



Photo by Kay Keith (taken Autumn of 2024)



"SpiritSpark"

**The First Baptist Church
of Manchester Center, VT**
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor

OCTOBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

October is one of my favorite months of the year. I love harvest time and the anticipation of the upcoming holidays. I also enjoy making soups and cozying up with a book in the evening. God's changing of seasons is absolutely amazing.

We will begin studying the "Sermon on the mount", more specifically the Beattitudes, on Sunday morning in our worship service. We will also begin a study on "Bible Basics: God's love letter to each of us". Whether you have been a Christian for decades or relatively new to the faith; this study will meet you where you are. We will look at various translations or study tools to help with your reading and understanding of God's word. Questions are invited and we will tailor our discussions to what the group is interested in studying. It will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 via Zoom. Please let me know if you are interested.

I also wanted to thank each of you for your flexibility with our temporary home in the fellowship room. I have found this transition has gone relatively smoothly and it is so appreciated. Thanks for all your help and understanding during this time.

May God shine His face on you in so many ways!
Pastor Theresa



CHRISTIAN ED MUSINGS for OCTOBER 2025

Self Control

The fruit of the Spirit comes about by the Holy Spirit changing a character in us to live more like Jesus. Self-control or temperance involves moderation, constraint and the ability to say no to our basic desires. Here are some resources to help in this growth process.

Shining with Self Control: A Fruit of the Spirit Adventure by Jennifer Davis:

This book for young readers provides calming techniques, Biblical insights and lots of encouragement. The main character has BIG emotions and his friend helps him share these emotions in a more constructive manner.

The King Who Found Self-control: A Fruit of the Spirit Tale by Costi Hinn:

This is another young reader book. It is delightful in its telling of this fun fable. The King found self-control and realizes that the King of Kings is the one that helps us learn about the Fruit of the Spirit.

Living the Fruit of the Spirit Every Day: A Practical Christian Discipleship Guide: Growing Faith, Build Christ Centered Relationships, and Find Strength for Life's Daily Battles by Sophia Theodore:

The title says it all. It gives practical action steps and many real life testimonies. Great book to study on your own or with a group.

MISSION and OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Mission and Outreach committee met with Pastor Theresa for the first time on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7 PM via Zoom.

We donated \$100 to TL Africa to include the months of September and October. We also saw a need for the Interfaith Council Emergency Fund so \$200 was sent there.

On October 12, Linell Pike will do a mission moment for World Mission Offering (WMO) about the International Mission Global Servants (IM).

Other ideas going forward:

- * A packing party for the Christmas Shoe Boxes in late October to be delivered by November 17.
- * The Heifer Program in December.

Our next meeting is set for Wednesday, October 15 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Again, thank you for being such generous folks.

Submitted by Linell Pike



God bless you all.

DEACONATE REPORT

My hat goes off to each deacon. I super appreciate your willingness to jump into helping this transition into the fellowship room go so smoothly. Please let any deacon know if there are ways that we could help you during service of which we may not be aware.

The fellowship hour has taken a while to find a setup that works. One change we would like to make for October is to try to have snacks that do not produce a great deal of crumbs. Here are a few examples, but it is certainly not limited to these items: deviled eggs, peanut butter balls, fruit, veggies, anything on a stick, etc. Thanks for helping us with this request.

We will be beginning a “Bible Basics” study on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Please consider joining us learning about the various translations, study tools and ways to make the Bible relevant to your life situation. Please contact me with any questions or for a Zoom link.

Deacons for October are Linell P. and Dottie S.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Theresa

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship resumed meeting on Sept. 7th after our summer break. Glenna Taxter was our hostess and we were treated to an assortment of special breakfast goodies. Thank you, Glenna.

Treasurer Judy Koch reported a profit of \$1295 from our Ham Dinner which was a great success. Thank you all for your participation and those who helped financially to help pay for the ham and strawberries. The Fellowship will be hosting our Annual Chicken Pie Supper on Oct. 16, 2025. More details below.

The group also voted to support the four annual charities that American Baptist Convention sponsors: One Great Hour of Sharing, America for Christ, World Mission Offering and Minister and Missionaries Retirement Fund.

The Fellowship also voted to contribute \$50 each to Manchester Community Food Cupboard, Pawlet Community Food Cupboard and the Arlington Foodshelf.

Our Annual Cookie Sale will be held in early December. More about this next month.

Martha Thompson, Secretary



Mary and Martha Chicken Pie Supper

Falling leaves, orange pumpkins and tourists galore remind us that it is time for our annual Chicken Pie Supper. The takeout supper will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025 with pickup between 5 and 6 o'clock.

The menu includes chicken and gravy topped with biscuits, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, peas, cranberry sauce and pumpkin cake with cream cheese frosting.

The requested donation is \$15.

Call Martha Thompson at 802-362-3473 or Lisa Towslee at 802-362-3076 to reserve a dinner.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Prudential Committee met via Zoom and we were joined by new member, Jim Comar.

The committee was reminded that Bruce Fielding mows our lawn and Peggy Brockett fills the planter in front of the church with beautiful petunias. The church is grateful for these gifts which help make our church look inviting. Thank you!

Recently kitchen help have experienced difficulty with the water pressure. Lisa Hess offered to call GSK plumbing to come solve the problem.

The church office needs a new computer that can run Windows 11 which will help update our bookkeeping methods. The Prudential Committee okayed the purchase.

At the same time, the printer needs updating. The old copier will be replaced with a black and white printing model adequate for our needs.

A committee will soon be formed to work on the budget in preparation for Annual Meeting in February. Matthew Sommons will explore the possibility of getting property insurance at a lower rate than is now being paid and will report to the committee at the next meeting on Oct. 15th at 5:00 P.M.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTHSHIRE

The Council met on Sept. 4, 2025 and said goodbye to Rev. Dave Frederickson of Zion Episcopal Church and chairman of The Interfaith Council. He has started several new programs at Zion including a monthly community dinner which each month honors a non-profit group. David will be missed.

Yvonne Lodico, who has been active in helping refugees settle in our area, spoke about ICE interventions and how people can help. A Signal group is being formed to alert concerned people in the community of an ICE presence and the best way that group could help.

Condolences to Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg, the minister at a Pawlet church, whose husband, also a minister, died recently.

The Council will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Eve Service to be held at Christ Our Savior (St. Paul's) on Tuesday, Nov. 25th at 7:00 P.M.

Our next meeting is Thursday, Oct 23rd to be held at The Dorset United Church and will be our Annual Meeting.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



"The Lord is my Shepherd..."

Join us at 10:30 for our Sunday morning services in our very cozy Fellowship Room!
Pastor Theresa delivers thoughtful sermons full of enthusiasm and good humor!

COMMUNITY

FOOD

CUPBOARD

A poster titled "October Wish List" for the "Community Food Cupboard". It features illustrations of various baked goods like croissants, bread, and a muffin. The text encourages families to engage in baking together and lists items needed for baking. It also provides drop-off locations and a "thank you" message with a CFC logo.

October Wish List
Community Food Cupboard

October is "Baking Together Month"

Set aside electronics for a bit and engage in an activity that the family can enjoy together. It's getting cold and time to turn the ovens back on for a cozy day of baking. We hope you'll donate these items to help our families:

- ~ Flour (Regular or Gluten-free)
- ~ Sugar (white or brown)
- ~ Brownie/Cake Mix
- ~ Chocolate Chips
- ~ Apple sauce
- ~ Vegetable Oil
- ~ Condensed or evaporated milk
- ~ Baking pans

Drop-off locations: Manchester Town Hall, Shaw's, Manchester Library, Dorset Post Office, Christ Our Savior Parish, First Congregational Church, Dorset Church.

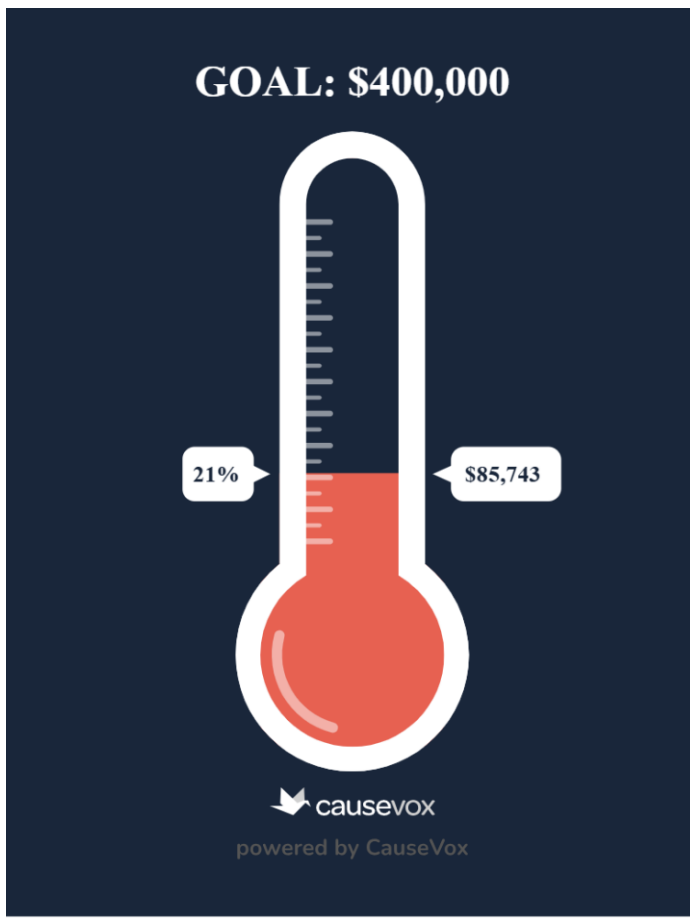
thank you
CFC

BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The committee members have begun their solicitation in the community. Of course, we want everything to happen quickly with the donations, but actually we are learning patience is a virtue. We have faith that it will all work out in due time.

We are also keeping a positive outlook on the start of the work on the wall. The owner of All Season Construction, who is doing the work and the fabricator for the support beams, made a visit to the church last Thursday. That is a good thing. We are just waiting for a new start date. All in all, we are moving in the right direction!

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman



THE
PRESERVATION
FUND IS AT
\$85,743.08
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR DONATIONS!

OUR CHURCH IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO OFFER

OUR FACILITY TO THE FOLLOWING AA GROUPS EACH WEEK.

Breakfast with your Higher Power: Monday-Friday 7:30-8:30 am

Equinox Group: Monday-Friday: NOON -1:00 pm

The Depth & Weight Group: Thursday 6:00-7:00 pm

NOTE: These AA groups will be meeting at the Congregational Church during out construction

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev Dr Theresa Taylor: (802) 535-7710

First Baptist Church: (802) 362-1555

Website: www.seektheson.org

My office door is always open for visitors. Here are my office hours:

Mondays - 12:00-4:00

Tuesdays - 9:00-1:00

Wednesdays - 9:00-1:00

I would also delight in home visits. Contact me if you are interested.

Text or call: (802) 535-7710.

Email: revtheresa67@gmail.com

CALENDAR of CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER

- 1 Bible Basics: God's love letter to each of us at 6:00 pm via zoom
- 5 Worship service w/communion at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Room
- 6 Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda Hulett's house at 2:00 pm
- 7 Prayer & Study Group chapters 6-7 at 7:00 pm via zoom
- 8 Bible Basics at 6:00 pm via zoom
Preservation Meeting at 7:00 pm via zoom
- 12 Worship Service at 10:30 in the Fellowship Room
- 15 Prudential Meeting at 5:00 pm via zoom
Bible Basics at 6:00 via zoom
Missions and Outreach meeting at 7:00 pm via zoom
- 16 Chicken Pie Take-Out Dinner at the church
- 19 Worship Service at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Room
- 20 Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda Hulett's house at 2:00 pm
- 21 Deacon Meeting at 3:00 pm at the Church
Prayer & Study Group chapters 8-9 at 7:00 pm via zoom
- 22 Bible Basics at 6:00 pm via zoom
- 23 Interfaith Council Meeting at 11:45 at the Dorset Church
- 26 Worship Service at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Room
- 29 Bible Basics at 6:00 pm via zoom

FLOWERS

Oct. 5: Lisa Towslee

Oct. 12: Lisa Towslee

Oct. 19: Carol Lattuga in loving memory of mom, Mary Moore

Oct. 26: Peggy Brockett in loving memory of Dottie & Harvey Brophy



MAY WE ALL BE AS JOYUL AS TIGGER!