



"SpiritSpark"



The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT

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

www.fbcmanvt.org

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

This wonderful photo was taken by Maurie Hill from inside the Northshire Bookstore.

September 2020

A Message from Pastor Rebecca

Dear Church Family,

As summer gives way to autumn, we will be making a transition in our focus of study on Sunday mornings. For the past three months, we have been in the book of Psalms. This has helped to keep my mind and heart centered on my relationship with God. I hope it has done the same for you, for truly God is our Source, our Savior, our Sustainer, and our Sovereign Lord. We might not understand what his purposes are as each year unfolds, but we can gain perspective when we remember that we are in God's story of redemption. As we grow in awareness of God's presence and love, we will have the courage to love and trust God with our whole lives.

When a student of God's Word asked Jesus what the greatest commandment is, Jesus answered, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."* This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-38). As we continue to learn to love God with all that we are, we will also be focusing on learning to love our neighbors through our new sermon series.

We will be looking at the passages scattered throughout the New Testament that mention, *"one another."* I plan for us to begin in the Gospel of John and then work our way through passages from the Epistles written by Paul, Peter, and John. My hope is that we will be led by the Holy Spirit to learn to love each other in all the ways that God invites us to love. I believe that God can help us to live in community no matter what obstacles arise, but we will need to be open to hearing from him for creative promptings and guidance. I look forward to seeing what we will learn and the ways we will be able to connect with each other in the coming months.

Although we will be focusing on life in the beloved community of faith, I think if we love our Church family well, we will also be able to love others better, no matter where they are on their life journey. Love is everyone's deepest need, and as we love our neighbors, we point them to the Source of love.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rebecca

The Deacons are happy to announce that a baptism is planned for Sunday, September 13th during the church service for Jim Holden!

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is planning a few upcoming youth events, so mark your calendars if you would like to attend. On September 19, a youth activity is scheduled at the Otter Creek Fun Center in Danby, where we will try our hand at mini-golfing. On October 3, we plan to take the youth group apple picking at Mad Tom Orchard and then bake an apple treat. We are also looking for more ways we can fellowship as a whole church group in safe, socially distanced ways. We look forward to having more plans to share.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annie Crumb



Prudential Committee

The parsonage is listed with realtor Scott McChesney. The asking price of \$389,000 was met with two offers. Each party countered with their best offer. The Prudential Committee accepted an offer of \$401,000 and we are now under contract with Mary Jo Gourd, area realtor and decorator. Ms Gourd plans to establish her decorating business on site. We are awaiting inspection. We chose Manchester lawyer Gary Ameden to represent the church for the sale of the parsonage.

Lorraine Wilkins is heading the Parsonage Financial Committee which was formed to determine the very best options for investing proceeds from the sale of the parsonage. Committee members are: Lorraine Wilkins, Russ Taxter and Bryan Richheimer. Final determination will be voted on at a warned meeting in early fall.

Dottie Sundquist, Secretary



Maurie captured a picture of the workers fixing shingles at the top of the steeple. They came off during one of the fierce winds we had this summer!

Mary & Martha Basket Party

As you probably have heard, Mary and Martha has received the go ahead for a fall Basket Party to be held at the VFW Post rooms on September 19th. We secured the date in May hoping that we would be able to actually hold one in the fall to replace the spring basket party. It will have a little different look to protect all involved. Masks must be worn when moving around and food must be prepared/wrapped individually. Weather permitting, seating can also be outside to provide social distancing. The cost is \$8 to get entrance sheet of tickets and lunch. Additional tickets are \$3. It will be held from 11:30 am until approximately 2:00 pm (or until all baskets are drawn). Mary & Martha is asking for help from all church participants. We need you! We need baskets to raffle and food donations. We also need people to help set up, work during the Basket Party and help tear down. Please contact Lorraine at 645-9525 if you have any questions or can help out. I will be getting baskets within the next few days. I will take them to the church. I will say that they will definitely be there by Wednesday, September 2nd. We thank you in advance for your support.

We are hoping for a great turnout since everyone has been cooped up at home for so long. Come join the fun. We would love to see you!

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman



The Mary & Martha Fellowship will meet on Sunday, September 13th at 8:30 am via zoom! The church service moves to its 10:30 am time that day.

Missions Committee

The Missions committee would like to thank you for your support as it allows them to continue our church ministries. In particular, we have had the honor of sponsoring Leon for many years, our student through World Mission, and Jeni Pedzinski, a missionary from Thailand. If you would like to learn more about Jeni, you may access her Podcast on Facebook.

On September 20th, Linell will be doing a Mission Moment about her trip to Guatemala. Following her presentation and throughout the rest of September and October, we will be given the opportunity to make donations to our local missions fund. One third of these donations will go to the mission project in Guatemala and the remainder to our own FBC Missions fund to support Jenny and Leon as well as other mission projects as they come up.

The next Missions Meeting will be Wednesday, September 16th at 3:00 pm and will be held in the vestry.

Linell Pike, Judy Koch, Dottie Beers, Linda Bushee

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES
WILL SWITCH TO OUR WINTER
STARTING TIME OF 10:30 AM
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 13th!

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

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

CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 1 Prayer & Discussion Ch. 2 @ 7 pm via zoom
Thursday, Sept. 3 Interfaith Council @ noon via zoom
Tuesday, Sept. 8 Prayer Group @ 7 pm via zoom
Sunday, Sept. 13 Communion Sunday
Sunday, Sept. 13 Mary & Martha Fellowship @ 8:30 am via zoom
Sunday, Sept. 13 Church Service begins at 10:30 am / Baptism during service
Tuesday, Sept. 15 Prudential @ 5 pm via zoom
Tuesday, Sept. 15 Prayer & Discussion @ 7 pm via zoom
Wednesday, Sept. 16 Missions @ 3 pm in church vestry
Friday, Sept. 18 Diaconate @ 10 am via zoom
Saturday, Sept. 19 Basket Party from 11:30-2:00 pm
Saturday, Sept. 19 Mini-golf for the youth (time is TBA)
Tuesday, Sept. 22 Prayer Group @7 pm via zoom
Tuesday, Sept. 29 Prayer Group & Discussion @ 7 pm via zoom
Wednesday, Sept. 30 Christian Ed. @ 7:30 pm via zoom

FLOWERS

Sept. 6: Jim West
Sept. 13: Martha Thompson
Sept. 20: Jim & Cathy Comar
Sept. 27: Glenna Taxter