



"MEMORIES" (Winter of 2020 - Photo by Shawn Harrington)



"SpiritSpark"

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

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[Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons](#)

January 2022

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

As we embark on another year, I do so with assurance that God will continue to guide and provide for us as we seek to follow God's will. God has been so faithful in providing wisdom, grace, patience and strength through another challenging year. I hope you are feeling encouraged by the gift of new people who have come alongside us to worship, serve, and learn together.

We've traced the theme of light through Advent, and I trust that we will continue to be on the lookout for how things light up when our heart's desires and God's plans intersect to make a difference in the world. The plan for Sunday mornings is that we will celebrate Epiphany on January 2nd with the story of the wisemen. Then on the second Sunday of January, we will have a guest preacher named Rev. Greg Vigne come and share a message with you. For the remainder of January and on into February, we'll be learning what God has for us in the Book of Philippians. It's one of my favorite letters of the New Testament, and I hope you will find it encouraging in your walk with Christ.

I'll close with a few verses from the first chapter of Philippians ~

*⁴ My prayers for you are full of praise to God
as I give him thanks for you with great joy!
I'm so grateful for our union ⁵ and our enduring partnership
that began the first time I presented to you the gospel.
⁶ I pray with great faith for you,
because I'm fully convinced that the One who began this gracious work in you
will faithfully continue the process of maturing you
until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

With gratitude for the chance to do life together with you,
Pastor Rebecca

Annual Meeting Notice

The members of the First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT are hereby notified to meet in their house of worship at Manchester Center, VT on January 23, 2022 by Zoom, phone or in person, following the worship service and lunch for the following purposes:

- 1.) to hear the reports of the officers and committees for the past year
- 2.) to elect officers and committee members for the coming year(s)
- 3.) to hear, discuss and act upon proposed revisions of the by-laws
- 4.) to hear, discuss and act upon any other business proper to come before the congregation.

CHURCH CLERK
Martha Thompson

All committee reports are due by January 7, 2022. Please email them to Jeremy Crumb. Thank you.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee offered a Christmas showing of *The Chosen* in early December, along with a potluck meal. December also included our annual Christmas Coffee House, which was offered both live and virtually. Church members shared songs, stories, special ornaments, and even dancing. This was followed by holiday treats. Additionally, both an adult class and a children's Sunday School class met each Sunday at 9:30.

In January, the adult Sunday School class will continue to meet each Sunday at 9:30 in the church vestry; however, we will meet in the conference room upstairs on the second Sunday of January. A virtual option is available for joining as well. We will continue our study of Hebrews. A children's class will also meet each Sunday at 9:30 in the children's room upstairs.

In Christ,
Annie Crumb



MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship participated again in the Interfaith Holiday Project: buying clothes for two young teenagers and also contributing cash to the Interfaith Council for the purchase of food. The Fellowship thanks all who donated towards this project so everyone could have a Merry Christmas.

Dottie Sundquist led a group of busy elves in soliciting cookies and also icing and decorating them. This festive sale was held December 4, 2021 and was a financial success earning \$560. People were anticipating this sale and a new tradition is begun. Thank you, Dottie and helpers!

Christmas gifts for those at home has been a yearly tradition for the Fellowship and this year was no exception. Eighteen bundles of goodies were put together to remember those at home to help them have a Merry Christmas.

~Martha Thompson, Secretary



PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Prudential Committee met on December 9th in the vestry.

During the Treasurer's Report, Lisa reported that our funds are quite low. However, we are able to pay with funds from our General Fund.

We had a lot of **Old Business** items, as some things just continue to be worked on. First, Cody continued to work on the sanctuary walls, but because of layers of wallpaper, the water was being held in. He had to remove some of this paper in order for the walls to dry. It was quite the process. As of this writing, the painting is completed. We still haven't heard from the insurance company about any compensation.

The next item was a discussion about microphones for the sanctuary in order to hear the choir on Zoom. We voted to buy what we needed, as we still need Zoom.

We then discussed "the vent" that was to be installed in the kitchen to take away the bad smell. This vent has now been installed. However, water has backed up from the prep sink into the dishwashing sink. Could there be a clog? Maybe that's the "smell" problem. GSK will be checking it out and fixing the problem if need be.

Next, I shared the initial quote I received from VT Roofing for replacing the sanctuary roof. I will share with the roof committee and hopefully, we will have something ready for the Annual Meeting for discussion.

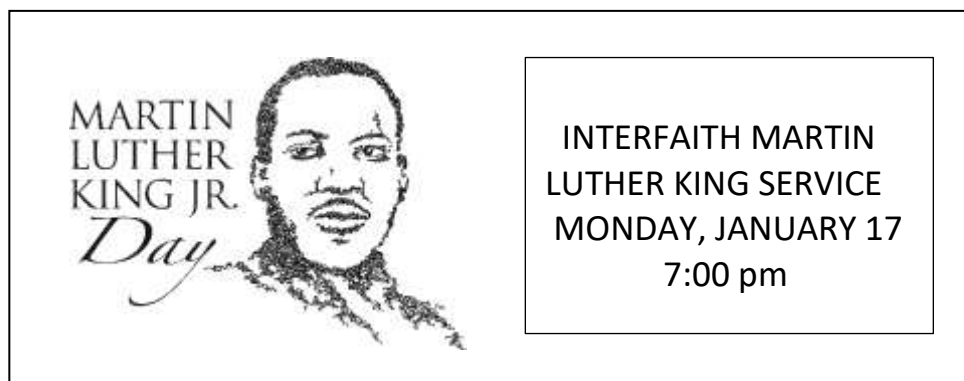
Again, I asked if we knew who shovels our walkways. I am curious as we need to be sure to shovel the right hand door at the front of the church, as there has been much damage done to the door from the snow not being removed. The doors are very old and pretty much irreplaceable without a great deal of money. They both were repaired and painted as part of the painting this past summer.

During **New Business**, I reported about a phone conversation from Waite & Heindel Environmental Management. They were just making us aware that they are still monitoring the groundwater as a follow up from the chemical spill several years ago at the dry cleaning center in Factory Point Square. Therefore, we might see a wooden stake in the ground in the front of the church.

Next the church was asked to host a BlueGrass Concert in January. Because of all of our decorations from December, all voted to not host this concert.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 6 at 4:15.

~submitted by Lorraine Wilkins, Chair



Hello First Baptist Family!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are now having an opportunity to catch your breath and prepare for a New Year. We will be having our Annual Meeting this year on January 23rd after the morning church service. You might recall that the PRC sent a letter to you prior to Christmas to let you know what we are planning as an alternative to our traditional Christmas gift we collected for various people.

After a discussion within our group along with Pastor Rebecca, we have decided to do something different this year. In lieu of having people make contributions to a monetary gift for a few of the people, we thought we might suggest contributions for a special luncheon to thank the many people who contribute their time, effort, and energy to keeping us going. It is entirely your choice if you want to contribute to this luncheon. We plan to have it on the Sunday of Annual Meeting. It could be ordered and brought in from some place or even catered depending on the amount we have available to us. This would mean that nobody would be responsible for setting up or perhaps even cleaning up the luncheon on that day. It means that everybody would be free to participate in the meeting and not feel that they have other responsibilities. We realize this is a very different and new idea. Hopefully this is something you will all be able to enjoy.

Everyone who participates in the life of our church is invited to attend the luncheon. We know there are some people who do not stay for the meeting because they are not members, but we do want you to know that all people are invited to the luncheon.

In the past, Lois Squires or Carol Lattuga have been the people who have collected the contributions. They both are easily accessible in the middle of town. We will do that this year as well, or feel free to see Barb at church with your contribution. If you plan to make a contribution towards the luncheon it would be helpful if you could do so by January 9th so we have time to arrange for a person to prepare or cater the luncheon. You are a fellowship with very generous hearts. We thank you in advance for anything you plan to contribute. The PRC will see to it that we find a person to prepare an appropriate luncheon for us.

Blessings to you,
The PRC (Pastoral Relations Committee)
Rosemary Hall
Carol Lattuga
Barb West



ANNUAL MEETING for the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE
and LUNCHEON

DIACONATE NEWS

At the recent Diaconate Meeting, the testimony of Craig and Kay Keith was heard as they prepare to join our congregation at our December 26, 2021 worship service. Welcome Kay and Craig!

Our Christmas offering will benefit the victims of the destructive tornadoes that tore through the midwest particularly Kentucky.

January will begin a series of sermons based on Philippians.

On January 9, 2022, Greg Vigne will be our guest speaker as pastor Rebecca will be away.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CRAIG and KAY KEITH!

We look forward to
traveling our spiritual
journeys together!



MEN'S GROUP & BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022
9:00 am

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 JANUARY

- Sunday, Jan. 2: Celebrating Epiphany and Communion in the morning service
Thursday, Jan. 6: Interfaith Council Meeting at 11:45 am via zoom
Prudential Meeting at church at 4:15 pm
Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm
Sunday, Jan. 9: Mary and Martha Meeting at 8:30 am at the church
Guest Pastor Greg Vigne will be preaching at the Worship Service
Tuesday, Jan. 11: Prayer Group and Book Discussion of ch. 17-18 via zoom at 7 pm
Thursday, Jan. 13: Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm
Saturday, Jan. 15: Men's Meeting and Breakfast at the church at 9 am
Monday, Jan. 17: Interfaith Martin Luther King Service 7 pm Speaker: Rev. Thomas Arnold
Tuesday, Jan. 18: Deacon Meeting at the church at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 19: Seeking God Together Meeting via zoom at 11 am
Thursday, Jan. 20: Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm
Sunday, Jan. 23: Annual Meeting for First Baptist Church following the worship service
and appreciation luncheon
Tuesday, Jan. 25: Prayer Group and Book Discussion of ch. 19-20 via zoom at 7 pm
Thursday, Jan. 27: Choir Practice at the church at 7 pm

FLOWERS

- January 2: Memorial Poinsettias
January 9: Memoria Poinsettias
January 16: Martha Thompson in Memory of C. Waugamann
January 23: Lindy Mylott
January 30: Lisa Towslee

