



SEPTEMBER 2021 (Thank you, Maurie!)

"SpiritSpark"



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

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

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

October 2021

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

We arrived at the house where our family is spending the week in the Outer Banks of North Carolina around 5 pm on a Sunday evening. It was fun to explore the place and to look out its windows at the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the estuaries and bay on the other side. The view only improved as a rosy sunset swept across the sky, reflecting on the clouds in both directions.

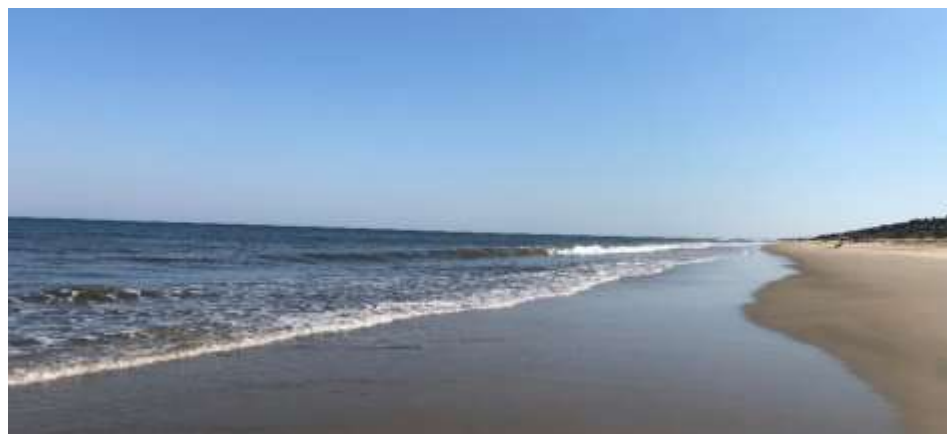
Since we were welcoming the incoming families and procuring some groceries, Matthew and I did not go down and experience the fullness of the ocean the first night. The closest we got was to sit

on our balcony and watch the moon reflecting in the water. In the morning, we watched the first rays of dawn crown the horizon and headed down to the beach after breakfast. What a difference it makes to feel the soft sand on our feet, to be engulfed by the cool, salty waves!

It got me to thinking about how people can be in their relationships with God. I wonder how often we have an encounter with God that is akin to watching the ocean waves roll in from the window. We appreciate the beauty from a distance and are glad it makes for such a fine view. But do we go further than that? Do we actively walk toward God, let awareness of God's presence encircle and transform us in every way?

The ocean is lovely, but it is just a reflection of the awesome majesty and glory of the Creator. I hope we can all decide to fully engage relationship with God, instead of keeping our distance and admiring God from afar. This is the great invitation of this life as we get ready for the next.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rebecca



RIGHTNOW MEDIA

We have just learned that RightNow media is updating its website. Starting sometime next week they will start rolling out the new site. You should get an email from them when they start the rollout. To access the site, use your same login and password. Your saved content and settings should be the same. It will be a lot easier to use and find items you're looking for. Some of the changes will take place over time.

Just wanted you to know so it will not be a surprise to you. Russ Taxter

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee hosted games for young children during the August StreetFest. Snacks and drinks were provided by the Missions Committee. We also hosted an apple picking event for our youth at Mad Tom Orchard on September 18th. It was a gorgeous late summer day for picking and enjoying the orchard's homemade apple cider donuts. After picking, we enjoyed some refreshing cider and apples with cream cheese dip in the church vestry while playing a fall themed game.

October will bring some new opportunities for fellowship and engaging with God's Word. On Saturday October 9th, interested members of our church family and the community can gather for an episode of *The Chosen* series and accompanying discussion. Further episodes will be shown on October 23rd, November 6th, and December 4th.

Sunday School classes will also resume in October on Sunday the 10th at 9:30 am. Jeremy Crumb will be leading the adult class, and Pastor Rebecca will offer a children's class. The adult class will meet in the conference room upstairs on the 10th, and the children's class will meet in Joy Hall.

In Christ,
Annie Crumb



Emily, Amanda, Cheryl (Lydia not pictured)



Jae and Annie

Photos taken by Pastor Rebecca

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE NOTES

The Prudential Committee met on September 9th in the vestry. The meeting was opened with concerns and prayer and the minutes from the last meeting were accepted.

Lisa, our treasurer, explained that she had taken the Housing Allowance out of the general account because of our need to keep a minimum balance in our Money Markey to keep it open. Since we had the money in our General Account at this time, the Housing Allowance was taken out. Lisa also explained the Missions and Benevolence Account.

We have still not heard from the insurance company about repairing the wall. The insurance company sent an independent adjuster to look at our roof. He felt we were in good shape. (If only!)

Next we discussed the railing on Bonnet Street. Lisa volunteered to check with Monarch Auto Body. Lorraine will meet with Lisa after she has had a chance to check into it.

The lights in the vestry are blinking. Lisa will get someone to look at them.

Under new business, Lindy volunteered to check with GSK to have them check the smell in the kitchen when the water is turned on.

Dottie asked if Sandgate Sounds could offer a free piano concert for the Community on Sunday, October 10th. They will need to use the Sanctuary in the afternoon for practice. This was approved.

Lastly, the Prudential Committee felt we should tell the congregation that our monthly budget amount for fuel has gone from \$325 to \$500. We would appreciate Fuel Angels.

The next meeting is October 14th at 4:30 in the vestry.

Lorraine Wilkins, chairman

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship will be helping the community in honoring local first responders. There will be a dinner for members of the Fire Department.

On October 25, 2021, cookies will be prepared for Rescue Squad members and police officers.

Opportunities for church family to participate will be announced in the bulletin closer to the date.

The next meeting of Mary Martha will be Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 8:30 A.M.

~Martha Thompson

MARY & MARTHA CHICKEN PIE TAKE-OUT DINNER

Mary and Martha will be holding a Take-Out Only Chicken Pie Dinner on Thursday, October 7th. The menu will be chicken pie, mashed potato, squash, peas and carrots, cranberry sauce, extra biscuit, and apple or pumpkin pie. The cost is \$14. Pick up begins at 5 pm and ends at 6:30 pm. Dinners can be reserved by calling Martha Thompson at 362-3473.

MEN'S GROUP



Pictured from left to right: John Hess, Matt Sommons, Jim Holden, Bryan Richheimer, Jerry Pike, Russ Taxter, Jim Johnson (Photo taken by Pastor Rebecca)
Next meeting Saturday, October 23 9:00 am

PRAYER & STUDY GROUP

The Prayer & Study Group continues to meet every other Tuesday evening at 7:00. Max Lucado's When God Whispers Your Name is a book of hope, encouragement, and fun!
If you would like to join us, ask Pastor Rebecca to send you the zoom link.

DIACONATE NEWS

At the Diaconate meeting on September 21st, plans were reviewed for pulpit supply while Pastor Rebecca is away. On October 3rd, Dr. Theresa Taylor will be with us and on November 21st Cara Davenport will grace the pulpit.

The Fellowship Fund is an ongoing resource whose purpose is to help our church family with emergencies or unexpected bills. Please let Pastor Rebecca or a member of the Diaconate know if we can help in these circumstances.

The Diaconate is responsible for the Fellowship time following worship. Help with refreshments and/or clean up would be appreciated, especially on Communion Sunday.

~Martha Thompson

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee received 3 thank you notes from:

1. Jeni Pedzinski for our contribution for her car and her travels in America
2. a student for school supplies
3. the Voice of the Martyrs - an organization supporting persecuted Christians around the world

We are still collecting monies for the Rwanda projects as Pastor Rebecca stated during our Mission Moment in September.

Our thanks for the prizes for the Manchester Street Fair on August 27.

On October 10, the Missions will focus on International Missions (IM) which our Jeni is helping in Thailand.

Our funds are low so no disbursements we're given this month.

In God's Glory,

~Submitted by Linell Pike

NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR

For many years Bill Drunsic has supported Neighbor to Neighbor by giving the organization office space in his Battenshire building (in back of the funeral parlor).

He has had an opportunity to rent to one of his tenants who wishes to expand his space.

Neighbor to Neighbor is moving to a space that the First Congregational Church has kindly provided.

We will be downstairs in the church. No stairs!

The move will be made as soon as possible; hopefully by October 1st. Thank you Bill for your continuing support and generosity.

~Martha Thompson

Mary and Martha Chicken Pie Dinner

Take-Out Only

Thursday, October 7th.

Chicken pie, mashed potato, squash, peas and carrots,
cranberry sauce, extra biscuit, and apple or pumpkin pie.

Cost: \$14

Pick-up begins at 5 pm and ends at 6:30 pm.

Reserve your dinner by calling Martha Thompson 362-3473.

CHOOSE TO BE AMAZED

Last Sunday, Rev Dr Theresa Taylor delivered her sermon on “Lessons from Habakkuk on Deepening Our Trust in God”. In her message, she said, “Choose to BE AMAZED”.

Russ and I have lived in our present location for only a couple years, and I’ve enjoyed becoming familiar with the natural beauty here and comparing it with the 50 years in our previous location.

During our first fall here, I noticed a large bush, or more specifically, a tangled mass of vines, set back in the hedgerow. I hadn’t really given it much attention until the fall when it put forth beautiful yellow berries. Last week, I decided to cut off a small twig. (Bittersweet, I think.) I took it home, snipped off the leaves, placed it in a small vase, and set it on the dining room table.

The next morning, I was stunned to see its transformation! The berries had turned from yellow to brilliant orange and the frill at the base of the berries, which I had not even noticed was there, turned bright yellow! Spectacular!

“Be amazed”, said Theresa. Be amazed in God’s big miracles and in His small miracles!

~G. Taxter



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

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 OCTOBER

Sunday, Oct. 3: Rev Dr. Theresa Taylor will be our guest speaker at our 10:30am service

Thursday, Oct. 7: Chicken Pie Dinner Take-Out 5-6:30pm

Thursday, Oct. 7: Choir 7pm

Saturday, Oct. 9: *The Chosen* - Potluck 5:30pm Viewing 6:30pm

Sunday, October 10: Mary & Martha 8:30am vestry

Sunday, Oct. 10: Sunday School Classes 9:30am

Tuesday, Oct. 12: Prayer & Study Group 7pm via zoom

Wednesday, Oct 13: Seeking God Together 11:00am

Thursday, Oct. 14: Prudential 4:30pm vestry

Thursday, Oct. 14: Choir 7pm

Sunday, Oct. 17: Sunday School Classes 9:30am

Tuesday, Oct. 19: Diaconate at 4:30pm

Thursday, Oct. 21: Choir 7pm

Saturday, Oct. 23: Men's Group 9:00am vestry

Saturday, Oct. 23: *The Chosen* - Potluck 5:30pm Viewing 6:30pm

Sunday, Oct. 24: Sunday School Classes 9:30am

Tuesday, Oct. 26: Prayer & Study & Group 7:00pm via zoom

Wednesday, Oct. 13: Seeking God Together 11:00am

Wednesday, Oct. 27: Missions 3pm vestry

Thursday, Oct. 28: Choir 7pm

Sunday, Oct. 31: Sunday School Classes 9:30am

FLOWERS

October 3: Lisa Towslee/Anniversary

October 10: Anna Ennis & Family/Memory of Paul Ennis, Sr

October 17: Carol Lattuga/Memory of Mary Moore

October 24: Peggy Brockett/Memory of Dottie Brophy

October 31: Glenna Taxter