





# "SpiritSpark"

**The First Baptist Church  
of Manchester Center, VT**  
P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555  
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[Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons](#)

Thank you, Maurie!

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May 2021

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### **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA**

Dear Church Family,

I want to continue to share the encouragement I began in the message on Sunday. Our culture is filled with fear and anxiety, but God doesn't want our hearts to be anxious and worried. Let's get out into nature and let the Holy Spirit remind us of God's abundant provisions for us. Let's get into the Word of God and let its truth reassure us of God's power and love. Let's surround ourselves with music and let it fill our mouths and hearts with joyful praise to God!

I've been listening to some new-to-me music written and sung by Ellie Holcomb. One of her albums is called *Sing: Creation Songs*. It is intended for children, and it appeals to my inner child with its wonder and Bible truths set to music. Maybe it will help you connect with your inner child as well. She wrote a song based on Matthew 6:25-34 from the Sermon on the Mount. If you'd like to hear it, you can use this link ~ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhbK2GpbKTY> I'll include the written words for you too ~

*See the birds who are singing in the spring air  
They're given everything they need  
They don't worry where their next meal will come from  
They don't worry about a thing*

*So just look around you and try to listen to the song creation sings  
And don't you worry cause you're in the hands of the God who made everything*

*See the flowers in their colorful beauty. They're dressed better than a king  
They don't worry about what they should wear. No, they don't worry about a thing*

*Because you're not a bird and you're not a flower  
You don't have petals or wings  
But there's good news ~ you're worth so much more  
To the God who made everything*

*So when you worry 'bout today or tomorrow, and the storms that they might bring  
Try to remember that you're in the hands of the God who made every single thing*

CCLI Song # 7128394      Ellie Holcomb  
© 2018 Full Heart Music      CCLI License # 11289244

If you notice, her song is published by “Full Heart Music.” Our hearts are going to be full of something.  
How about if we choose to fill them with thoughts of our loving Creator? If we do, we will rest in Him and walk through our days with confidence and joy, knowing we are indeed in His hands.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Rebecca



*Flowers blooming in the desert in Sedona, Arizona*

## **DIACONATE**

The Mission Committee is doing something new by joining the Global 6K for Water sponsored by World Vision. On Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will gather at the Dana Thompson Rec Park at 10:00 am to walk/run the 6 kilometers or 3.7 miles (more or less).

Gather your walking shoes and join in sponsoring a child for water in another part of the world. We are trying to make clean water accessible to all people by 2030. Women and children have to walk this distance for life's basic needs, sometimes carrying dirty bacteria infested water. Over 1000 children under 5 die daily because of the poor sanitation and hygiene hazards. Also, the walk area may be dangerous.

Please help. The need is great for clean drinking water.

Sign up with our team First Baptist Church of Manchester Vt [worldvision.org/water](http://worldvision.org/water). \$50.00 for adult - \$25.00 for child. You will receive an orange T-shirt and a bib with your child sponsored name. If you want to donate, that is wonderful. Questions to Linell Pike, Mission Secretary at 802-681-6066.

Thank you!

## **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON!**

Dear Friends,

It has been a few years since our most recent church directory was compiled. There have been many changes since then and it is time for a new one! Instead of having one done professionally, Russ and I plan to put one together similar to what we have done in the past.

In order to make it as accurate and as complete as possible, we will need you to email us with your current information. If you do not have access to a computer, feel free to call.

You will notice that there is a line for "Year of Membership". The directory is for BOTH friends and members, however if you are a member of FBC, we would like to include the year.

If you have no changes to make from the current directory, just indicate "no change".

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (provide both names if applicable)

Names of children under 18 years of age: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

We will not automatically include birthdays and anniversaries in the directory for security reasons. However, if you are comfortable sharing birth month and day ONLY, check the "okay to share" box below.

Whether you choose to have it included, or not, we would still like to provide that information to the church office so your special day may be celebrated with you.

Birthdays: \_\_\_\_\_ (okay to include in directory) ☐

Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_ (okay to include directory) ☐

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR INFORMATION TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR EMAIL TO**  
**gtaxter@gmail.com BY SUNDAY, MAY 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you for your assistance!

Glenna

## PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

- An audit-will be conducted in April. Lorraine will arrange this. Auditors are Jeremy Crumb, Jim West and Carol Lattuga
- The floor in the vestry was in need of cleaning. Lorraine is using her very own secret-magic-elbow-grease.
- Church Cleaning - Maurie/Lorraine
- Use of Building Documents - Building usage needed information about non-members who do not want to use the minister's services. We amended the motion made at last meeting:
  - The sanctuary will be available to non-members at a fee of \$150 inclusive of the rental fee and all fees for the FBC minister which includes premarital counseling.
  - The sanctuary will be available for its use to non-members at a fee of \$100 to those who do not need the services of the minister.
- Update installation of programmable thermostat
  - The wire between the thermostat and the furnace has been installed in the sanctuary. The thermostat is now connected to Jeremy and Rebecca's phone providing remote control of the temperature in the sanctuary which is necessary for organ optimal performance.
- We are still looking for a company to help with installation of 10 emergency lights and exit signs units, 2 additional lights for staircases and 5 hours to install them- additionally 6 smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
- The stained glass window committee will have its first meeting today.
- Lorraine is still waiting for estimates for the front door/trim paint and painting outside of the church.
- Lindy was going to ask Joe if he could add locking castors to the cabinet in the vestry currently being used by AA.
- Lorraine has scheduled a boiler inspection for May 5th, since it has been two years.
- Orkin came and did a free inspection of the church building. They took pictures and gave a recommendation. Pictures were quite telling. Here are their findings:
  - Mice are mainly downstairs in the utility closet, the drop ceiling in Joy Hall, and under the organ
  - Many options have been tried and none have worked over the long haul.
  - Orkin will come for \$61 a month and as often as needed if we so choose.
  - Lindy volunteered to set traps for now and in the fall to see if the mice are under control. If we still have an uncontrollable infestation, we will call Orkin to schedule a monthly visit.

Next meeting at 4pm on Thursday, May 6th  
Respectfully submitted, Lorraine Wilkins, Chair



## **DIACONATE NEWS**

The fellowship fund has a healthy balance and is available to anyone who may have a pressing need at this time.

We complimented our guest speakers, John Brigham and Cara Davenport, for their excellent presentations which were well received.

Our Easter season was reviewed. There were many helping hands in the congregation. Judy Koch decorated both crosses. Jeremy Crumb, Matthew Sommons, Ray Koch, and Dan Thompson all helped with the cement blocks needed for the crosses, and Pastor Rebecca and Judy McGraw carried the cross up to the sanctuary to make the setting for the services so special! There were, of course, many of you who helped make the whole Lenten season meaningful and our heartfelt thanks are extended to all of our church family.

There was a conversation about Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Martha Thompson mentioned there would be flowers distributed to ladies at home and in church. There will be a need for 6-7 drivers for delivery. We discussed the possibility of testimonials to our mothers. Jim West will do one to his mother during the service. For any others who are inspired to do a written testimonial to their mother or a mother figure in their life, Glenna is ready to receive them and to print them as a collection. This special issue will be sent out to all who receive the SpiritSpark. Please send your testimonial by May 5<sup>th</sup>. We will do the same for Father's Day and Jim Holden will do a testimonial to his father that day.

There was a discussion of long-range sermon goals by the Pastor. We especially discussed the celebration of Pentecost on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Weather permitting, John and Cheryl Hess have generously offered to have a bonfire at their home in Arlington:

174 Pleasant Street

802-375-6815

Time: 6pm

Please bring: your chair, own food OR a potluck dish, and wear a mask, please.

Matt Sommons will provide music!

Generally, we are truly blessed to have fared so well during these difficult times, and give thanks to God for all His guidance and the many prayers He has answered.

In Jesus' name.

The Diaconate Committee

## **NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR**

Neighbor to Neighbor, an organization under the umbrella of the Interfaith Council, is planning a raffle. There are many wonderful items including a round of golf at Equinox, a cabin and hike at Merck Forest, and many generous gift certificates and baskets from local businesses. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and are available by calling Neighbor to Neighbor at 802-367-7787. Go to the website to view prizes [neighbortoneighbor.org](http://neighbortoneighbor.org). The raffle begins May 3rd and prizes are drawn on July 4th.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

## **Church Spring Cleaning**

The Prudential Committee is still looking for people to volunteer to "spring clean" the church building in preparation for our 240th Anniversary Celebration. Sign-up sheet is in the vestry. I will be there on May 5th for boiler inspection and plan on starting my part then. If anyone else can join me that would be great. There is still plenty to do. We will have to leave between 12 and 1 to allow AA to use the vestry or move to a different part of the building. Could you please give ANY time to spruce up the church? Many hands make light work!  
Lorraine



## **MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP**

The Fellowship met in person and via Zoom on April 18th.

There has been progress on some projects.

Curtains: Appropriate curtains have been found to replace curtains in vestry and we will soon see them in place.

Tiles: Lorraine has been working on removing stains from the tiles in the vestry and she has had some success..

Cleaning: The Mary Martha Fellowship will take charge of doing "spring cleaning" in vestry and kitchen before June 27th, the 240th celebration.

Mother's Day: The Fellowship is planning a flower project for church members to celebrate Mother's Day.

Our group will be meeting on Mother's Day, May 9th at 8:45 A.M. for coffee and a breakfast munchie and then start our meeting via Zoom and in person by 9:00 A.M.. All are welcome. If you need a Zoom invitation let us know.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

## **CELEBRATING 240 YEARS**

The celebration committee consisting of Linell Pike, Ashley Hess, Lisa Hess, Dorothy Beers, Lindy Mylott, John Hess, Martha Thompson and Pastor Rebecca will meet April 29th.

We have been in contact with many pastors and had a good response. Joe Huse and Betty Wright-Riggins are participating on Zoom, Bob and Martha Carpenter, Dick and Paula Olmstead, Steve and Kathy Jewett, Rod and Jill Birney will be attending in person, Debbie Kamm and Pat Crough will send a message. Executive minister, Dale Edwards expects to participate. We are waiting to hear from Tom Rice and Ed Jager.

Jim and Cathy Comar and Lisa Towslee, as a sub-committee, are willing to host a picnic lunch if the committee agrees.

We will be continuing work on the schedule for this event but save the date of June 27<sup>th</sup>!

More to follow!

~submitted by Martha Thompson

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee has held several fun and enjoyable events for our church family in recent weeks. Our youth participated in a chocolate making activity for Easter, and we held an Easter egg hunt for children in our community. This event was attended by over forty children, and each family left with some Easter themed books and prizes from our church. Finally, our virtual Jeopardy game night, hosted by Ashley Hess, was fun for all who attended.

The adult Sunday School class will continue to meet on Sundays at 9:30 in the vestry and on Zoom through the first weekend in June. We are working through the series *The Good Book*, available through Right Now Media. This series explores Biblical themes as they apply to life today; each session deals with a different theme, so it's easy to try the class for one week or several at any time in the series. We hope to see you there!

Because the Missions Committee is organizing the 6K for Water, there is an opportunity for our youth under 18 to join this event for the registration fee of \$25. If you would like to participate by donating to pay all or part of the registration fee for one of our youth, please speak to Pastor Rebecca or a member of the CE committee.

Looking ahead to the summer, the CE committee is planning an outdoor movie night and a hike for our youth. We also are hoping to host a family outdoor game day and picnic later this summer. We will have more details as we get into the summer months.

For His Glory,  
Annie Crumb



For many years, it has been our Easter tradition to decorate a cross with tiny bouquets during our Easter morning service. Although we were unable to carry out the tradition in our customary manner this year, our cross was still decorated with greens, Baby's Breath and colorful carnations. Thank you, Judy Koch, for decorating our cross so beautifully!

**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 group)  
The Tuesday night men's group is planning on moving back to the Wilson House on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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

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 included here. Feel free to reach out to her anytime throughout the week. (802) 688-3024 [rebeccasommons@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccasommons@gmail.com)

**CHURCH EVENTS**

Sunday, May 2: Communion Sunday  
Tuesday, May 4: Prayer Group Book Study on Chapter 4 in *Soul Shift* book at 7 pm via zoom  
Wednesday, May 5: Seeking God Together meeting at 11 am via zoom  
Thursday, May 6: Prudential Committee 4 pm  
Sunday, May 9: Mother's Day Service (Mary and Martha Meeting at 9 am)  
Tuesday, May 11: Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom  
Wednesday May 12: Mission Meeting in the vestry via zoom  
Thursday, May 13: Pastor Relations Committee Meeting at Pastor Rebecca's house at noon  
Friday, May 14: Deacon Meeting at 11 am via zoom  
Tuesday, May 18: Prayer Group Book Study on Chapter 8 in *Soul Shift* book at 7 pm via zoom  
Wednesday, May 19: Seeking God Together at 11 am via zoom  
Saturday, May 22: 6 K for Water  
Sunday, May 23: Pentecost Service with a Potluck and Praise time at John/Cheryl Hess's home at 6 pm  
Tuesday, May 25: Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom

**FLOWERS**

May 2: Russ & Glenna Taxter – In Memory of Russell Sr. & Dorothy H. Taxter  
May 9: Lindy Mylott – In Honor of Mrs. Jan Casey  
May 16: Flower Arrangement  
May 23: Linda Hulett In Memory of Mary Smith  
May 30: Jim & Cathy Comar – In Memory of Ken Pierce

