



Photo Courtesy of Manchester Historical Society (circa 1910)

**“SpiritSpark”** 

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

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**Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

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**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA**

Dear Church Family,

I am glad that Thanksgiving comes at this time of year for us. It is good for our souls to concentrate on God’s blessings as the days grow shorter and colder and the beauty of the autumn leaves gives way to starkness.

The verses that I’d like to share with you are from Ephesians 5:18-20.

*<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.*

*Instead, be filled with the Spirit,*

*<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.*

*Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,*

*<sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

My first thought was to begin with the second part of verse 18, focusing on being filled with the Spirit. However, I decided to include the whole verse, because the reality is we are always looking to fill the empty spaces in our lives. Alcohol is the filler of choice for some, but many other things can be used to try to comfort ourselves during bleak times. Overindulgence in food, social media, entertainment, substances or sleep, overwork, overattachment to a person... can all entice us away from the One who can fill us with awareness of God's presence the true source of comfort and joy.

God knows we need to encourage each other, and one of the best ways we can give encouragement is to sing with each other. I've noticed the Spirit flowing through our worship times at church when we sing hymns and praise songs together. It's a delight to have so many of you coming together to sing choir songs for a full hour on Thursday evenings, and sharing those songs in the worship services too. Others are sharing music through playing instruments, and one is even writing worship music as the Holy Spirit guides him. Some of you may feel shy to lift your voice in song, but I want to assure you that everyone is welcome to join in the joyful noise. You could also write a Psalm of thanks and worship to God, and maybe even share it with others. It's something each one of us can do, and God sees it as beautiful music.

I give thanks for all of the music flowing from our hearts to bless God and each other. We have so much to inspire our praise because of how our Lord Jesus Christ has saved us, making it possible to live in harmony with God and each other. Let's keep making music and praise from our hearts to the Lord, friends!

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Rebecca Sommons*



## **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

The Prudential Committee met on October 20th at 4 pm in the vestry.

During **Old Business** many updates were given. We are still waiting to hear from the insurance company about the leak in the roof. I will contact our insurance adjustor again to see if we can go ahead and have the wall repaired. The Prudential Committee has formed a committee to find options to replace our Sanctuary roof as it is long past due. The Committee is aiming to have information ready for the annual meeting. Ray Koch, Jeremy Crumb, and I make up this committee. If anyone else is interested, please contact me. The update on Orkin is that there has not been any activity up to this point, inside the church, but much in the bait boxes outside. However, now is the time that the mice will be heading inside, so we will have to wait and see what transpires. There is good news about the "smell" in the kitchen. GSK did come and take care of one of the drains, but there may be a different more permanent solution that they can do. That is in process. As far as the audit goes, Lisa has been exploring different reports that the computer can generate that would make the audit much quicker, easier, and as thorough. A quick note about the automatic water dispenser in the food prep sink in the kitchen. If it comes on and does not go off, the batteries in the faucet that controls this function are probably dead. There are two options if this happens to you: 1. Turn off the water under the sink making sure to let me know and 2. Unscrew the top and take out the casing that holds the batteries and replace them. Currently, those of us that said we would bring the batteries can't seem to remember. LOL Lindy will get some to replace the ones not working and have a set of extra ones. In getting ready for the budget meeting, we discussed how much it would

cost to have someone do additional cleaning. We are thinking about \$30 an hour and perhaps 2 times a month for maybe a total of 6 hours. This is still in discussion. Paul Bauers does volunteer each week to do a great deal of cleaning, but there are still areas that need attention. He cannot be expected to do any more than he does. THANKS PAUL! We appreciate all of your efforts. Maurie volunteered to cut the peonies by the side door in preparation for winter and the beautiful flowers we get to enjoy next year. We also discussed that there is a smell coming from Joy Hall. For now, we will keep the door shut. Lindy will check the dehumidifier to see if it is still working, needs a new filter, or just needs to be replaced.

In **New Business**, I explained that the right side of the oven is not working at all. It was discovered during the last dinner. Lisa has called Suburban Propane and they will come on November 10th to fix it. Maurie will come to the church to let them in. We then discussed shoveling for the winter and ice melt. We do have some ice melt, but Lindy will pick up some so we are not cut short as many groups meet at the church. We need to find out who does or is able to shovel this winter. We need to make sure BOTH front doors are shoveled. The snow and ice on the second door that we do not use is taking its toll. These doors are very old and would be extremely expensive to replace. When the front was painted this summer, they did what they could to get them “up to par”. Maurie has volunteered to be on the Budget Committee for next year and Dottie volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. Lindy also volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee if they want more members.

The next meeting is set for Thursday, November 11th, hopefully at Maurie’s House. Committee members will be apprised of our meeting place.

Lorraine Wilkins, Prudential Committee Chair

### **Budget Committee**

I am hoping to have the Budget Committee meet following our next Prudential Committee meeting on November 11th at 5:30 in the Vestry. (Prudential Committee- Maurie Hill, Christian Ed-Ashley Hess, Rebecca, Lisa) I still need someone from Diaconate and Missions.

Lorraine Wilkins, Budget Committee Chair



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

In October, the Christian Education Committee hosted two evening events featuring the first two episodes of *The Chosen*. Each evening began with a potluck dinner, and included a discussion following the viewing of the episodes. Also in October, a youth event included selecting pumpkins at Equinox Valley Nursery, enjoying a fall treat, and painting the pumpkins in the vestry. A creative array of designs was produced!

As we move into November, our committee is sponsoring the Christmas Child boxes. Thank you to everyone who took a box to fill, and to those who generously donated money toward shipping costs. Please return the

filled boxes by Sunday November 14 so they can be brought to the distribution center in time to be included in the shipment out of the area. This wonderful program will bring the gospel and our church family's love to children in many remote areas this Christmas.

Save the date for two additional potluck suppers and viewings of *The Chosen* on November 6 and December 4. The potluck will start at 5:30 each evening, with the featured episode starting at 6:30. Feel free to join the group for the potluck, or come just for the viewing and discussion.

The Christmas Coffee House will make its annual return this December on Saturday the 11th at 7:00. Join us to share a story, song, talent, or Christmas memory, or just join to share in fellowship.

Sunday school classes are ongoing this fall. A children's class is available each Sunday at 9:30 in the children's room upstairs. A teen and adult class meets in the vestry at 9:30; Jeremy Crumb is currently leading a study of the book of Hebrews.

For His Glory,  
Annie Crumb



Olivia, Jae Vickery, Annie Crumb, Maeve, Brandy Reynolds

### **DIACONATE**

At the last Diaconate meeting Pastor Rebecca shared her experiences at the Annual Gathering of VT and NH Baptist Churches.

She made a presentation on Spiritual Formation and there were several excellent speakers and opportunities to participate.

In these times our Baptist Church needs to figure out how to connect with our literal neighbors.

Next meeting is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 9th at 4:30 P.M.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

## **MISSIONS**

The Mission and Outreach Committee reports that about \$3,000.00 has been raised this year to help with the sustainable project in Rwanda for the Transformational Leadership Africa program.

No special appeals were addressed at this time.

A Mission Moment is scheduled for November 14.

Linell Pike has agreed to be on the Nominating Committee.

Next meeting is planned for Wednesday, December 8 at 2:00 PM in the vestry.

Submitted in God's Glory from

Linell Pike.

## **MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP**

### Chicken Pie Dinner

Our Chicken Pie Dinner on The 7th of October was a success thanks to all of you! We realized \$1154. We only had to pay for chickens and part of the squash. It is always amazing to see the congregation come together and do such amazing work to make this dinner a success. It really does take the world church community. THANK YOU! Being our third take out dinner, we have it down "pretty much to a science" at this point. We all have a job and we just "do it". We look forward to doing it again! December will be our Cookie Sale, so sometime next year we will plan another dinner. A huge thank you to Judy Koch, Ashley Hess, Chris and Lisa Towlsee, Russ and Glenna Taxter for getting this dinner out the door!

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

<p>Mary &amp; Martha will soon be putting together their annual Christmas Baskets! Be thinking of ways to make them special! This is one of the many things we will be discussing at our next meeting on Sunday, November 14th at 8:30am. All are invited!</p>
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## **NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR**

Our Executive Director, Robin Galguera, is settling very nicely at our new office located downstairs in The First Congregational Church.

Neighbor to Neighbor has resumed providing transportation for our care recipients.

A luncheon event occurs once a month for care recipients and volunteers. Last month, Ellen Maloney on the banjo, Harry Ralph (97 yrs. old) on the fiddle and Tom Salmon with his guitar, entertained us with old time music. Next month there will be an entertaining presentation about scams, etc.

If you would like to attend the event or find out more about becoming a care recipient or a volunteer call Robin at 802-367-7787.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

# Cookie Sale!

Mary Martha is holding a Holiday Cookie Sale in December.  
Start thinking about your favorite cookie and finding recipes!

We need bakers and elves to sell them!

Details to follow.

Questions: Ask Dottie Sundquist



**INTERFAITH  
THANKSGIVING SERVICE!**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 23**  
**Israel Congregation 7:00 pm**  
**also available via zoom**  
**In person attendance requires**  
**masks and vaccination**

### **INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTSHIRE**

The Council continues to meet via Zoom. It is a fairly large group and it is safer and more convenient to meet on Zoom until there is less concern about Covid.

A community Thanksgiving Service is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. It will be held at the Israel Congregation at 7:00 P.M. Father Ian Montgomery of Zion Episcopal Church will be the speaker. Cantor Scott Buckner with the possible assistance of the Dorset Church Music Director, Tom Salmon, will provide music. The Council will be sponsoring an online auction to raise funds for the Emergency Needs Fund which plans the Holiday Christmas Project.

The Annual meeting will be held at our regular Dec. meeting, Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021 at 11:45 A.M.

The next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021 at 11:45.



**DORSET SALE at the Dorset CHURCH ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th,  
9:00 AM – 1 PM**

**THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR FEATURING FAIR TRADE SERRV, INT'L PRODUCTS WILL BE  
FEATURED**

**Shop scarves, jewelry, kitchen items, chocolate, Christmas decorations, and more!**



**REMEMBER TO SET  
YOUR CLOCK BACK  
ONE HOUR  
NOVEMBER 7th!**

### **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](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 listed above. Feel free to reach out to her anytime throughout the week.

### **CHURCH EVENTS for NOVEMBER**

Thursday, Nov. 4: Interfaith Council Meeting at First Congregational Church in Manchester

Choir Practice at 7 pm at the church

Saturday, Nov. 6: Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm with The Chosen Episode 3 at 6:15 pm

Sunday, Nov. 7: Communion in the Worship Service

Tuesday, Nov. 9: Deacon Meeting at 4:30 pm at the church

Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom

Wednesday, Nov.10: Seeking God Together at 11 am

Thursday, Nov.11: Prudential Meeting at 4 pm at Maurie's house

Budget Committee at 5:30 at the church

Choir Practice at 7 pm at the church

Saturday, Nov.13: Men's Breakfast and Meeting at 9 am at the church

Sunday, Nov.14: Women's Mary and Martha Breakfast and Meeting at the church at 8:30 am

Mission Moment in the Worship Service / Christmas Child Boxes are due

(Matthew and Rebecca Sommons will be away from Nov. 15 - 21)

Thursday, Nov.18: Choir Practice at 7 pm at the church

Sunday, Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Service with Cara Davenport preaching the message

Tuesday, Nov. 23: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Israel Congregation and also via zoom at 7 pm

Prayer Group at 7pm via zoom

Thursday, Nov. 25: Thanksgiving

Sunday, Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent

### **FLOWERS**

Nov. 7: Lindy Mylott/memory of mother, Ruby Norse

Nov. 14: Jim & Carol Johnson/honoring Veterans

Nov. 21: Anna Ennis/memory of Barb & Dick Goddard

Nov. 28: Linda Hulett/memory of Irene Merritt

