



Since this is the month of Thanksgiving, I thought it would be appropriate to give thanks to the many pastors who have served our church over these many years!

These men and women have left their mark on us and have contributed into shaping us into who we are today.

Here you meet Rev. Harry McCready. He served the First Baptist Church from 1906-1908. This photo, along with many of our past and present pastors, may be found on our church web site: [www.fbcmanvt.org](http://www.fbcmanvt.org).

**“SpiritSpark”**



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

P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555 [www.fbcmanvt.org](http://www.fbcmanvt.org)

[fbcmanvt@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmanvt@gmail.com)

**Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

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**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RECECCA**

Dear Church Family,

November's coming probably signals different things to us. Some of us are sad to see the autumn leaves disappear, replaced by snowflakes that settle on everything. Others welcome it with relief, since the end of leaf-peeping season means an intense month of work will give way to a more relaxed and manageable schedule. I am excited about November's arrival, because that means only two more weeks until I'll be reunited with my beloved hikers.



It has been a quiet stretch of time since Grace returned to college, leaving just Paris (the cat) and me in the house. I've grown to enjoy solitude over recent years, but will be happy to trade the overabundance of reflective time for some noisier family time. These months have been and continue to be a significant experience for me. God has met me here and drawn my attention to things I have put off learning because of busyness in other seasons of life. I am thankful for God's presence and challenge and gift of peace. And I am thankful for your prayers and invitations and hugs, all of which have made a heartwarming difference.

However you enter November, I hope that you will feel God's presence with you, gifting you with whatever is needed in the moment. May we also continue to hold each other in prayer and with our outstretched arms – bringing home the truth that we are not alone.

*“I thank my God every time I remember you.  
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy  
because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,  
being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 1:3-6*

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Rebecca

Matt and Natalie are approaching the Smoky Mountains and have less than 300 miles to go!  
We eagerly await their return to Vermont!

You may follow them on Facebook at [Matt and Natalie AT Thru Hike 2018](#).



## **COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD NOVEMBER WISH LIST**

-submitted by Jim West

November is a busy month at The Cupboard. We are preparing to provide Thanksgiving groceries to up to three hundred families. Donations of non-perishable items such as stuffing mix, flour, sugar, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin and canned green beans. Donations of funds and gift cards to local grocery stores will help us to purchase fresh veggies and turkeys. With Election Day coming up we encourage Manchester voters to stop in and say hello if our door is open. If you come to vote with a can of tuna in your pocket, please feel free to drop it in our donation bin. We are located across the hall from the Manchester Town Clerk's office.

As always, we are grateful to everyone whose support and generosity allows us to fulfill our mission to help families in need. Together we can make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Turkeys or perishable items can be brought to CFC on Wednesdays or Thursdays between 9:00 and 4:00. CFC donation bins for non-perishables can also be found at Shaw's Supermarket, The Manchester Community Library, and The Dorset Post Office. Donations of funds may be made online through our website, [communityfoodcupboard.org](http://communityfoodcupboard.org) or mailed to CFC, PO Box 864, Manchester Center VT 05255. If you would like more information about the Food Cupboard and how to get involved or how to get help, please call 362-0057.

### **Highlights from The Prudential Committee meeting of October 9, 2018:**

Are you ready for winter? Ready or not...here it comes!

The parsonage boiler was installed by GSK.

The church and the Parsonage heating systems were inspected and were approved for delivery of propane by our new supplier, Suburban Propane.

The church heating and stove were also inspected for code compliance and safety, by our insurance company. This is a Vermont State requirement.

We passed but were urged to improve the location of our shut off switch, and to insulate the pipes.

While on this warm subject, our fuel fund is in need of some help. Please help if you can.

Simply designate an envelope to the Fuel Fund and place it in the offering. No amount is too small.

The kitchen sink drains were power jetted by Dorr Oil prior to the chicken pie supper, the vestry entry was painted, and the handicap ramp installed.

Thanks to everyone for all that you do!

~submitted by Bryan Richheimer

## **Blessings and Peace from the Missions Committee!**

We have been receiving regular e-mails from Jeni Pedzinski from Changmai, Thailand thanking us for our pledge of support to her through ABC International Ministries and keeping us posted on the progress of her ministry to victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. We are able to send her messages of support and encouragement, or to ask any questions we may have about her ministry, at the following email address:

[jeni.pedzinski@internationalministries.org](mailto:jeni.pedzinski@internationalministries.org)

She would be happy to hear from any of you.

The committee has decided to participate in "Operation Christmas Child" sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, an organization founded by Franklin Graham. Over the past 25 years more than 150 million shoebox gifts have been distributed to children around the world. You are able to contribute by filling a standard shoebox with gifts. Please designate for either a boy or girl, and include an age range 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years. Include a "wow" gift (soccer ball with pump inflator, stuffed animal, doll, school supplies, coloring books, etc.) and bring it to the church by November 18<sup>th</sup>. You can also include a picture of yourself and a note of blessing to the child who receives your gift. Barb West has agreed to take them to the collection point in Bennington for distribution. You are able to register online to track the shoebox to its final destination.

We are beginning to receive Christmas appeals from several worthy organizations that we have supported in the past, as well as new requests from organizations in need. We carefully review these needs and try to determine how we can assist, if not financially, at least through our prayers. Our opportunities are limited by the funds we are able to collect, so we continue to appeal to you for whatever support you can pledge. Please be assured that we are very careful with the limited resources we have that our gifts can have the maximum impact where the needs are greatest.

Thank you for your prayers and support for our valuable mission work.

Yours in Christ's service,  
Jeff Linebeck, Martha Thompson, Barbara West and Lisa Towslee



## **MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP**

The next meeting of the Mary Martha fellowship will be on Sun., Nov. 11 at 8;30 a.m. and we will be discussing our program for next year, our Christmas projects; the Interfaith Christmas Project, and our Christmas Love baskets for some members and friends of the FBC.

Also the flower list is posted on the bulletin board in the vestry and if you have a special Sunday, now would be a good time to sign up.

Please come and help us make next year's programs noteworthy. The meeting is early in the day but there is always good food, beverages and conversation to wake you up.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



## **INTERFAITH COUNCIL**

### **Thanksgiving Service**

The Interfaith Council of the Northshire invites the community to the Thanksgiving Service at the United Church of Dorset and Rupert which will be held on Nov. 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The program will focus on music featuring Dorset's new musical director, Thomas Salmon.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

**Neighbor to Neighbor Pie Auction** will be held on Sat. evening, Nov. 17, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Manchester Inn Celebration Barn. Tickets are available for \$15 from the Neighbor to Neighbor Office at 367-7787 or from Martha Thompson. This should be a fun event with music by B&B students, h'or douevres, pies to taste, pies to bid on either in silent auction or a live auction. Dick Coss will be the auctioneer and Jim Comar will be Master of Ceremonies. Please mark your calendars.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



**The new Sunday School year is off to an exciting start!**

The Children's class is studying stories of the Old Testament and on October 10th had a lovely day apple picking. They are looking forward to earning a cookie making party in November.



Jeweliana Boudreau, Emily Stevens, & Annabelle Boudreau



Emily & Annabelle

The Tween/Teen class finished the RightNow Media series Journey, which explores what it means to worship God, grow in our faith, and serve in tangible ways. This culminated with a hike on Equinox Mountain.



(continued on next page)

For November, we will be starting Crazy Love, to dive deeper into God's love.

Both the Children's and Tween/Teen classes will be preparing a shoebox for the Samaritan's Purse project. The Children's class will do a box for a girl and the Tween/Teen class will be making their box for a boy. We would like to have all the items brought in to Sunday School class on November 4th.

Sunday School Children and Tween/Teen youth are invited to make Advent candles on Sunday, November 18th (time to be confirmed) in the church vestry. Please RSVP to Holly so we can plan materials to make one set per Sunday School family.

The Adult class has finished Titus and is moving into a study of Judges.

There will not be Sunday School classes on Sunday, November 25.

A reminder that all are encouraged to engage in the opportunities that are available to our congregation on RightNow Media. There are programs, videos, materials on faith based topics from closer looks into specific books of the bible, to parenting, relationships, and faith based children's entertainment.

Submitted by Holly O'Brien, Church School Sup't



The following prayer was offered by Pastor Rebecca during the Prayer Vigil at the Israel Congregation.

*Creator God,*

*You have made us in your image, so we can think and choose, create and love. You are patient and merciful, full of grace and kindness. As we come to know you, we let your love flow through us out to each other and back to you in a stream of blessed connection.*

*We are grieved by the brokenness that turns human encounters into painful tragedies. We need your forgiveness and healing to help us to see each other clearly, so we recognize each person as beloved by you.*

*We ask that you teach us to think clearly and embrace truth. Help us to choose the ways of peace, to strive to hear and understand, to respect and protect one another. May we use the gift of creativity to bless and cooperate with one another in ways that fulfill our purpose and bring you glory. Most of all, may your love fill our hearts, ever expanding until pride, selfishness, and fear have no place.*

*We cannot do this on our own, but only as we know and rely on you. May you transform us, our community, our nation, our world into people of blessed and loving connection.*

*In your holy name  
Amen*

**OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE 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 pm

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Office Hours 9:30-12:30 AM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

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

Parsonage Phone: (802) 362-5335

Please call to request a meeting or visit outside of regular church office hours.

**FLOWERS**

Nov. 4: Barb/Jim West

Nov. 11: Lindy Mylott

Nov. 18: Lisa Towslee

Nov. 25: Martha Thompson

**CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Nov. 4: Holly & Ronan

Nov. 11: Lisa & Annie

Nov. 18: Dottie & Bryan

Nov. 25: Jenny & Cheryl



