. Please look for this popular dinner next June!

Martha Thompson, Secretary



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee has planned a gathering and sing-along for Pentecost on Sunday June 5. This will be at the Sommons' home in Danby at 7:00 pm. We will be making s'mores and enjoying an evening of fellowship. Please bring a chair or blanket along.

On Saturday June 11, we are planning a youth hike at 1:00 at Haystack Mountain in Pawlet, followed by some ice cream. This is a 3 mile round trip, moderately challenging route.

On June 24, the Christian Education Committee will be providing an open vestry during the Manchester StreetFest for families with young children. We plan to offer snacks, water, games, and crafts, as well as a comfort station for little ones. This is a nice opportunity to engage with the community and young families.

On July 4, the town of Manchester will be providing their annual fireworks. Please join us for fellowship at 8:00 at the MEMS field behind the school. We can gather as a group and then enjoy the fireworks at 9.

Save the date! On July 9, we will be hosting our annual church picnic from 12-3. A sign-up will be organized for food and drinks as we get closer to the date.

For His Glory,
Annie Crumb

CAMPFIRE & SINGING ON PENTECOST SUNDAY!

Join us on June 5th
for campfire songs and s'mores
at the Sommons' Home
7:00 pm



INTERFAITH NEWS

Kids Summer Lunch will begin in a couple of weeks and the process of ordering food and arranging schedules is already underway.

Neighbor to Neighbor: Many new care recipients have joined N2N and new volunteers have joined to help care for our care recipients.

We have been blessed with some unexpected grants which will take the pressure off of fund raising.

We will however continue with the sale of raffle tickets for the Calendar for Cash drawing. Thank you to those who have contributed!

The IFCN is involved with welcoming Afghan refugees and they are working hard to help them settle comfortably!

~submitted by Martha Thompson

Due to High Food Prices,
our Take-Out Ham and Strawberry Supper
has been canceled!
Please look for this popular dinner next year!



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FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST!

The women of the Mary & Martha Fellowship will
be serving breakfast to the men of the church on
Sunday, June 12th at 8:30 am.

For information, please see Lisa Towslee.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Prudential Committee met on May 12th via Zoom. Here is a recap.

Old Business;

- *Rebecca reported that one refugee from Afghanistan will be arriving in Manchester within the next two weeks.

- *Roof -The committee is still in search of a structural engineer.

- *Bonnet Street Railing-The final drawing was presented and the Prudential Committee voted to have it built. We will need to find someone to install it. It will take a few weeks to be built.

- *Church Cleaning: Everything is all set for May 14th cleaning.

New Business:

- *Barb requested the use of the church for the choral group Serenity Singers two times per month from 3:00-4:30 on Wednesday afternoon. Permission granted.

- *Discussed the possibility that there may be a need to reactivate the Reopening Committee. Ashley and Jeremy volunteered to represent the Prudential Committee if need be.

A huge **thank you** to Glenna Taxter. Kay and Craig Keith. Jim H., Maurie, Ashley, Rebecca. Lisa H., and Paul for doing all the cleaning in the church. "Many hands DO make light work". It was all pretty much completed in one morning!

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman



The following is a message from Right Now Media. If you are not already registered with RightNow Media, you may contact Pastor Rebecca, Jeremy Crumb or Russ Taxter for an invitation and more information.



As Christians, we are called to share our faith with others. That's why we encourage you to give others access to RightNow Media at no cost to your organization. Through two simple steps, you can invite your friends and family to experience RightNow Media for free. All you need are their email addresses to get started.

In the Mobile App:

First, tap the menu icon and then, in the slide-out panel, tap “Invite.” Enter the person’s email address and hit “Send.” They’ll receive an email on behalf of your organization with an invitation to activate their free account! You can repeat this process to invite multiple people.

On Desktop:

Next to your organization’s name at the top right, click “Send Invite.” Enter the email addresses of those you want to invite and click “Send Invitations.” They’ll receive an email on behalf of your organization inviting them to activate their free account!

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO: This great photo comes from the Manchester Historical Society. 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**

Breakfast with Your Higher Power Group: Mon-Fri from 7:30-8:30 am (open group)

Equinox Group: Mon – Fri from Noon to 1:00 (open group)

Primary Purpose Group: Sunday 7:30 -8:30 pm (closed group)

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Rebecca’s e-mail address: 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 listed above. Feel free to reach out to her anytime throughout the week.

CHURCH EVENTS for JUNE

- 2 Interfaith Council Meeting at FCC at 11:45 am
- 2 Mission Meeting at 3 pm at the church
- 2 Choir Practice at church at 7 pm
- 5 Pentecost Service with Communion
Church Services begin their summer time of 9:30 am
- 5 Pentecost campfire and songs with s'mores at the Sommons' home at 7 pm
- 7 Deacon Meeting at the church at 4:30 pm
- 8 Seeking God Together Meeting via zoom at 11 am
- 8 Christian Ed. Meeting via zoom at 7 pm
- 9 Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm
- 11 Youth activity at 1 pm ~ hiking Haystack and then ice cream in Granville
- 12 Mary and Martha Meeting and special breakfast for the men
- 13 Uplift Meeting in the vestry at 3 pm
- 14 Prayer Group via zoom at 7 pm
- 16 Prudential Meeting at 5 pm
- 16 Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm
- 19 Father's Day and Worship Service
- 22 Seeking God Together Meeting at 11 am
- 23 Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm
- 24 Street Fest Hospitality from 6-9 pm on the church front lawn
- 27 Uplift Meeting in the vestry at 3 pm
- 28 Prayer Group via zoom at 7 pm
- 30 Choir Practice at church at 7 pm

FLOWERS

June 5: Bryan Richheimer in Memory of Son, Jeff

June 12: The Sommons Family

June 19: Anna Ennis in Memory of Paul Ennis, Sr.

Judy & Ray Koch in Memory of Jeanne Winfier

June 26: Rosemary & David Hall in Memory of Kathleen Walker