



From Early 1900 (Manchester Historical Society)

“SpiritSpark” 

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

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Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Sommons

August 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Dear Church Family,

Nine years ago, I started serving as your settled pastor. I was fresh out of seminary and excited about this new opportunity that God had provided for us to “do life together.” We’ve been side-by-side through many different experiences. The children’s Sunday School class grew large enough to put on a Christmas play and then dwindled again. Happily, the adult class has remained steady, and many meaningful lessons have become part of our lives. We’ve enjoyed worshiping God together with the organ and choir as well as new instruments and songs. The pandemic of 2020 introduced us to Zoom, giving us new options to connect for

worship and small groups. We've celebrated holidays with special traditions and creativity. There were many delicious meals together at church, in one another's homes, and in the great outdoors. Missionaries have come to meet us and tell us about their work in the world so we can better pray and support them. Our faith has grown deeper as we walked with each other through grief as well as joyful times. Through it all, I believe that we have loved each other and everyone that God brings our way. I am honored to have been entrusted with the role of being your pastor, and you will always be precious to me. As our paths diverge, I hope we will continue to hold one another in prayer until we meet again in our forever home in heaven.

Love,
Pastor Rebecca

DEDICATION of CHARLOTTE DOMBROSKI



Charlotte shown here with
Jacob, Brittany, Wilder and
Grandparents & Great
Grandparent

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Prudential Committee met on July 11, 2025. The treasurer's report was reviewed and giving has been steady.

Matt reported that the art teacher that rented space last year will be renting space again this summer.

The committee finalized details of the pastoral package for Pastor Theresa.

Matt Sommons has agreed to stay on as head of the Prudential Committee until our annual meeting in 2026 and we will meet via Zoom.

Although we do not normally meet in August, we will this year to finish up any lingering details. That meeting is scheduled for Aug. 21.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

MISSION and OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The committee met on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 7 PM via zoom.

We will continue to support Theresa and Ken Taylor's Ministry and TLAfrica. Pastor Rebecca will give an update about this mission.

The committee decided that, instead of supporting one of the many larger causes as we do throughout the year, we would use the month of August to focus on replenishing our local First Baptist Church fund. This will allow us to give to the many local projects that are dear to our hearts.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7 at 7 PM via Zoom

Thank you for all the support you give to us in deciding who needs a donation.
God bless you all.



Secretary, Linell Pike

2025 CHURCH PICNIC (AND FIREWORKS) AT THE REC!



INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTHSHIRE

The Council does not meet in the summer months, but this summer did conduct a very successful Vacation Discovery Camp.

They will meet again on September 4, 2025 at the Dorset Church.

Submitted by Martha Thompson

CE MUSINGS for AUGUST, 2025

Faithfulness is the next Fruit of the Spirit that we will focus on. Faithfulness is the loyalty to God no matter what the circumstances. It involves the belief in things we can not necessarily see or touch. We are helped by the Holy Spirit and God's Word to show us what God expects of us. Here are some books that may also help you with various aspects of faithfulness in your daily life. As always feel free to ask questions.

Faith, Hope, Love: What Really Matters by *Our Daily Bread Ministries*: This book is a year's worth of daily devotions on what faith looks like in our walk with Jesus. These devotions are short and filled with great insights and relevant Bible verses.

Pleasing God: 11 Ways to Make Him Smile by *Jun-ho Seo*: This title sold me as soon as I read it. It is a different perspective on how to live out our faith in a way that is pleasing God. It gives great suggestions along with Biblical truths. If you feel discouraged about your faith walk turn to this book which provides a smiling outlook.

Believe For It: Passing on Faith to the next Generation by *CeCe Winans*: This is a fascinating read that follows the life of a prominent gospel singer. Her stories of her struggles and joys of living out her faith provide great examples of perseverance. She emphasizes ways to keep a conversation going to the next generation about the importance of faith. There are also great questions at the end of each chapter if you would like to read it with a young person in your life.

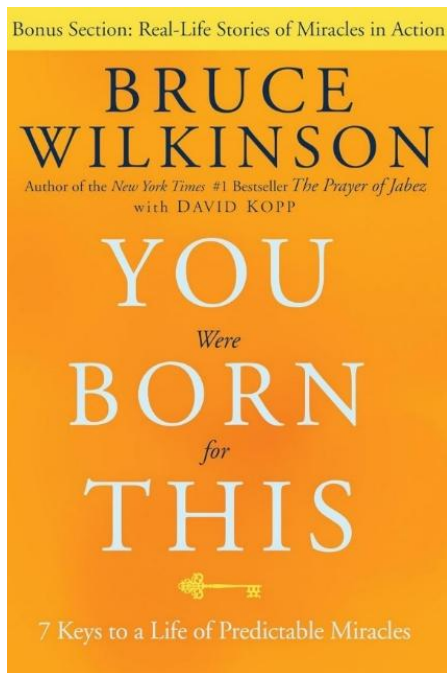
Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Theresa Taylor

DIACONATE REPORT

Praying each of you are enjoying the summer.

- We are working on plans for our temporary move out of the building for the Bonnet Street wall repairs. This work is expected to start early September. The plan is to use VFW for our Sunday service. We appreciate the VFW allowing us to use the facilities. We also thank Lisa Hess for being the liaison for us with the VFW. Stay tune for more announcements about the upcoming construction.
- We hosted a baby shower for Charlotte May Dombroski on July 16. We celebrated the dedication of Charlotte and got to know her extended family. We were blessed to spend time showering our youngest family with gifts, loves and lots of prayers. Thanks to those who participated.
- On August 10th we have the honor of celebrating the engagement of Natalie Sommons and Jason Buffermeyer during the 10:30 fellowship hour. Please join us and congratulate their upcoming wedding.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Taylor



The FBC Prayer Group is starting a new book on September 9th at 7:00 pm via Zoom. *You Were Born for This* is about a “Life of Predictable Miracles”. If you would like to be included in the zoom link, let Pastor Theresa know. Please consider joining us!

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship is on summer break and will meet again **the first Sunday in Sept., Sept 7th. (This is a change from our usual schedule.)**

The church may be getting ready to start construction so we will need to talk about our plans including Chicken Pie Supper.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

STREET FEST July 11, 2025



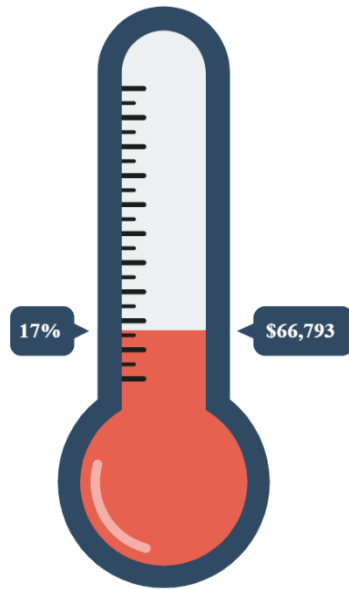
Thank you to Paul, Bryan, Dottie, Ken, Theresa, Jerry and Pastor Rebecca for representing our church with snacks and smiles at the Street Fest!

BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

On July 24th, committee members attended our Solicitation Training at the church. Our trainer, Maeve, did a wonderful job in teaching us the “Dos, Don’ts and Hows” of soliciting. We role played to help us feel comfortable in this step. It was so helpful! We also discussed how to prepare to talk to our prospective donors by researching their annual giving.

We are now a step closer to “getting in the trenches” to secure donors for our projects to update and preserve our beautiful “little red brick church on the corner of Bonnet and Main Street”. It has been a slow process, but better to feel confident and get it right the first time!
Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

GOAL: \$400,000



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THE PRESERVATION
FUND STANDS AT
\$66,793.91. THANK
YOU FOR YOUR
GIFTS AND
DONATIONS!

**Dottie Sundquist is inviting everyone to celebrate Bryan’s 75th birthday on Saturday, August 16 at 6:15 pm at the Arlington Common. (next to the Arlington Inn)
RSVP by August 8th to Dottie 802-375-6127.
GREAT MUSIC and GREAT PEOPLE!
Mexican fare and cake will be served. Note: No presents please.**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD



AN INVITATION from the UNITED CHURCH of DORSET & EAST DORSET

 United Church of Dorset & East Rupert 

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday August 5th from 5:30 to 7:00

Menu

- Roast Turkey
- Mashed potatoes
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Glazed carrots
- Spring Green Peas
- Cranberry sauce
- Assorted desserts

Gluten free available

*All are welcome for a **free** dinner.
Bring your family and friends
This is a community dinner, we hope to see you there*

143 Church Street, Dorset
Call for reservations
802 867-2260

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: 12:00-1:00 pm

Thursday Group: 6:00-7:00 pm

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 is open and eager to meet with church family. She can meet with you in person, over the phone, or through zoom. Her number and email are listed above. Feel free to reach out to her.

CALENDAR of CHURCH ACTIVITIES for AUGUST

3 Worship Service with Communion at 9:30 am

7 Mission and Outreach Meeting via zoom at 7 pm

10 Worship Service at 9:30 am

10 Fellowship Time celebrating Natalie & Jason's engagement at 10:30 am.

12 Uplift Cancer Support Group at 2:30 at Linda Hulett's home

16 Bryan Richheimer's 75th birthday celebration in Arlington

17 Worship Service with Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor preaching

21 Job Bible Study meeting at the church at 2:30 pm

21 Prudential Meeting at 4:30 pm at the church

24 Worship Service at 9:30 am, Rebecca and Matthew Sommons' last Sunday

26 Uplift Cancer Support Group at 2:30 at Linda Hulett's home

31 Worship Service at 9:30 am, Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor's 1st Sunday as Interim Pastor

FLOWERS

Aug. 3: Lisa Hess in honor of her birthday

Aug. 10: Russ & Glenna Taxter in loving memory of Aunt Max Chapin

Aug. 17: Carol Lattuga in loving memory of Charles Moore

Aug. 24: Debbie Hayes McGraw in loving memory of Dick & Nadine Hayes

Aug. 31: Martha Thompson in loving memory of brother Bill Krakaukas

GREETERS

Aug. 3: Alvie McKinstry, Maurie Hill

Aug. 10: Lisa Holden, Martha Thompson

Aug. 17: Dottie Sundquist, Lisa Towslee

Aug. 24: Cathy and Jim Comar

Aug. 31: Russ and Glenna Taxter