



Courtesy of Shawn Harrington and the Manchester Historical Society. (c. 1915)

"SpiritSpark"

The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

JULY 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

Even in this season of sunshine, surrounded by green, growing things, there are shadows present in our lives. We've waited so long for summer, and it is dizzyingly beautiful. So why do we still feel an ache in our chests?

Life here on earth is a precious gift, but it is not God's ultimate gift to us. God's presence is what our hearts long for, whether we are in touch with that longing or not. If we do recognize our deepest longing, we can turn to God in hope, no matter what the circumstances of life hold.

In our celebrations, there is a mixture of joy and loss. In our times of grief, there is love mixed with the sorrow. When we recognize that all of life is like this, we can begin to bravely engage with all that is present in this moment. We can choose to accept its gifts, and to trust that God's loving-kindness will carry us through the hard parts.

Hope and trust are connected. When we choose to trust God, hope grows larger, swelling in our hearts to displace our fears about the unknowns. Whatever lies ahead, the path will lead to peace in the beauty of his presence for eternity.

Psalm 62

*⁵ Let all that I am wait quietly before God,
for my hope is in him.*

*⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will not be shaken.*

*⁷ My victory and honor come from God alone.
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.*

⁸ O my people, trust in him at all times.

*Pour out your heart to him,
for God is our refuge.*

With love,
Pastor Rebecca

The Ham & Strawberry Dinner was a success! THANK YOU to everyone who helped! Below is a picture of our wonderful strawberry pickers. Just like the postman, they persevered through the weather to bring us a most crucial part of our dinner!



Lisa Towslee, Maurie Hill, Cara Davenport and Pastor Rebecca Sommons behind the camera.

MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

On June 16, 2019 the Fellowship prepared breakfast for the gentlemen of our church family. It was a delightful morning with delicious food and great camaraderie, We were pleased to have as guests youth from the Lansdale Baptist Church and their chaperones. Ronan O'Brien joined them as they traveled on to Rutland VT for a mission trip.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, read about the details of our upcoming trip to a butterfly garden.

There will be no meeting in August.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



Ronan O'Brien helping at the farm as part of the mission trip.



On Wednesday, July 10th, the Mary and Martha Fellowship will be carpooling to the Wild Wings Conservatory and Gardens in Deerfield, Massachusetts. We are packing our own lunches and there is a snack bar on the premises. The cost will be \$16.00 for adults and \$12.50 for seniors. We will meet at the church at 8:30 am. See Judy Koch for more information and to sign up!

KIDS SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The Kids Summer Lunch Program will run from June 20 to Aug. 22, 10 weeks. That is one bag of groceries per child per week. The average cost per bag is \$15, so the cost for one child for the whole summer is \$150. This program serves the children of Manchester, Danby and students at the Mettowee School.

There have been some very generous donations and as a result a weekend backpack program has been instituted at Mettowee and will continue again this coming year. A Weekend Backpack Program will begin at Danby this coming school year.

Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause. There are envelopes in the vestry with the address.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

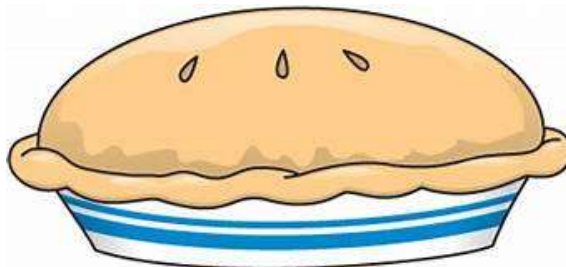
PIE BAKERS WANTED

Yes, everyone, Neighbor to Neighbor is returning for its Second Annual Pie Auction. The event will be held on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 6th, from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Burr and Burton Academy, and it's never too early to be thinking about that favorite pie of yours to submit for everyone's eating pleasure. Sweet or savory, it's up to you! So put your thinking caps on and come up with that perfect pie you might be willing to submit to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor. You may call Robin Galguera, Neighbor to Neighbor at 367-7787 or tell Martha T. what you are willing to bake.

Stay tuned for more information about tickets, etc.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

COMING IN OCTOBER! NEIGHBOR TO
NEIGHBOR PIE AUCTION!



DIACONATE

Thank you for your gifts to the Fellowship Fund. We ask that you continue to give generously as the needs are great.

Camp Sentinel is coming up and there is information about it on the bulletin board in the vestry.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the vestry for people to bring snacks for coffee hour during the summer. There is also a sign-up sheet if you would like to be a part of the service. You may give a testimony, do a piece of music, or read scripture. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Rebecca.

We would like to start a Young Adult Group here at church. If you know of anyone that would like to join in our activities, please let me or Pastor Rebecca know.

On July 13th, the Middle River Gospel Band is performing at Horseshoe Acres Campground in Andover, VT at 7pm. We are planning to have a potluck picnic at the campground before the performance. We will be leaving the church at 4pm if anyone would like to carpool. There is no visitor fee and if you would like to camp it is ½ price for the 12th and 13th if you mention the poster. We are hoping to have as many people as possible and you hope you will join us!

~submitted by Kelsey Towslee



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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thanks again to our wonderful Sunday school teachers for 2018 -19! We appreciate your faithfulness and the love with which you respond to each one who comes to your classes. We hope you are enjoying a well-deserved break in the action for the summer season.

Our youth group has been busy during the month of June. We had a musical night together with the Dorset youth on June 1st. Lydia brought her karaoke machine, and everyone gave it a go, before settling in with popcorn and candy for our movie *Sunday School Musical*.

Two weeks later, we hosted the youth group from First Baptist Church of Lansdale for a joint activity. This was my church family during the time I lived in Pennsylvania, and I had worked with most of the young people who came. We hiked up to Robin's lookout and around Equinox Pond before going to Christos for pizza. After that, we all headed over to the parsonage for games, s'mores, and talking around the campfire. The young gentlemen slept in the barn loft, while the young ladies slept in the house. In the morning, everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the church. Then the Lansdale youth group and Ronan headed up to Rutland to spend the rest of the week volunteering with Youth Works. They did many outdoor projects to help with trails, Vermont Farmer's Food Center, the Otter Point Farm, and the Smoky House Center. They also helped with meals, enjoyed games and outings, and had devotions with worship together each day. Ronan even celebrated his birthday with cake, singing, and mini-golf. We are really proud of his servant heart and adventurous spirit!

Our Christian Ed. Committee had planned to participate in the Street Fair festivities on June 21st, but since it was so close to the Ham and Strawberry supper, we decided to postpone our plan until the next street fair on July 19th. We would like to open the vestry as a comfort and fun station for families. This would include a few games, prizes (including children's Bibles), snacks, and drinks for those who come in. If you would like to help with any part of this, please let anyone on the Christian Ed. Committee know (Cheryl Hess, Linell Pike, Annie Crumb, Holly O'Brien, & Rebecca Sommons.) We are hoping to share God's love with our hospitality.

There is still time if any of the young people would like to register for camp or the Dorset canoe trip, and scholarships are available to greatly help with the cost.

- Pastor Rebecca



The youth activity hike with the missions group from Lansdale.

The following is an invitation to participate in conference prayer calls for Vermont. It was requested that we share it with our congregations. I've included it here in its entirety.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to invite you to take part in conference prayer calls for Vermont:

- Pastors-if you could put it in your bulletins, perhaps permanently or for at least a month.
- Also please share with prayer warriors/intercessors that you know.

I am the leader for Vermont- "Strike Force of Prayer". Feedback on times is welcome. I am flexible and can accommodate.

The conference number is 605-475-4728 access code is 165660#

- Monday 8:00 AM focus on our country, Vermont and the Northeast
- Wednesday 8:00 AM focus on our country, Vermont and the Northeast
- Friday 8:00 AM focus on opioid crisis, addictions and our youth

The Apostle Paul said we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12

Jesus said whatsoever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatsoever we loose on earth, will be loosed in heaven also and if two agree on earth as touching anything that we ask, it shall be done of the father in heaven. Matthew 18: 18 &19

If you believe these scriptures, please join "Strike Force of Prayer-Vermont".

Sincerely,

Wendy Bucchieri

**OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED 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.

FLOWERS

July 7: The Squires Family

July 14: Jackie Perry

July 21: Carol Lattuga

July 28: The Squires Family

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

July 7: Maurie & Linell

July 14: Lindy & Cathy

July 21: Jenny & Cheryl

July 28: Lisa & Annie



The First Baptist Church Family would like to extend their love and prayers to Carl, McKenna, Elex, Nancy, and all the Johnson family. Maurice Johnson went to be with the Lord on June 25th, 2019.