



from Pastor Rebecca's Collection



"SpiritSpark"

The First Baptist Church

of Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

MAY 2022

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

As we enter May, I hope that we are seeking to live each day with Christ's resurrection power in us, bringing life to our dormant places and victory to our stuck places. When Christ came to be with the disciples, he spoke *shalom* ~ a pervading peace over their lives. This peace and power is ours as we live in intimate connection with Christ. I was just reading about this in Colossians 1:2-6 (TPT).

*"May God, our true Father, release upon your lives the riches
of his kind favor and heavenly peace through the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One..."*

We pray for you with thanksgiving...

*for we have heard of your devoted lives of faith in Christ Jesus
and your tender love toward all his holy believers.*

*Your faith and love rise within you as you access all the treasures of your inheritance
stored up in the heavenly realm...*

Now that you have believed in the truth of the gospel...it has changed you.

*Every believer of this good news bears the fruit of eternal life
as they experience the reality of God's grace."*

As your pastor, I see your faith and love growing as you live in the reality of God's grace. I commend you for your devotion and the tender kindness that people notice when they are around you. You are loving representatives of Christ in our community. I pray that God will continue to open doors of opportunity to share the gospel with people who are longing for connection with God and the peace and strength He graciously shares with us. Keep your eyes and ears open in your conversations with others to see how the Holy Spirit is moving here and I will too.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca



Dear Rev. Rebecca.

I'm happy to write this message to inform you about Easter in Kinihira; we had Great Easter because to Day we had a baptism of 19 believes. So we thank God about that; The Church grow day by day. I send photo.

Thank you. I wish you Great Easter.

Rev. Aloys

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

At our April meeting, the Prudential Committee, set up times for spring cleaning of the church. All members took a section to clean.

Church Maintenance - Please contact us to help! We welcome any and all!

- May 10th at 10am
 - Yardwork - Paul, Dottie & Bryan
- May 14 Join us any time after 9am!
 - Upstairs - Rebecca & Lisa
 - Sanctuary - Ashley
 - Vestry, downstairs bathroom, Bonnet Street Entry - Lorraine
 - Kitchen - Mary & Martha Fellowship
 - Joy Hall - Paul (floor) Jeremy (other) May 14

Other areas being worked on include:

- The Bonnet Street entrance railing is in the design stage and moving along.
- The Roof Committee has learned from the town that the church is a contributing historic building within the Historic District. This may open the door to funding through grants. This is good news and bad news as time is of the essence for much needed roof repair. We are in contact with the Manchester Historical Society and searching for a structural engineer to determine our next steps.
- All of the air filters have been replaced in the devices throughout the church. Please be sure they are left on. New smoke alarms and emergency lights, the kitchen odor, and a new sink spray nozzle are all being addressed for installation, removal or replacement, respectively.
- We are very grateful to the Men's Group for painting the Choir Room railing. They have offered to continue painting other areas. Thank you!

Northshire Bookstore's Booktopia event will be held Fri/Sat May 6 & 7. They will use the vestry and the sanctuary.

Dottie Sundquist, Secretary

Missions Committee

Thank you for your offerings to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Through that organization we raised \$1745.00 for Ukraine!

We also donated \$100.00 to the Manchester Rescue Squad this month.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations towards helping us to realize our goals. The next Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for May 3rd at 3:30pm.

God's Blessings,
Linda Bushee, Secretary

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

Members of the Mary Martha Fellowship met on Saturday, April 16, 2022 to prepare the little floral bouquets used to decorate our traditional Easter floral cross. Peggy Brockett provided the flowers and the greens. Glenna got us started with greens and carnations.

MMF will be responsible for spring cleaning the kitchen. Lisa T., Lisa H., Ashley H. and Lorraine W. have volunteered to do this project.

The workday is planned for May 7, 2022.

Rugs have been purchased for the kitchen.

Our church group is planning a takeout Ham and Strawberry Dinner to take place on June 23, 2022 from 5 to 6:30 P.M. The menu: baked ham, potato salad, baked beans, broccoli salad and strawberry shortcake for dessert. Can you help with the strawberry picking or some of the cooking and baking? This is one of our best dinners and this year will be the 30th anniversary of its founding.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

Preparing our Easter Cross - Anna, Glenna, Dottie, Lisa T, Lisa H, Barb, Ashley, Lorraine, Martha T



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee is planning some spring and summer fellowship events as we look ahead to the warmer months. Save the date for Saturday May 21 for our Ladies Tea, Talk, and Craft in the vestry from 1-3. Ladies of any age are invited to bring a creative project to work on and enjoy some fellowship and conversation. Please bring along a tea snack to share.

Looking ahead to June, we will hold our annual Pentecost Sing-along on June 5th. Please join us for fellowship and singing of praise songs around a campfire.

Save the date for our summer church picnic on July 9. The picnic will be held at the Rec Center in Manchester in the late afternoon and evening. A sign up for food and other picnic items will be provided as we get closer to the event.

Sunday School classes will continue through May 22nd. The adult and teen class will be led by Jeremy Crumb and Craig Kieth. Pastor Rebecca will also be offering a children's class. Both classes meet at 9:30 at church. The adult class offers a virtual option as well.

For His Glory,
Annie Crumb

DIACONATE MEETING

Easter Sunrise Service took place in thickly falling snow. Pastor Rebecca helped officiate and is becoming a stalwart Vermonter.

Jeremy Crumb was kind enough to officiate with Zoom at both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services

Now that our Easter season is passed, we are coming up to Pentecost.

Pastor Rebecca has planned a series of sermons featuring men and women of the Bible. As Rebecca and Matt will be away a couple of Sundays in July, the Diaconate wonders if any church members have an interest in sharing your thoughts about a Bible character you'd like to share with the congregation. On Mother's Day, Pastor Rebecca will preach about Rebekah, Isaac's wife.

Covid is rearing its ugly head and several members are infected, so we will postpone communion until May 15th and possibly return temporarily to Zoom worship services. Stay tuned.

Martha Thompson

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Neighbor to Neighbor is sponsoring a money raising project called Calendar Cash. Tickets are \$10 apiece and one ticket will be drawn every day in the month of June. Prizes range from \$10 to \$100. Committee members are selling them. You may call the N2N office at 802-367-7787 for information. We will be set up at Northshire Bookstore and Dorset Farmer's Market.

Submitted by Martha Thompson



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 gr

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 MAY

- 1 Worship Service
- 3 Mission Meeting at 3:30 pm at the church
- 3 Prayer Group and Book Discussion of Chapters 7 & 8 at 7 pm via zoom
- 4 Christian Education Meeting at 7 pm via zoom
- 5 Interfaith Council Meeting via zoom at 11:45 am
- 5 Choir Practice at 7 pm at the church
- 6-7 Booktopia will be using the church building
- 8 Mother's Day ~ Breakfast served by the men at 8:30 am
and Mary & Martha Meeting
- 8 Mission Moment ~ America for Christ Offering this Month
- 9 Uplift Meeting 3 pm in the vestry
- 10 Deacon Meeting at the church at 4:30 pm
- 11 Seeking God Together Meeting at 11 am
- 12 Prudential Meeting at the church and via zoom at 5 pm
- 12 Choir Practice at 7 pm
- 14 Spring Cleaning at the church beginning at 9 am
- 15 Communion Sunday
- 17 Prayer Group and Book Discussion of chapters 9 & 10 via zoom at 7 pm
- 19 Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm
- 21 Men's Breakfast and Meeting at the church at 9 am
- 21 Ladies' Tea and Craft Party at the church 1-3 pm
- 22 Worship Service
- 23 Uplift meeting 3 pm in the vestry – Chair Massage available
- 25 Seeking God Together Meeting at 11 am
- 26 Choir Practice at church at 7 pm
- 29 Worship Service
- 31 Prayer Group and Book Discussion of chapters 11-12

NOTE: Communion Sunday has been moved to the 15th. It will go back to the first Sunday of the month next month.

FLOWERS

- May 1: Russ & Glenna Taxter in Memory of Russell Sr. & Dorothy H. Taxter
- May 8: Lorraine Wilkins in Memory of Mother, Frances Mitchell
- May 15: Lindy Mylott in Memory of Jan Casey and Lois Hecht
- May 22: Martha Thompson in Memory of Mother, Edith Krakauskas
- May 29: Jim & Cathy Comar in Memory of Father, Ken Pierce

