



Photo taken by Maurie Hill during one of the recent snowstorms.



"SpiritSpark"

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

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

FEBRUARY 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

I just want to let you know what an encouragement it is to be a part of a church family who prays. Prayer not only connects us in mind, body, and spirit to our Heavenly Father, but it also connects us to each person we hold in prayer. We don't always need to know what words to say or what to ask God to do. Sometimes it's best to speak the person's name, lifting them up to God and trusting God in the silence to know what is most needed. Silence in prayer can also be a time when the Spirit can lead us to act as part of God's answer.

Prayer is communication, so a balance of sharing our heart and of listening make it a very good conversation. We get to know ourselves better as we hear the contents of our hearts poured out to our loving Father, and we get to know our Father better as we wait in his presence. It is one of the most loving things we can do, both in our relationship with God and our relationships with those for whom we pray.

I pray for you, for healing, spiritual growth, provision, unity, and joy. I pray that we will prioritize the mission that God has for us both in our church and in our community. We are asked to love as Christ loved us. As the hearts of this Valentine month appear in our town, we can let them remind us to love each person well, to hold them in prayer, and to spend time with God in prayer, because he loves us so much.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Rebecca

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School classes have resumed after our Christmas break. The Adult class is working on a RightNow Media series by J.D. Greear on Judges and both the younger Children's class and the Tween/Teen group are learning about Creation.

The Children's class are using a new curriculum book that each week introduces the lesson, has an activity, story time, and craft. The lessons progress chronologically through the Bible. The Tween/Teen group are getting a closer look at Creation using a series on RightNow Media.

The Children's Sunday School class is working on spelling "Valentine's" for an activity during February vacation week.

Pastor Rebecca and Holly are meeting with Janet Chandler from the Dorset Church to collaborate with their Youth Group for a Tween/Teen activity during February break.

Matthew Sommons and John Hess will be leading a Dave Ramsey adult course in late February. It is a money management class with biblical principles called Financial Peace University. Teenagers are encouraged to participate, too! More details coming soon.

Looking ahead, we will be having a Cabin Fever Pot Luck & Game Night on Saturday, March 23rd for the whole FBC family. Dinner will be 5-6, games 6-8pm.

And in April, we will be holding a Spring Renewal Women's mini-retreat based on a Stasi Eldredge women's study. The day will include a RightNow Media video of Becoming Myself, Embracing God's Dream of You, discussion, and an afternoon tea.

The Christian Ed committee is excited to offer opportunities to strengthen our church family's connections as we continue to grow together in our faith.

The next CE committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25 at 5:30pm.
~Holly O'Brien, CE Sup't

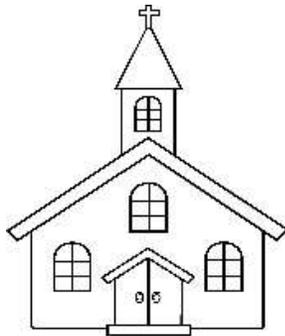
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE NOTES from January's meeting

*We reviewed 2018 projects and expenditures in preparation for the annual meeting

*We discussed projects for 2019: insulation of east wall of Joy Hall and ceiling under the organ; painting of conference room; replacement of rear vestry door; updating downstairs bathroom; kitchen renovations

*Options for sanctuary window upgrade

The next meeting is February 12th at 5 pm.
~Bryan Richheimer, Chair



The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 27, 2019.

This special meeting is a time for committees to share their progress, a time to elect our officers and committee members for another year, and a time for us all to ask questions as we gain a clearer vision of our future together.

We look forward to an exciting year of growth and service!

Thank you to everyone who wrote reports for the annual report. And, thank you to Jeremy Crumb for preparing this important document for us!



Every week our church enjoys a coffee hour following the service. This is a great time for fellowship as we catch up with “old” friends and get acquainted with new ones.

We also enjoy wonderful food that’s provided for us every week. This task is done with love and generosity by our Diaconate members each Sunday except on the second Sunday of each month when the Mary & Martha Fellowship assumes responsibility for it.

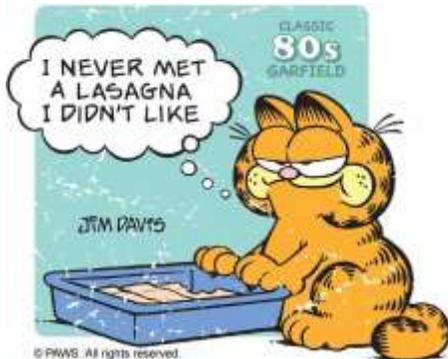
If you would like to help by bringing a food item, your contribution will be hugely appreciated! You may speak to a Diaconate member or just show up with a snack to share!

MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship officers for the new year remain unchanged. Judy Koch and Lisa Towslee remain as co-presidents, Lois Squires as treasurer, Martha Thompson as secretary and flower chairman, Linda Hulett as sunshine chairman, Barbara West as devotions leader, Cathy Comar and Lindy Mylott work on White Cross, a mission project, and during the year Glenna Taxter resigned as kitchen chair and Lois Squires and Lindy Mylott have assumed responsibility. Our next meeting is Feb. 10th beginning at 8:30 a.m.

If you have ideas for programs that members would enjoy please let Lisa T. or Judy K. know. Appreciation was expressed at Annual Meeting for the support from the congregation for MMF projects.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



LASAGNA DINNER!
FEBRUARY 23rd at 6:00PM
Come for Lasagna, Garlic Bread,
Tossed Salad, Dessert and Fun!
See Dottie Sundquist for
questions and with offers to
help!

PRAYER & STUDY GROUP

The Prayer/Study Group will be continuing with Christine Labrum's book, Divine Hands on February 5th and February 19th. Each of our sessions are led by Pastor Rebecca.

We meet at the home of Lois Squires every other Tuesday at 7:00 pm and new participants are always warmly welcomed! Come for thoughtful and lively discussion and wonderful snacks, lovingly prepared and provided by Lois!

For more information, see Pastor Rebecca or Lois Squires.



DIACONATE NEWS

Transitioning from one year to the next can be a stressful time. Usually some committee members leave and new members assume their duties. Linda Hulett, Co-chair, remains on the Diaconate committee, and I, Martha Bowen, Co-chair, am leaving. I find it difficult and sad to end a working relationship that I have learned to trust and depend on. I appreciate the outstanding support, as well as willingness to take on challenging work, of members of the committee. We all worked well together. My confidence in them never wavered.

Pastor Rebecca has always given to the committee according to our need. She is very strong while at the same time loving. Her confidence in us enabled us to face difficult challenges. When becoming a Diaconate member, you have the opportunity to be part of a working committee, while at the same time strengthening your faith. What can be better than that.

In Christ's Love,

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



HEADS UP! BASKET PARTY COMING!

The Mary & Martha Fellowship will be holding their annual basket party on Saturday, March 30th at the VFW Hall. We need donations of baskets, food and help. If you'd like to help out in any way, please contact Lorraine at 645-9295.

In case you have not read this message from the IRS, we present it here for your information.

Scammers Portray IRS in Latest Phishing Scam

Earlier this week, the IRS issued a warning to tax payers regarding a fraudulent email that has been impersonating the agency. The email includes tax transcripts, in an attempt to get the users to click on the documents, which contain malware. The biggest risk would be employees clicking on these emails on company networks. By doing so, the malware would spread network-wide.

The scam email includes an attachment labeled “tax account transcript” or something similar, with a subject line using some variation of the phrase “tax transcript.”

According to [KLFY News 10](#), this malware, known as Emotet, generally poses as specific financial institutions in its effort to trick people into opening infected documents. This time, they’ve portrayed the IRS. Cyber security experts have labeled Emotet one of the most costly and destructive malware variants in the wild.

Proceed with Caution

The IRS has the following suggestions if you receive this email scam:

1. Do not open the email or attachment.
2. Delete or forward the email to phishing@irs.gov.
3. If an email goes to your business, notify the company’s technology professionals.

The bottom line – the IRS does not, and will not, send out unsolicited emails. Therefore, if you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from them– do not open it, it is a scam.

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

Parsonage Phone: (802) 362-5335

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

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

February 3: Dottie & Bryan

February 10: Holly & Ronan

February 17: Maurie & Linell

February 24: Lisa & Annie

FLOWERS

February 3: Dottie Sundquist

February 10: Cheryl Hess

February 17: Barb West

February 24: Martha Bowen