

Photo from the Manchester Historical Society dating around 1915.

"SpiritSpark"

The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

MAY 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

Sunday school will be coming to a break toward the end of the month of May. It's been a quiet year for these classes, with fewer participants than last year. I am thankful for the faithfulness of the teachers to prepare the lessons with faith that God will use them in their own hearts and in the lives of those who come.

I am one of the teachers for the smallest children, and I have to admit that I can sometimes feel sad about having just one child in our class. But what a gift our little Emily is! She comes because she wants to be there, and she is learning about God's love and truth. Her parents took the time to share her response to the question they posed to her when her Great Grandmother died. They asked, do you know

what happened to her? Emily answered, “Her body goes into the ground and her heart goes to heaven.” I believe that God considers our Emily girl quite precious, just as we do. Who knows what he may do in and through her life?

It’s been a quiet season for us as a church family. There hasn’t been any numerical growth, and we’ve seen some dear ones slip away from us in the busyness of life. Yet, as I was reminded today, the roots of our church family run deep. God is moving under the surface, growing us in subtle ways, healing our wounds, inviting us to deeper trust. I believe that we are being prepared for whatever God would like to do in and through us next. God doesn’t mind our smallness. He’s particularly fond of using small ones, so that it is clear Whose power is at work.

Would you join me in praying for our continued preparation in this quiet season, the attentiveness to sense where the Holy Spirit would like to take us next, and the courage to join in whatever God has in mind for us?

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Rebecca

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Sunday School classes will meet May 5th, 12th, and 19th before breaking for the summer, so if you would like to come see what a class is like this would be the perfect time to try out a class. A class for children through grade five meets downstairs in Joy Hall; a class for grades six through twelve meets at the parsonage; finally, an adult class meets upstairs in the conference room.

The youth group enjoyed a pizza and bowling event with the Dorset Church youth group on April 6th. The next event, Dinner and a Movie, will be held in June.

The CE Committee will be hosting a family care center during the Manchester Street Fest on June 21. We will provide child friendly games and snacks, as well as a quiet place for parents of young children and babies.

~submitted by Annie Crumb



DIACONATE

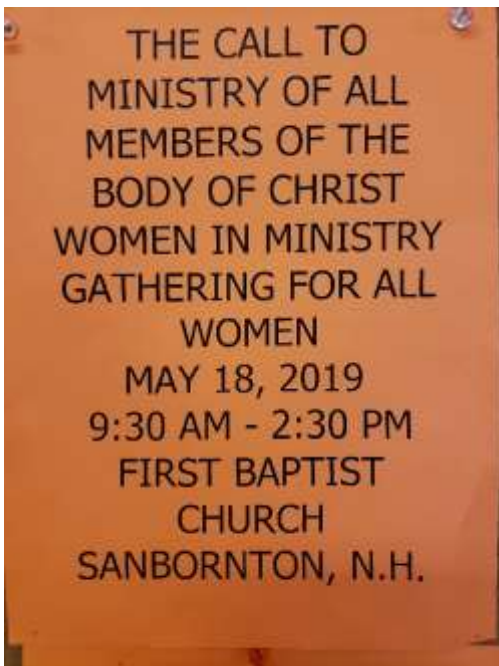
Thank you to everyone who so graciously gives to the Fellowship Fund! We ask that you continue to give as the needs are great.

Holy week was a success and we want to thank everyone who helped out.

The Women in Ministry Gathering will take place on May 18, 2019. Refer to the poster below or the bulletin board in the vestry for information.

Camp Sentinel is coming up and information can be found on the bulletin board in the vestry for that as well.

-Submitted by Kelsey Towslee



Highlights from THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE meeting of April 16, 2019:

A new bell rope was installed from top to bottom. Thanks, Bruce, for your help climbing!
Conference Room painting is underway.
Organ tuning and cleaning is scheduled for May.
The updating of our computer system is underway.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Richeimer, chairman

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee became aware that the student we support, Leon Nyakunhwa of Hatare Zimbabwe will be turning 18 on July 14, 2019 and we have learned that we will be supporting him until he is 21.

Coming up in June will be the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering as well as a kickoff for The Kids Summer Lunch Program.

Kelsey Towslee and Ronan O'Brien will be joining the Lansdale Baptist Youth Group on their mission trip to Rutland. They will be arriving in Manchester on the 15th of June and we hope to entertain and share a meal with them.

~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



MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship will be meeting on Mother's Day, May 12th at 8:30 A.M. and all mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers (you get the idea) are invited to a breakfast that will be prepared by the gentlemen of our church. There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestry to give our food preppers some idea of how many will be attending. All are welcome!

~Martha Thompson, Secretary

INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF THE NORTHSHIRE

All congregations of the Northshire were invited to attend a community Passover Seder at Israel Congregation on Sun., April 7, 2019. It was a delightful evening with Cantor Scott Buckner leading the ritual followed by a delicious dinner.

IFC continued their tradition of hosting a Sunrise Service at Dormy Grill on Easter Sunday and our Pastor Rebecca Sommons delivered the message.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



At our Lasagna Dinner last February, Cheryl Hess provided the Vegetable Lasagna. Requests for the recipe were many, so Cheryl has graciously submitted it here. Thank you, Cheryl!

12 lasagna noodles
1 large red pepper, sliced
1 Tbsp Olive Oil
1 bunch broccoli, cut in flowerets
1 Yellow squash & 1 Zucchini, quartered lengthwise and sliced
3 cloves garlic, chopped
1 large yellow pepper, sliced
1 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp salt

Cheese mixture:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 eggs | 1/2 Cup chopped fresh basil |
| 1 16 oz container cottage cheese | 1/4 tsp liquid red pepper seasoning |
| 1 15 oz container ricotta | note: I never use the red pepper |
| 2 Cups shredded Mozzarella cheese | |

Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain. Coat a 13x9x2 baking pan with nonstick vegetable oil spray. Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat.

Add squash, peppers, broccoli, garlic and thyme. Cover and cook 10 minutes or until vegetable are tender crisp. Pour off any liquid and sprinkle with salt. Stir to combine.

Prepare cheese mixture. Beat eggs in large bowl, stir in ricotta, cottage cheese, basil and red pepper seasoning until blended. Line prepared pan with 3 noodles, Spread 2 cups of the cheese mixture on top; cover with 3 noodles. Spread 3 cups of the vegetable mixture on top. Sprinkle on 1 Cup mozzarella. Cover with 3 noodles. Spread with remaining cheese mixture. Top with remaining noodles. Top with remaining vegetables. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella. Cover with foil and bake in preheated 375 degree oven for 1 hour. Cool slightly before serving.

The following article provides information regarding an outreach event of the Middletown Springs Community Church.

Tour de Slate

According to some surveys, Vermont has the highest illicit drug usage in the country. Most of us know someone whose life has been impacted by drug or alcohol addiction. What can we do to “end addiction”?

The second annual “Tour de Slate” fund-raising bike ride will take place on Aug. 3, 2019. We will be riding to support the addiction-ending efforts of Teen Challenge, VT.

Why is it called the “Tour de Slate”?

The ride will start in Middletown Springs, Vermont and will tour the world-renowned Slate Valley of Vermont and bordering NY state. Many quarries are still in production, while others are abandoned. There will even be a rest stop at the Slate Valley Museum in Granville, NY.

Why is it benefiting Teen Challenge Vermont?

Teen Challenge has a two, soon to be three, pronged approach to ending addiction.

1. Teen Challenge's End Addiction Campaign brings a substance abuse prevention presentation to schools, youth groups or community events. It is interactive, multi-media and includes real stories of people who have overcome addiction.
2. The traditional Teen Challenge residential program is the most successful (for those who complete the program) drug and alcohol addiction recovery program in the nation.
3. Teen challenge, Vt is currently in the process of opening a women's facility where women facing many societal issues can find relief and restoration. The planned opening is the spring of 2019.

Who can participate in the Ride?

There will be four different ride routes to fit a wide range of cycling desire or experience, including a rails/trails ride suitable for families with children. The roads for the metric century ride (100km, 62 mi.) and the medium distance rides are ideal for cycling with very good paved surfaces and minimal auto traffic. All the routes will be fully supported with adequate rest stops, and SAG (support and gear) vehicles, etc.

What else will happen that day?

There will be a Chicken Curry and (All American burgers and hot dogs) dinner at finish on the Green in Middletown Springs.

We will provide information about other things to do in the area.

How can you join us to “End Addiction”?

You can: ride, become a sponsor, support a rider (\$ per mile, etc.), be a volunteer on the day of the ride or before hand, donate something for the rider's goodie bags, etc.

Note: All net proceeds will be forwarded to benefit Teen Challenge, VT

Please make check to: MSCC/ Tour de Slate

mail to: Tour de Slate, PO Box 1012, Middletown Springs, VT 05757

More details: www.tourdeslate.org email: info@tourdeslate.org

**OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED 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

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

May 5: Lindy Mylott

May 12: Russ & Glenna Taxter

May 19: Martha Thompson

May 26: Jim & Cathy Comar

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

May 5: Dottie & Bryan

May 12: (none)

May 19: Maurie & Linell

May 26: Holly & Ronan



The family and friends of the First Baptist Church would like to extend their condolences to the family of Gloria Durden. Gloria went to be with her Lord on April 17, 2019.

The family and friends of the First Baptist Church would like to extend their condolences to the family of Doris Johnson. Doris went to be with her Lord on April 27, 2019.