



Great photo from 1910 – courtesy of our Manchester Historical Society

“SpiritSpark”



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

P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555

fbcmanvt@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

OCTOBER 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for supporting me in the desire to engage in some new learning and extended times of listening to God. I am grateful for the opportunity to go on the first of eight retreats with my Emmaus community spread out over the next two years. Our theme was listening, and in preparation for the retreat, I read *The Listening Life*, written by Adam S. McHugh. It is all about embracing attentiveness in a world of distraction. I'd be happy to lend it to you, if you are interested in reading it.

The rhythms of my life are changing, with our girls both being away at college this year. There is more quietness in the house, and I was tempted to fill the silence with shows about renovating and decorating homes while eating my meals alone. On the retreat, I realized that it was my attempt to hold onto the “homemaking” part of mothering that I enjoyed so much. Being there in the quiet with distractions stripped away and the invitation to share the state of my soul, I was finally able to face the change and cry as long as I needed to. My state of soul object was a maple seed that looked like two wings. Our girls are spreading their wings and doing very well. This gives me the opportunity to fly in new ways too, but I must have courage to let go of the nest-making season.

Listening to my life and to the Holy Spirit was a healing experience that I intend to keep engaging. I also want to devote more time to listening to you. Please come and share your thoughts, your spiritual gifts assessment results, your hopes, your questions with me. This is what it means to be in community as a church family. I really care about you, and I want to reflect God’s listening heart. God’s given me some ideas of how I can listen to our whole community, so please pray for me as I push out of my comfort zone to follow through on the Spirit’s promptings.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Pot Luck Supper welcoming Jeni Pedzinski was well attended and it was a delight to meet Jeni. Following a meal replete with all sorts of delicious offerings Jeni made a very meaningful presentation followed by a Q and A time. Jeni can use our prayers. Her address and email address are posted on the bulletin board if you care to support her by being in touch.

Recently the Bahamas suffered a crippling hurricane. Requests have come from church leaders in the Bahamas through the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship for help. International Ministries have already sent \$15,000 as an initial response. They have only begun to assess the damage and it's hard to know the extent because communication lines are down.

Our offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be taken during the month of October. If you wish to have your One Great Hour of Sharing donation go to Bahama relief, please put OGHS -Bahama Relief on the memo line of your donation.

DIACONATE

*A Spiritual Gifts Survey is available and may be obtained from Pastor Rebecca. It is designed to help us each become more aware of our own spiritual gifts and how we might use these gifts to serve in Christ's kingdom.

*We have a young adult group meeting with the South Londonderry church. They have game nights once a month. Our group is planning activities – hike, movie events – to be coordinated together.

*A good time was had at the Horse Acres Campground in Andover, VT. There was a BBQ, a rainbow, and singing with Sherry-Anne who shared her testimony about being hearing impaired. Absolutely refreshing!

*There is a baptism class taking place now. If anyone is interested, please speak with Pastor Rebecca.

*Pastor Rebecca will be away on Sunday, October 13th. John Hess has volunteered to deliver the message.

*There was a discussion regarding having a sister church from Rwanda. We would pray for each other's needs with Pastor Aloys.

*On October 26th from 9-3, a conference with the ABC Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire will be held at Salem, New Hampshire. The theme is small churches and the cost is \$22.50. Scholarships are available.

For more information, see page 6 in this newsletter.

*Our new sermon series will be taken from Proverbs and extend from October 6 to November 24th.

*Our next Diaconate meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th at 9:30 am.

~submitted by Linell Pike

INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF THE NORTHSHIRE

The IFC had their first meeting of the fall on September 5 at Zion Church after a summer hiatus. Their next meeting will be on October 3rd at our church at 11:45 A.M.

The dates were set for meetings and events during the year including the Annual Meeting , Harvest Supper and Auction to benefit the Emergency Needs Fund which also sponsors the Holiday Project. This will be held on Sunday, November 17th at Christ Our Savior Parish beginning at 5:00 P.M. The Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at the First Congregational Church on November 26th.

HIGHLIGHTS from PRUDENTIAL MEETING of September 16, 2019:

As we enter our most beautiful season we are preparing for what is around the corner.
We discussed several ongoing plans which will keep us warmer and also save on heating bills.
Insulating foam under kitchen floor
New door at the bottom of the stairs near our entrance to the kitchen.
Insulating under organ in storage area
Caulking outside windows
We also plan to complete the work on the organ and get it tuned.

Thanks for all that you do.

Bryan Richheimer,
Prudential chairperson

MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The group met on Sunday, Sept. 8 and were welcomed with a delicious breakfast prepared by Lorraine Wilkins and Barb West. During the business meeting members were rolling bandages prepared by White Cross Chair, Cathy Comar.

The upcoming Chicken Pie Supper was discussed and the date was changed from Sept. 28th to Oct. 19th. More about the supper elsewhere in newsletter.

Cathy has completed the White Cross quota to Puerto Rico with gift cards. So much simpler to mail and gives recipient more choice. The group voted to reimburse Cathy for the cost of the gift cards.

Lorraine updated MMF about the kitchen renovation which will tentatively begin in January if contractors are available.

In connection with this project and the upcoming Chicken Pie Supper, Judy Koch and Lorraine Wilkins volunteered to come and clean and sort items in the cupboards opposite the sinks under the window opening. A packing up work party will be planned at a later date to empty the kitchen as the time gets closer for the renovation work to begin.

~submitted by Martha Thompson, secretary



CHICKEN PIE SUPPER

Save the date, October 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm! MMF will invite the congregation and community to our annual Chicken Pie Supper.

This is truly an all church project with wonderful help from the congregation. We are looking for willing cooks, food providers, people to set up and clean up, waitstaff, dishwashers, etc. etc. If you can help, please call Martha Thompson at 362-3473.

As always, our menu includes, chicken pies with biscuit topping and extra biscuits on the side, mashed potato, mashed squash, green peas, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, and your choice of apple, mince or pumpkin pie with cheese, coffee, tea and apple cider.

Reservations may be made by calling Martha at 362-3473. The cost is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children eight and under. All are welcome.

KITCHEN RENOVATION

The members of the congregation met on Sept. 15th following worship and received an update on the kitchen renovation. Jeremy Crumb shared the drawings and plans that the Kitchen Committee has been working on for several months. The working plan of the kitchen will be refigured with a counter running parallel to the back wall and the area divided into cleaning and prep areas. There will be no major appliances purchased at this time as the present ones are adequate except of course for the dishwasher which started the whole project. The plumbing and electrical will be upgraded at this time and the floor reinforced. Insulation where practical will also be installed. There will be sinks to accommodate the dishwashers and a sink for food prep. Also, the Prudential Committee plans to add a sink in Joy Hall which will make that space more usable. The Kitchen Committee hopes the work can begin in January.

~submitted by Martha Thompson, church clerk

The following is an invitation Pastor Rebecca received and would like to pass on to you. If you are interested in attending, let Pastor Rebecca know.

KINDLE THE FIRE 2019

Last year ABCVNH hosted a small conference we called Kindle the Fire. Well, we are doing it again.

It's no secret that Christian churches of all kinds, all over New England, are struggling. This is especially true in more rural areas, places where churches hold on with a faithful few. And these few are often fewer than they were just a few years ago. That means less money, less energy, and a smaller vision. It is easy to think that this is just the way it is. It is easy to think that there is not much that can be done.

But, is this true?

We don't think so.

There are at least several reasons why we don't think God is done with New England.

There are thousands praying daily for gospel renewal in New England.

It has never stopped being true that the gospel is the power of God to make all things new.

And, finally, we tend to underestimate the spiritual hunger of people all around us.

People want what Jesus offers. They just don't know it.

So join us October 26 as we talk about how we can help these little quiet churches once again become subversive centers of gospel renewal right in the middle of hostile territory.

Let's talk about how we can carry the flame of the Spirit's power to light the lamp of the gospel in every church in every remote valley and distant hilltop in Vermont and New Hampshire.

There are reasons to hope. There are steps you can take. There are resources you can tap. There is hope for the gospel. Join us at Kindle the Fire.

Location: Center Point Community Church, 101 School Street, Salem, NH 03079

Date and Time: October 26, 2019 / 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Looking Ahead!
The Interfaith Annual Thanksgiving Service
will be held at the First Congregational
Church
Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School classes started September 22nd. An adult class meets in the conference room, a teen/tween class meets at the parsonage, and a children's class meets in Joy Hall each Sunday at 9:30. The adult class is currently studying First Corinthians, while the teen class will be studying Biblical themes related to social justice.

The Christian Ed Committee is collecting used ink cartridges from home printers. When we collect a full box, we can exchange them for money for our youth activities. Please consider donating any used ink cartridges to support our youth projects.

The Youth Group will be hosting an apple event this Saturday October 5th at 2:00 pm. We will meet at church, then travelling to Mad Tom Orchard. Apple picking will be followed by baking apple crisp and playing games at the parsonage.

This Sunday October 6th at 6:00 pm, the Young Adult Group will meet at the parsonage in South Londonderry to enjoy dinner and games with the South Londonderry Young Adult Group.

The Youth Group will be participating in the Harvest Festival on October 19th from 11:00 to noon at Equinox Valley Nursery. This event benefits the Dorset Equine Rescue. The festival includes hay rides, music, pumpkin carving and painting, mini horses, face painting, and food vendors.

First Baptist Church is invited to participate in the Interfaith Council Harvest Supper and Auction on Sunday November 17th at 5:30 pm. A pot luck dinner will be followed by the auction. All the proceeds support the Interfaith Council Emergency Fund.

In December, the CE committee will once again be hosting the Christmas Coffee House on Saturday December 14th at 7 pm. Join us for conversation, stories, music, and treats. For the younger children, we will also be visiting the Manchester Library at 4:00 on Friday December 20th for a reading of *Polar Express* and hot chocolate.

Wednesday December 18th, the Taconic Chamber Players will be offering an evening of holiday music at 6 pm at the Manchester Community Library. This event is free and open to all. We hope to get a group together to participate in this evening of music.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annie Crumb



**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
Pastor Rebecca's cell phone: (802) 688-3024
Church office Phone: (802) 362-1555
Please call to request a meeting or visit outside of regular church office hours.

FLOWERS

Oct. 6: Martha Thompson
Oct. 13: Martha Thompson
Oct. 20 Carol Lattuga
Oct. 27: Peggy Brockett

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Oct. 6: Lindy & Cathy
Oct. 13: Lisa & Annie
Oct. 20: Jenny & Cheryl
Oct. 27: Dottie & Ronan



The First Baptist Church family would like to extend their love and prayers to the family and friends of Helen Brimlow. Helen went to be with her Lord on August 30, 2019. She is greatly missed.