



### CHURCH PICNIC AT THE REC!

See more pictures inside!



## "SpiritSpark"

The First Baptist Church of  
Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

AUGUST 2022

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

My heart is full of gratitude for your kindness! Thank you for celebrating my birthday with such thoughtfulness, creativity, and love. I enjoyed the healthy food you prepared and reading your beautiful cards, and I am looking forward to using your generous gift certificate to get plants for our yard that will remind me of you.

I've known from the first time I met you that you have a God-given gift for hospitality that helps people feel at home. Over the past 6 years we've been sharing life together, I have come to recognize that you

also have a gift for celebrating together. The life of faith includes times of joy and sharing abundance that cheer our way. It's not all about stillness, quiet, and spiritual disciplines, although these can refresh our souls too. I'm delighted that you know how to do both kinds of things well. It reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1 ~

*"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven."*

May your lives continue to hold all the things God intends for them, and may each one be done for His glory and pleasure.

Love in Christ,

*Pastor Rebecca*

### **MARY AND MARTHA FELLOWSHIP**

Mary Martha Fellowship's meeting in June was the last until Sept. 11, 2022.

Members will still be busy planning the Ham and Strawberry Dinner.

This dinner will be held on Thursday, August 25th.

Lindy Mylott, Judy Koch and Courtney Mylott picked berries while berries were still in season. Lisa Towslee, Ashley Hess, Cathy Comar, Jim Comar, Lindy Mylott and Martha Thompson prepared them for freezing for the dessert at The Ham and Strawberry Dinner.

If there are any members particularly interested in making homemade beans or potato salad for the dinner, please let Martha Thompson know. Call her at 802-362-3473.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

### **Ham and Strawberry Dinner**

The Mary Martha Fellowship is planning a takeout Ham and Strawberry Dinner for Thurs., Aug. 25, 2022. The menu: baked ham, potato salad, baked beans, broccoli salad, a roll and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

The donation is \$14 per person and your dinner may be picked up between 5:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. at the Bonnet Street entrance. Reservations may be made by calling Martha Thompson at 802-362-3473. If you leave a message, please leave your phone number so I can confirm your reservation. Also, I will be out of reach August 5th through August 12th.



**HAM & STRAWBERRY  
TAKE-OUT DINNER  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25  
5:00-6:30 PM**

**DIACONATE**

The Diaconate Committee met on July 5, 2022. Some Fellowship Fund needs were discussed and appropriate action was taken.

Theresa Taylor will have preached on July 12th; her subject, Mary Magdalene, Craig Keith will have preached about Barnabas, Paul's companion. Cara Davenport will preach on Aug. 7th. Her subject; Haggai, one of the last books in the Old Testament.

The Diaconate hopes to begin a series on Discipleship in the fall.

Jim Holden and Jenny Russell will serve communion in August.

Our next meeting will be held on August 25, 2022.

~Martha Thompson, Secretary

**MISSIONS**

At our July meeting, we donated \$25.00 to Daily Bread.

Habitat for Humanity was awarded \$150.00 for the building of new homes for area residents.

The Missions Committee is able to help our friends and neighbors thanks to your continued support.

Doing God's Work,  
Linda Bushee, Secretary



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

July was a busy month of summer fellowship! A small group gathered to enjoy the Manchester town fireworks on July 4. Thank you to all who attended and brought snacks to share. We were also blessed with beautiful weather for our annual church picnic on July 9. It was wonderful to enjoy the variety of salads, delicious entrees, and desserts that everyone brought. It was a lovely day to sit and talk, play wiffle ball and bocce ball, and enjoy a delicious meal together.

Looking toward the fall, Sunday school classes will resume for children and adults. More information to come! In October, we hope to hold our Tea and Craft event that was postponed in the spring.

For His Glory,  
Annie Crumb

### **Annual Church Picnic**



**Wiffle Ball**

**Croquet**







**Bocce Ball**

### **NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR**

Volunteers and care recipients had a picnic and visit of the beautiful gardens at Rogerland on a beautiful , sunny, warm day. A good time was had by all.

At the last steering committee meeting two new members were welcomed on the committee,; Allison Williamson and Judy Gault. There have also been several new volunteers and care recipients.

If you want to find out more about Neighbor to Neighbor, call the office at 802-367-7787. Suzie Eisinger is our new Director.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

### **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

The Prudential committee did not meet in July. Happy summer!  
Dottie Sundquist, Secretar



**OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER  
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](mailto: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 AUGUST**

- 4 Prudential Meeting at 5 pm at the church
- 7 Cara Davenport will be preaching and we will have communion in the worship service.
- 8 Uplift at 3:00 pm in the vestry
- 9 Mission Meeting at the church at 4:30 pm
- 9 Prayer Group and Book Discussion of chapters 19, 20, & 21 at 7 pm via zoom
- 16 PRC Meeting at noon
- 17 Seeking God Together Meeting at 11 am at Jim Holden's house
- 18 Choir 7:00 pm at church
- 23 Deacon Meeting at 4:30 pm at the church
- 25 Ham and Strawberry Dinner – Pick Up between 5 and 6:30 pm
- 25 Choir 7:00 pm at church
- 29 Uplift at 3:00 pm in the vestry

(Pastor Rebecca will be in Maine from August 1-5)

## **FLOWERS**

Aug 7: Lisa Hess / In Honor of Kelsey T. & Lisa H. Birthdays  
and In Memory of father, Charles Towslee

Aug 14: Carol Lattuga / In Memory of father, Charles Moore.

Aug 21: The Sommons Family

Aug 28: Linda Hulett / In Honor of Linda Bushee's Birthday



The First Baptist Church Family would like  
to extend their love and prayers to the  
family of Rev. Margaret Dawedeit who  
went to be with the Lord on June 20<sup>th</sup>,  
2022.

Can you hear that beautiful soaring soprano  
and boisterous infectious laugh coming  
from the heavens!?