



CHURCH PICNIC - JULY 13, 2018 (more photos inside)

# "SpiritSpark"

The First Baptist Church of  
Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

August 2018

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## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

I love living in the Green Mountain State. The tree-covered mountains are beautiful all-year-round. This summer has been so sunny that many lawns were turning brown and watering was a daily necessity. Recently, the heavens have opened and rain has poured out on us. It almost seems as though it was playing catch-up from those hot, dry weeks.

There is interplay between the sunshine, the seeds and plants, and water. Movement and self-giving for each of them results in life that feeds us, body and soul. It reminds me of the dance and outpouring of each member of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How are they moving and creating new areas of growth in your life? Do you ever feel like a hot, dry garden full of drooping plants that are waiting for water? If so, you might pray the words of the Sonflowerz song, *Cover Us*, along with me.

*Cover us in Your Spirit cover us  
Cover us in Your glory cover us  
That we would shine for You Jesus*

*Cover us in Your mercy cover us  
Cover us in Your healing cover us  
That would be like You Jesus  
We want to be like You*

*Lord what we desire most  
Is that You to saturate our souls  
In the presence of Your love  
Like a flood  
Lord keep us close in Your embrace  
Let us live within Your grace  
In the presence of Your love  
Like a flood cover us*

*Cover us in forgiveness cover us  
Cover us in Your freedom cover us  
That we live for You Jesus  
We want to live for You*

*So let Your rain fall down*



*Love in Christ,  
Pastor Rebecca*

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE** – submitted by Jeff Linebeck

Blessings and Peace from the Missions Committee!

July was an active month for Missions at First Baptist. We started the month by continuing our “Treasures in Empty Jars” collection for clean water/famine relief in East Africa. We happily distributed bottled water and home-baked cookies to the visitors of the StreetFests on Main Street and collected donations there and during our worship services. I am pleased to say that we will be donating \$250.00 to World Vision, which with the 11X match will generate \$3000.00 for these initiatives. Well done, good and faithful servants.

We then began our annual collection for “One Great Hour of Sharing.” to date, \$170.00 has been collected. Updates to follow.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Martha Thompson gave a heartfelt appeal for the “Kids Summer Lunch Program.” Our local missions funding has supported this program for several years. We decided to make a separate appeal this year for you to consider donating directly to allow the funds to be put to work for more than 400 local children as quickly as possible.

Finally, on July 29<sup>th</sup> an appeal was made for our local missions funds. Attendance is generally down during the summer, but the needs of those less fortunate continue unabated. Please consider what you can do to help. Even small amounts in God's hands can do “More than We Could Ever Imagine!”

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

## **TWO GREAT FUND RAISERS FOR THE KITCHEN RENOVATION!**

A raffle with three wonderful prizes:  
a blue and yellow herringbone patterned twin size quilt handcrafted by Bernice Felion, a massage from therapist Jenny Sprague, and an insulated bag containing picnic supplies. Tickets are available from MMF members and are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

**RADA CUTLERY**  
Knives, spatulas, servers, ladles, cookbooks, and more!  
Need a catalog? See Judy Koch.  
Judy also has paring knives for \$4.75!

## INTERFAITH NEWS

Neighbor to Neighbor, which is one of the organizations that operates under Interfaith's 5013c, is planning to host a Pie Auction on Nov. 17 at the Inn of Manchester's Celebration Barn.

We are striving to solicit 100 pies from the community.

If you have a specialty pie or pies that you are willing to bake for this event that would be wonderful. Neighbor to Neighbor will furnish one or two pie plates if you need them. Our own Jim Comar is going to be the honorary chairperson and plans on baking his grape pie. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board and questions can be directed to Martha Thompson at 362-3473 or the Neighbor to Neighbor office 367-7787.



The Summer Lunch program is underway and they are feeding 200 children this summer. It costs between \$13 and \$15 to feed one child for a week. There are envelopes available in the "golden" bags at church.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



An invitation to all women!  
The MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP  
ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC!  
Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 PM at the home of Judy Koch  
Let us know if you need a ride!

**DIACONATE NEWS**

On July 20, First Baptist's church bell rang four minutes at 4pm in recognition of the state wide "Ring for Freedom" to honor the Four Freedoms painted by Norman Rockwell. The freedoms are Freedom from Want, Freedom of Worship, Freedom of Speech, and Freedom from Fear.

**Sunday worship will return to 10:30 am on Sept. 9th.**

Please consider signing up to bring refreshments for our important fellowship time. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the vestry.

Martha Bowen, Diaconate Co- chair  
Linda Hulett, Co-chair



*Please continue to hold Matthew Sommons in prayer as he hikes the Appalachian Trail!*

*Natalie is currently taking a break to rest her knees and work on her independent study work for the fall semester. She plans to rejoin her dad in about 5 weeks. Check out some great pictures on Facebook at **Matt and Natalie At Thru Hike 2018.***



Each Sunday, we video record our service. We would like to have a small group of people who are comfortable doing this so that there is always someone available. If you are interested in learning how to video record our services, please let me know.

Russ Taxter 362-2667

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, almost fifty people gathered at the Taxter's for food, fun, and conversation!



Lindy Mylott brought her game of "Corn Hole"! Here Lindy and Bruce Fielding are playing against Lisa Towslee and Ronan O'Brien.



From left to right: Dottie Beers, Helen Brimlow, Jan Casey, Linda Hulett.



Linnel Pike, Jerry Pike, Paul Ennis, John Ciejko, Anna Ennis. In the background, JR and Ronan playing Ladder Ball.

## **CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for AUGUST**

M&M Picnic at Judy Koch's: Tuesday, August 7 @ 6 PM

Celebrate Recovery: Wednesday, August 8 @ 6PM

Prudential: Tuesday, August 14 @ 5PM

Prayer & Study Group at Lois's: Tuesday, August 14 @ 7PM

Right Now Media Follow-Up Meeting: Tuesday, August 21 @ 5:30PM

Celebrate Recovery: Wednesday, August 22 @ 6PM

Diaconate: Thursday, August 23 @ 4PM

Missions: Thursday, August 23 @ 5:45PM

Prayer & Study Group at Lois's: Tuesday, August 28 @ 7PM

## **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**

Aug. 5: Lisa Hess

Aug. 12: Jim & Cathy Comar

Aug. 19: Carol Lattuga

Aug. 26: Jackie Perry

### **CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Aug. 1: TBD

Aug. 8: TBD

Aug. 15: TBD

Aug. 22: TBD



(Thank you, Carol Lattuga!)

