



See note about this photo on last page.

"SpiritSpark"



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

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

fbcmanvt@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

September 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

In our messages this September, we'll be focusing on Spiritual gifts that God graciously gives to each person who believes in Jesus. God's presence in the form of the Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift, and God's Spirit enables us to glorify God by using the other gifts. There is a great diversity of gifts, which are abilities or skills that build up, inspire, and support the family of God. We are meant to exercise these gifts in the work of God's Kingdom. When we use them in ways that align with God's will, it will be life-giving for us and the people around us. It is my desire to see every person's gifts come to light and for each of you to have space to develop and exercise your God-given gifts. They are not for our own glory, but rather for God's.

As 1 Peter 4:11 reminds us ~

*“If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.
If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides,
so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.
To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever, Amen.”*

While Matthew and I are away meeting with the other members of the board for Thousand Hills International University in Musanze, Rwanda, Jeremy will be bringing the message on September 8th. I have faith that God will give him the words to share with you that day, just as I trust God will give me the words to share with our brothers and sisters when we celebrate our closing communion in Rwanda. When we say “yes” to God, we grow in exciting ways that bless our own lives as much as the people we are called to serve, and bring delight to the heart of God. I hope that more and more of you will say “yes” to the opportunities before you to try something new, to rely on the Holy Spirit for help as you step out of your comfort zones, and to feel the excitement of partnering with God in these vital ways.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rebecca

MEETING NOTIFICATION

The members of the First Baptist Church of Manchester Ctr, VT are hereby notified that there will be a congregational meeting at their House of Worship on Sunday, September 15, 2019 following the service for the following purposes:

- 1.) To hear the details of the renewal of Pastor Rebecca Sommon’s contract and act upon the recommendations.
- 2.) To hear an update on the kitchen renovation.
- 3.) To hear any other business proper to come before the congregation.

CHURCH CLERK
Martha Thompson

CHRISTIAN ED CORNER

The Christian Education Committee is excited to announce that Sunday School classes will be starting again on September 22nd. Pastor Rebecca and Linell Pike will once again be offering a class for children through fifth grade. This class will meet in Joy Hall. Matthew Sommons will be heading the Tweens and Teens class for students in sixth through twelfth grade. This group will meet at the parsonage. Jeremy Crumb will lead the Adult class in the conference room upstairs. We are excited to get started on another year of sharing and learning God's Word, and we hope you join us!

Respectfully Submitted,
Annie Crumb

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE NOTES

Highlights from the Prudential Committee meeting of August 5, 2019.

The pews that were separating have been repaired.

I attended a meeting of the Pastor Relations Committee to discuss a few changes to Pastor Rebecca's contract. These will be discussed at our church meeting on September 15th.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Richheimer
Chairman

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The committee continues to support Leon Nyakunhuwa of Zimbabwe. He recently celebrated his 18th birthday on Aug. 14th. Leon continues in school and so we continue to support him.

The committee voted to begin supporting another young man's schooling. His name is Sainor Kollie from Liberia and he is 16 years old. The ministry, God's Precious Children, provides for education in Liberia, Africa. The cost is \$95 a year. Interested parties can see Sainor's picture and letter on the bulletin board.

The most exciting news is that our congregation will be receiving a visit from Jeni Pedzinski on Sept. 18, 2019. Jeni is a missionary who works in Thailand and we have been supporting her since last September. She works with victims of sex trafficking in a program to Abolish Global Slavery.

There will be a Welcoming Pot Luck Supper On Sept. 18th at 6:00 P.M. Please come and meet this missionary and learn more about her wonderful work. A special offering will be taken on Sunday, Sept 15th for Jeni and The Abolish Global Slavery Project.

There will be sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



Choir will be starting on Thursday, September 5th at 7:00 pm. All who are interested in singing with us are encouraged to join us. We practice for one hour and do try hard to be done by 8:00. Please consider joining us if you have not been a part of the group before and, of course, I look forward to seeing all of our regular singers.

Barb West

MARY and MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of the Mary Martha Fellowship is planned for Sunday, September 8th at 8:30 A.M. Barb West and Lorraine Wilkins will be hosting and the program is rolling bandages for White Cross.

Coming up on Sept. 28, 2019 is one of our most important projects, The Chicken Pie Supper at 6:00 P.M. All hands on deck. Cooks are needed for chicken pies, squash, dessert pies, biscuits, etc. Willing hands (and feet) to wait on table, wash dishes, kitchen help, peel potatoes and so forth, as well as people willing to purchase some of the supplies and people to dine. Spread the word!

Martha Thompson will be taking reservations for dinner and takeouts at (802) 362-3473. Believe me The Mary Martha Fellowship can use all the help it can get.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

CHICKEN PIE SUPPER!

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR - submitted by Martha Thompson

As the harvest season arrives, products from people's gardens and orchards are being turned into delicious foods, especially pies. Neighbor to Neighbor is planning their Second Annual Pie Auction. This event will be held on October 6, 2019, a Sunday afternoon, from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Burr and Burton Academy cafeteria. There will be music, seasonal refreshments, 100 pies to bid on and other surprises. Tickets are available at \$15 from N 2 N at 367-7787 or Steering Committee Members. If you are baking a pie and wish to attend, your ticket is \$10.



**POT LUCK SUPPER
TO WELCOME MISSIONARY JENI PEDZINSKI
Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 6:00 PM**

See Missions Report for details

DIACONATE

Please continue to give to the Fellowship Fund.

On the last Sunday of every month, we will have a time of greeting during the service.

On September 7th the Middle River Gospel Band and Sherry Anne are performing at Horseshoe Acres Campground in Andover, VT from 4:30-8. There is no visitor fee and if you would like to camp it is ½ price. The campground will be providing hot dogs and hamburgers for people that would like to come early. We are hoping to have as many people as possible be there. Let's try and get more than we did this summer!

Sunday School will be starting up again on September 22nd which means starting on the 22nd we will be going back to the 10:30 am start of service.

~Submitted by Kelsey Towslee

KITCHEN RENOVATION UPDATE

As all of you know, Mary & Martha has been raising funds for 10 years to renovate the kitchen. It all began with the desire for a commercial dishwasher that would allow clean up from dinners to be much easier. A committee was formed which included 3 members of Mary & Martha and one member of Prudential. This year, that member went off Prudential, but remains on the committee as an integral part of the committee. A new member from Prudential came onto the committee to keep the communication between the two committees going.

The committee first developed a "dream" kitchen taking into account all of the areas of concern in the kitchen we have now. \$78,000 was approximately the cost of that kitchen which included shoring up the floor. Since our budget was about \$50,000, the committee began to see what could be done to cut costs. With all of the changes, the committee did successfully cut costs to \$58,000. However, we still have a shortfall. This amount does not give any money for cost overruns.

The committee is open to any suggestions for procuring funds to help with the shortfall. We have asked contractors to secure us a spot this fall so we need to do something sooner rather than later. One suggestion is to ask the church body if they can help in any way. Maybe someone knows of a way to obtain grants for such purposes or maybe it's a direct donation to the kitchen renovation fund.

Mary & Martha is still planning to have its annual Chicken Pie Supper if the issue of the sinks can be addressed. This would provide some more funds. Other ideas have been discussed including a fall basket party or some kind of sale during foliage.

If anyone is able to help out, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for all of your support as we move forward with this much needed renovation.

Prayerfully,

Kitchen Renovation Committee,

Lorraine Wilkins, Martha Thompson, Barb West, Jim Comar, Jeremy Crum

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL

(You can find the complete flyer on the church bulletin board.)

*Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions...it is by grace you have been saved.
Ephesians 2:4-5*

Dear Friends of Singing Hills,

We have GOOD NEWS! The summer of 2019 at Singing Hills has been one of so much fun, spiritual growth, and activity, we can hardly catch our breath to tell you about it. Our lungs are filled with praise for all that God has been doing in the lives of thousands of guests from all over New England!

This is the **Good News**....that Christ died for us so that we could be free of our sinful lives, know and live with Him eternally, and have an abundant and joyful life while we wait for His return. In this newsletter, I hope you capture a glimpse into the joy our visitors have had at Singing Hills this summer. You will find photos of spiritual decisions to follow Christ in Baptism, worship by all age groups, lots of outdoor play, and many many smiles on the faces of happy people. Life is just **Good** here. Thanks for your part in bringing the **Good News** of Christ's love to New England. Your financial support helps to make that happen!

While we celebrate all that God has done this summer at Singing Hills, we are anticipating a 2019 fall season filled with growth opportunities also. Make sure you check out the "**Upcoming Events**" section below for information about our fall programs.

Hope to see you this fall,
Don Jordan, Executive Director
Singing Hills Christian Camp and Conference Center
don@singinghills.net 603-709-7072 (home office)

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2019

*** Starred events have an early bird discount if you register by September 1st.
Time is running out.....Save \$10 Now!**

**God Speaks
Silence and Solitude Retreats**
September 17-19 (Midweek)
December 13-15 (Weekend)

This retreat is for both men and women. The "God Speaks" retreat offers time to truly unplug from the noise of your life and seek God with intention.

*** Memories That Matter
Women's Scrapbooking
Retreat**
October 24-27

Memories That Matter retreats, are where scrapbookers and rubber stampers alike, create beautiful paper crafted gifts for their families and friends. Our gifted speakers bring challenging messages of hope and faith.

***Heavenly Stitches
Women's Quilt
Retreat** November 7-10

Our retreat will help you achieve your quilting goals quickly. Not only that, it will provide you with Christian friendships, new skills, and encouragement in your spiritual walk with God. Enjoy great food and fun too!

***Fibers of Faith
Women's Knitting
Retreat** December 5-8

Fibers of Faith knitting retreats are for knitters and crocheters, but any handwork is welcome! Get out your yarn, come and collaborate with other women, sharing stories and skills during this wonderful weekend of fun and spiritual encouragement.

Contacts And Information

Donations

Donations By phone: Toll Free: 888-863-2267

Donations By mail: Mail to: 71 King Drive, Plainfield, NH 03781

Call 603-709-7072 (home office), to talk with Don Jordan, Executive Director about how you can support our ministry.

Registrations & Event Information

Email: events@singinghills.net

Brochures: www.singinghills.net/our-events

Register: www.singinghills.net/register

Book an Event for Your Christian Group

Call to Inquire About Booking: Toll Free: 888-863-2267

Email: retreats@singinghills.net

Website: www.singinghills.net/book-your-event

Photo on front page: We think this photo was taken by Lyn Campney. Lyn was at the airport taking pictures one day when Peter Palmer flew in. After talking with him, he offered to take her up in his plane, which she quickly accepted! She says she took about 300 pictures. You can see the wing of the plane in the upper right corner.

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

IMPORTANT NOTE:
The landline for the parsonage has been disconnected. You may use Pastor Rebecca's cell phone or the church office.

FLOWERS

Sept. 1: Jim West
Sept. 8: Flower Arrangement
Sept. 15: Martha Thompson
Sept. 22: Jim & Cathy Comar
Sept. 29: Lorraine Wilkins

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Sept. 1: Lindy & Cathy
Sept. 8: Jenny & Cheryl
Sept. 15: Dottie & Bryan
Sept. 22: Holly & Ronan
Sept. 29: Maurie & Linell