



“SpiritSpark”
The First Baptist Church
of Manchester Center, VT
 P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St.
 802-362-1555
www.fbcmanvt.org
 fbcmanvt@gmail.com
 Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

Thank you Dan and Peggy Brockett for the flowers
 at the base of our sign!

July 2022

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

July is a warm month full of color and delight. I have been looking forward to this month for some time, because it holds a Sabbath invitation for me. Perhaps it holds one for you too. Sabbath is time when we rest from our labor and enjoy all that God has given us. Slowing down to savor God’s goodness is pleasing to Him and rejuvenating to us. Some of the goodness is found in the beauty of nature, some in stillness and quiet, some in the unhurried presence of friends and family, some in tasting the fruit of the earth, some in simply breathing in and being grateful for life.

Here's the invitation from Scripture ~

“If you watch your step on the Sabbath
 and don’t use my holy day for personal advantage,
 If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy,
 God’s holy day as a celebration,
 If you honor it by refusing ‘business as usual,’
 making money, running here and there—
 Then you’ll be free to enjoy God!
 Oh, I’ll make you ride high and soar above it all.
 I’ll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob.”
 Yes! God says so!”
 Isaiah 58:13-14 (MSG)

I hope you take God up on His generous offer this July and celebrate the delight of Sabbath each week throughout the year as well.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee hosted a hike on June 11 for any interested youth. Pastor Rebecca led a small hiking group up Haystack Mountain in Pawlet. It was a nice cool day for a hike.

On June 24, we set up a welcome table for families at the StreetFest. It was a popular event this year, which made the welcome table a nice way to connect with the community. Special thanks to all who helped set up and manage the welcome table!

July 4th promises another opportunity to gather for some fellowship. If you would like to watch the Manchester town fireworks as a group, please gather at the field behind MEMS. We will begin gathering at 8:00, with an expected start of the fireworks at 9:00.

Save the date! Our annual church picnic is coming up soon. We plan to gather on July 9 at the Dana L Thompson Memorial Rec Park from noon to three. A Sign-Up Genius has been emailed. This electronic form will help you sign up to bring a salad, prepared main dish, or dessert. We are asking anyone who attends to please bring your own beverages and cups or water bottles. We hope to see you there!

For His Glory,
Annie Crumb

Rebecca, Annie, Jae at Haystack Mountain



INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTHSHIRE

The meetings for the Interfaith Council of the Northshire will be in hiatus during July and August, resuming meetings on September 1, 2022. Their programs, Auto Angels, Kids Summer Lunch, Emergency Needs, Neighbor to Neighbor continue as usual during the summer.

Neighbor to Neighbor

The Calendar Cash Raffle was a very successful fund raiser for Neighbor to Neighbor.

The organization is soon going to start meetings with a group in Rupert.

We welcome anyone interested in becoming a volunteer or a person who might need the support that Neighbor to Neighbor provides to our care recipients including participating in our monthly social events.

Speak to our director Suzie Eisinger at 802-367-7787.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

PRUDENTIAL REPORT JUNE 2022

In case you were wondering...

- Dorset Theater Players requests permission to place lawn signage in front of the church.
- The Joy Hall dehumidifier and air purifiers are checked regularly.
- The Men's Group has a building maintenance 'to-do' list and we are grateful for their time and effort in sprucing up the church. The front door and Bonnet Street window is on their repair list!
- Roof - We are in contact with resources for advice
- Bonnet Street Railing is in progress but slowed due to an illness
- Smoke Alarms/Emergency Lights installation date is uncertain due to the overwhelmed state of the building industry
- The kitchen sink spray nozzle is now working - Jeremy enlarged the hole and it seems to work much better. Thank you, Jeremy!
- Church Cleaning- The number of people who worked **GOT IT DONE!** In 3 HOURS!
Perhaps we should do this on a regular basis and *before the holidays!...and after!*
- We are looking for someone to insulate the boiler and water pipes
- Church Bulletin - The format of the Church Bulletin was discussed and no changes will be made at this time.
- Outside groups who rent our spaces will be monitored more closely to ensure arrival/departure is timely, room temperature is correct and air purifiers are on.
- Orkin has succeeded in controlling/ridding the church of rodents and we voted to continue hiring their service for another year.

Next meeting - August 4th at 5pm
Secretary, Dottie Sundquist

DIACONATE NEWS

During the month of July, Carol Lattuga and Martha Thompson will be responsible for communion and Fellowship hour.

Pastor Rebecca will be taking several Sundays off during July.

On July 17th Rev. Theresa Taylor will tentatively be preaching and on July 24th, Craig Keith will be sharing his thoughts about Barnabas. Our congregation is blessed to have talented speakers in our family.

Pastor Rebecca has suggested that the Diaconate study ways to share an awareness of the Holy Spirit in our lives and learn about spiritual formation. She has been looking for the appropriate material and welcomes suggestions.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

**We Welcome New Members
Rev. Theresa and Ken Taylor!**

Pictured with Diaconate Chair,
Cara Davenport



An Open Vestry, hosted by the Christian Education Committee, was provided during the Manchester StreetFest for families with young children! See pictures below.



Our newest members enjoying the StreetFest!

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship hosted a breakfast on June 12, 2022 to honor the men of our church family. Lots of delicious food was enjoyed by many.

The Fellowship has changed the date of the Ham and Strawberry Dinner. The new date is Thursday, August 25th. A group will have picked berries in June which will be prepared and then frozen, so we can still call it the Ham and Strawberry Dinner. Because the cost of food has risen sharply, the price of the dinner will be \$14.

The Fellowship's next meeting is an 8:30 breakfast meeting on Sunday, September 11, 2022.

~Martha Thompson, Secretary

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

We, the missions committee, can't thank you enough for your continued support. Due to that support, we are able to help others.

At our May meeting we donated \$100 to the Manchester Fire Department. Also, we were able to give \$150 to the School Summer Lunch program which helped to provide healthy lunches. This year, 177 children will benefit and some families have three to five children.

We also sent a birthday card to Leon, who we sponsor.

In God's Blessing,

Linda Bushee, Secretary

PENTECOST CAMPFIRE with SONGS and S'MORES



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 JULY

- 3 Theresa Taylor preaching / Communion
- 4 Fireworks and snacks together starting at 8 pm by the MEMS bus lot
- 5 Deacon Meeting at 4:30 pm at the church
- 6 Seeking God Together at 11 am via zoom
- 7 Mission Meeting at 3 pm at the church
- 9 Church Picnic at pavilion 1 at the Rec. Park from noon - 3 pm
- 11 Uplift in the vestry at 3 pm
- 12 Prayer Group and Book Discussion of ch. 16-17 at 7 pm via zoom
- 17 Theresa Taylor preaching
- 24 Craig Keith preaching
- 25 Uplift in the vestry at 3 pm
- 27 Seeking God Together at 11 am

FLOWERS

July 3: Lois Squires in memory of Angie Coolidge

Bruce Fielding in memory of Jean Fielding

July 10: Glenna & Russ Taxter in memory of Everett and Grace R. Hazelton

July 17: Jim Holden in memory of James & Helen Holden

July 24: Linda Hulett

July 31: Jackie Perry

