



“SpiritSpark”

The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

September 2021

A Message from Pastor Rebecca

Dear Church Family,

I am sitting at the table with a fan directed toward me in an effort to keep cool, so I for one am looking forward to the coming of fall and lower temperatures. How about you? In September, we'll turn the corner from our study of the Gospel of Matthew to begin a series of sermons from the Epistle of James. His letter is full of practical truths for living a life of faith. The service time will change on the second Sunday of September (the 12th) from 9:30 to 10:30 am. We'll continue to offer in-person services as well as the zoom link for anyone who would like to join in worship from home. One of the special treats will be hearing two sermons in a row on the Book of Habakkuk from Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor on the last Sunday of September and the first Sunday of October.

As the students and teachers begin a new school year, I pray for their renewed energy for learning. Whether or not we are officially enrolled in school, we always have the opportunity to learn

and grow. Perhaps this moment is an opportunity to pause and think about what God is teaching us right now. Two of the subjects I am engaging with God are learning self-control (which is really more about surrendering to the Holy Spirit's control) and listening to God. It is a wonderful thing to be willing to talk about what God is teaching us and share our growing edges in conversation and times of prayer with each other. I would love to hear more from you about what you are learning, and would be happy to pray for you in that endeavor. That is one of the best things about being a family of faith.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education committee will host an apple picking event for youth and their families on Saturday September 18th. We will meet at Mad Tom Orchard to pick apples at 1:00, and then convene at church to bake an apple treat in the kitchen.

We have an exciting opportunity to share with First Baptist Church and the greater community. Starting October 9, we will be hosting a series of potluck dinners and showings of the series *The Chosen*, followed by a discussion. The potluck meals will begin at 5:30. The four dates set for this fall include October 9, October 23, November 6, and December 4.

Sunday school classes will begin again this fall, starting on October 10. Jeremy Crumb will once again be leading an adult Sunday School class, while Pastor Rebecca will lead the children's class.

In Christ,
Annie Crumb



Pastor Rebecca, Cheryl Hess, Haylee Hess, Ashley Hess manning a comfort station at the STREET FEST! Cold water, snacks, toys and an indoor bathroom were available for the Street Fest attendees!

Report of the Missions Committee

The Missions committee has designated \$100.00 to go to Jeni Pedzinski, our missionary in Thailand, while she is in America on her home stay and traveling around the country.

Concerns were expressed about children who will be starting school soon and having to acquire their own school supplies. We agreed to honor 5 families, associated with our church, distributing \$125.00 to help.

In September we can look forward to Pastor Rebecca updating us on Rwanda as it has been 2 years since she and Matt visited. This is planned for Sunday September 12, 2021.

During September and October, the Missions committee will be inviting you to join in supporting International Missions (IM) of the Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Their vision is, "I once was blind, but now I see." Mark 8:22-25. You can expect to learn more about this over the next weeks.

Submitted by
Linell Pike
Secretary

Diaconate

Fellowship Fund

The Diaconate oversees the Fellowship Fund. Church members contribute to the Fund using the green envelopes included in the box of offertory envelopes, although the offering can be given in a variety of ways. The Fund exists to assist members who need a helping hand with unexpected expenses or to tide them over during hard times with their bills. If you need assistance, please contact Pastor Rebecca at (802) 688-3024, Fellowship Fund chairman, Barbara West at (802) 362-3329 or a Diaconate member. Your information is kept strictly private. Please let us know if we can help.

Guest Preachers

Rev. Theresa Taylor will be preaching Sept. 26th and Oct. 3rd.
Our own Cara Davenport will preach on Nov. 21st.

Pastor Rebecca has been preaching, as you know, on the parables from Matthew. Her next sermon series will be based on the book of James.

The next Diaconate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 21st at 4:30 p.m.
~submitted by Martha Thompson

The Interfaith Council

Meetings of the Interfaith Council resume, with the first at the Israel Congregation, on Thursday, Sept. 2nd. Lunch and conversation will begin at 11:45 a.m. and will be followed by the business meeting beginning at noon.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor has been given permission to resume their regular monthly business meeting in the vestry at 2:00 p.m. the second Wed. of each month.

Men's Group



Left to right: Jim Holden, Jim West, John Hess, Ray Koch, Matt Sommons, Bryan Richheimer
Breakfast prepared by Pastor Rebecca Sommons. Russ Taxter behind the camera.

Men of the church are invited to join in meeting once a month on a Saturday morning for breakfast and a chance to connect and contribute to the discernment of the FOCUS group's purpose and form. They're using the RightNow Media material called **Embark** to help organize their thinking as they seek God's direction for the group. If you missed the first meeting, you could log onto RightNow Media and watch the first session. There is also a handout where you can record your hopes for the group available in the vestry near the bulletin board. You are very welcome to come to the next breakfast meeting, Saturday, September 25th at 9 am in the church vestry.

Prudential Committee

The Prudential Committee did not hold a meeting in August. We scheduled our last one for late July and the next for early September to be sure we had things covered. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 9th at 4:00 in the vestry.

As of this writing, we are still waiting to hear from our insurance company about paying for the Sanctuary wall to be repaired. Mike from Total Restore did come and fix the roof AT NO COST to us. He wanted to do it free as he understands how covid has affected churches and their monetary giving. First Baptist is truly blessed to have gentlemen like Cody, Denver, and Mike who care about us and are willing to do work for free. May God bless all of them.

The mice/rodent situation has gotten even worse. At the last Prudential meeting it was voted to have a contract with Orkin for one year and then reassess. They have come and installed the traps both inside and outside of the building. Although many of us do not like having this done, it has become a necessity as the mice are not only running all over the building, but also in the electrical panels. I was present when the gentleman came to install the traps, and I can assure you what I saw was enough to make me a believer! Please be sure to wash the counters and table in the vestry before use for sanitary reasons.

The second quarter audit is complete and all books are in great shape. Thank you to the Audit Committee consisting of Jeremy Crumb, Carol Lattuga, and Jim West for your thorough work. It certainly isn't that we have any doubts about Lisa and Cathy, but it's good that everyone is accountable. At the same time, I'd like to thank Lisa and Cathy for all of their work keeping everything accounted for and going in the correct direction! Again, we are truly blessed that people like them care about our small little red, brick church on the corner of Main & Bonnet Streets.

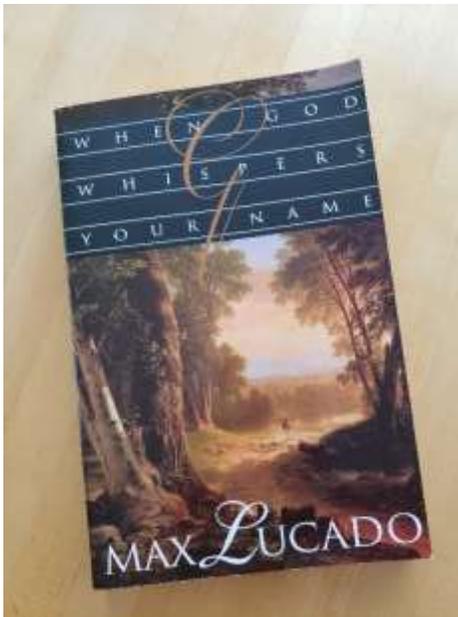
Lorraine Wilkins
Chairman



Ronan and Holly O'Brien
leading us in singing "Morning
Has Broken" during our Hymn
Sing on August 15!

Mary & Martha Dinner

The Mary & Martha Ham Take-Out Dinner was very successful. We served almost 75 dinners. If I am correct (which I could be totally wrong), we realized just under \$850. Not bad at all! Thank you to all those generous people that donated food, worked, and/or bought dinners. It truly is a total team effort. Thank you. We knew covid wouldn't keep us down! Where there's a will, there's a way!
Lorraine Wilkins



The Prayer & Study Group continues to meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00. On September 14th, we will be beginning Max Lucado's When God Whispers Your Name. This is a book of hope! The book's purpose is to give encouragement in an anxious world and it lives up to that promise! There are usually about 10-12 of us who join together each Tuesday on zoom and we would welcome you! If you have had any thought about joining us at "sometime" or just want to visit for an evening and see what it's all about, ask Pastor Rebecca to send you the zoom link.

**CHURCH SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 AM BEGINNING ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th**

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 SEPTEMBER

Wed 1: Seeking God Together at 11 am via zoom

Wed 1: Emmaus Reunion Group

Thurs 2: Interfaith Council Meeting at Israel Congregation at noon

Thurs 2: Choir at 7 pm

Sun 5: Worship Service with Communion at **9:30 am**

Tues 7: Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom

Wed 8: Emmaus Reunion Group Meeting

Thurs 9: Prudential Meeting at 4 pm at the church

Thurs 9: Choir at 7 pm

Sat 11: 20th Anniversary Remembrance of 9-11 at the Town Green at 10:45 am

Sun 12: Mary & Martha Meeting at 8:30 am (?)

Sun 12: Worship Service at **10:30 am** / Mission Moment about Kinihira Church in Rwanda

Tues 14: Prayer Group / Book Study *When God Whispers Your Name* Ch. 1 at 7 pm via zoom

Wed 15: Mission Meeting at 3 pm at church

Wed 15: Emmaus Reunion Group

Thurs 16: Choir at 7 pm

Sat 18: Youth Apple Picking Activity at the Mad Tom Orchard 1-3 pm

Sun 19: Worship Service at 10:30 am

Tues 21: Deacon Meeting at 4:30 pm at the church

Wed 22: Emmaus Reunion Group

Thurs 23: Choir at 7 pm

Sat 25: Men's Meeting at 9 am with breakfast at the church

Sun 26: Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor will be our guest speaker for the Worship Service at 10:30 am

Tues 28: Prayer Group / Book Study *When God Whispers Your Name* Ch. 2

Wed 29: Emmaus Reunion Group
Thurs 30: Choir at 7 pm

(Rebecca and Matthew Sommons will be out of town from September 25th to October 3rd.)

FLOWERS

Sept. 5: Jim West / in memory of Cora West

Sept. 12: Cara Davenport / in memory of Marina Slavin

Sept. 19: Martha Thompson/ in memory of Joe Stannard

Sept. 26: Lisa Towslee (Chris & Lisa's anniversary)