



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. Theresa Taylor

September 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Happy Labor Day!

What a privilege to serve as your interim pastor. I am truly blessed!

It seems important to keep this verse in mind as we ponder Labor Day. Each of us has a particular work that we tend to focus on depending on our season of life. Work for each of us looks different. Regardless of what your "work" looks like....remember to do all things in a manner that glorifies God. Let your love for the Lord shine through in all your actions and words.

Speaking of work...September will find us rolling up our sleeves to prepare for the Bonnet Street construction. Check out the Diaconate report for more details. The Preservation committee has done a tremendous job creating the capital campaign documents. Now it is time for them to approach prospective donors. Finally, we as members will be voting on the new proposed Church Leadership Council as our new governing system. All of these items require our prayers!

As my work begins here, I will be having office hours 3 days a week. These hours are listed below. They will begin on September 8th and keep an eye on the bulletin for minor adjustments. I would love it if you drop in or make an appointment. I am also eager to meet with you at home if that works best. We will also start providing home communion for those who are homebound. Finally, I love meeting and greeting our neighbors. Let me know of any event you may think I should attend.

Let's work together for God's glory as we transition through the upcoming changes. I am here to help in any way possible.

Office hours:

Monday - noon -4pm

Tuesday & Wednesday 9am - 1pm.

Pastor Theresa

MEETING NOTIFICATION

The members of the First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT are hereby notified to meet in person at their House of Worship in Manchester Center, VT or by Zoom or phone following worship on September 7, 2025 for the following purposes:

1. To vote on the proposed new governance for the church board known as the Church Leadership Council (CLC)
2. Discuss construction and temporary relocation plans,
3. To hear, discuss and act upon any other business proper to come before the congregation.

Dottie Sundquist
Church Clerk

DIACONATE REPORT

Many thanks go out to those who helped with Natalie and Jason's engagement celebration. Yummy food, warm fellowship and the excitement of new love made for a wonderful time. (Photo page 6)

We also extend our gratitude to all of you involved in putting together the farewell luncheon for Matt and Rebecca. What a beautiful send off. Of course, the occasion was mixed with sadness for their leaving, but excitement on this next journey God has for them in Philadelphia. To God be the glory!

September 6th the Deacons will host a work party which will include a chicken taco salad lunch. There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship room to help bring some of the toppings. We will have a chore list and all will find a chore to fit your energy and ability. Some of the chores include: moving the pews, bagging the cushions, packing up the Bibles and hymnals, and many more tasks. If you know of a young person who would be willing to help move some of the heavier items, please invite them. Let Pastor Theresa know if you are planning on attending.

September 7th is also starting out fairly busy at First Baptist as we prepare for construction on the Bonnet St. wall. **After further discussions the deacons have decided to try keep our services in the fellowship room beginning on September 7th. We will also jump ahead to our regular service time at 10:30.** Mary Martha will host their breakfast meeting at 8:30. Service will begin at 10:30. Immediately following the service is a membership meeting to vote on the new Church Leadership Council model for our governance. There are copies of this new plan available on the table under the bulletin board. There will also be the chance to discuss construction plans and any other business.

We need you to pray for all of these moving pieces. Yes, put together they may appear overwhelming, but break them into smaller pieces and it is very doable! God will be the focus of all of this, and we will have the honor watching Him work. Please contact me with any questions, concern, or suggestions. I would love to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Theresa

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Prudential Committee met on Aug. 21, 2025.

Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to hold worship services in the Fellowship Hall while construction in the sanctuary is going on. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

The church had received the very generous offer to use VFW space during the span of construction. This offer was seriously considered but it was decided to make things work at our building. AA will be moving during the period of construction.

Matthew Sommons has kindly offered to remain Prudential Committee chair. He will set the agenda and conduct the meetings via Zoom until Annual Meeting in February.

Jim Comar has been invited to join the Prudential Committee during this time pending a vote.

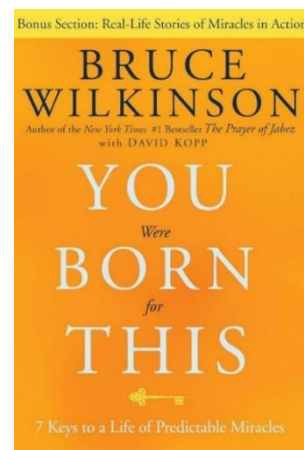
Arrangements will be made for the Taylors to have access to Zoom and the church will continue to support this.

The next Prudential Committee meeting will be on Sept. 18th at 5:00 P.M.

Prudential Committee members are encouraged to participate in the work party on Saturday beginning at 10 A.M. There will be food!

Martha Thompson, Secretary

What do you think God is doing right now?
Is he sitting around listening to angel choirs?
Or does he have an agenda for earth?
The Prayer & Book Discussion group will meet on September 9th at 7 pm via zoom.
We will be beginning *You Were Born for This* by Bruce Wilkinson.
Let Pastor Theresa know if you would like to join us!



FAREWELL LUNCHEON!

Pastor Rebecca served from August 7, 2016-August 25, 2025! Thank you, Rebecca!

(Many more photos on the church website. Just click on Rebecca's picture.)



Pastor Rebecca & Matt
(Photo by Russ)



Matt's Guitar in background
Thank you for the music, Matt!
(Photo by Dottie S.)



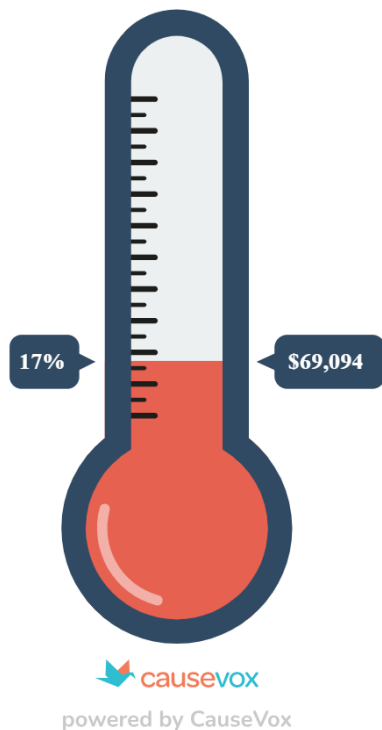
Photo by Yvonne Lodico

BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Building Preservation Committee continues to work very hard. I am sure you will all be very glad that we have entered the next step in our process of trying to restore our church building. Members of this committee have started making contacts with potential donors. All committee members, plus Cathy and Lisa H., have signed Confidentiality Agreements, so please do not ask for any information as they do their work. They cannot talk to you about their progress. The committee will inform you of information if and when appropriate. Just trust the process and keep praying. We will eventually have our beloved church back in pristine shape! This we know!

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

GOAL: \$400,000



Our Preservation Total stands at \$69,094.40. Thank you for your on-going contributions!

MARY and MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

There are a few news items about The Mary Martha Fellowship,

1. The fellowship will resume meetings on Sept. 7th at 8:30 A.M.
2. The church worship will return to its usual time at 10:30 A.M.
3. The congregation will be worshipping in Fellowship Hall while the construction is being done and that begins on or about Sept. 9th.
4. There is going to be a very important work party on Sat., Sept. 6th at 10 A.M. to move the pews, pack pew cushions, bibles and hymnals, etc. and turn Fellowship Hall into worship space. **Your help is needed.** "The fair sex" can probably do a lot of the work to prepare Fellowship Hall for our worship space as well as packing bibles and hymnals into totes.
5. A date has been suggested for the Chicken Pie Supper- Oct. 16th. This will be discussed at our meeting on Sept. 7th in Fellowship Hall.

Glenna is preparing refreshments and she is one of our outstanding cooks, so you know refreshments will be yummy. **See you Sat. the 6th and Sun. the 7th !**

Martha Thompson, Secretary

CE MUSINGS for SEPTEMBER

We will look at “Gentleness” this month. This Fruit of the Spirit deals with keeping our demeanor, words and actions in a peace filled manner. Certainly not easy when we are experiencing, hurt or anger. These resources help to discover how to have a more Christ like approach.

Conform to His Image: Biblical, Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation by Kenneth D Boa
This is a comprehensive guide to cultivate our spiritual maturity. This takes an in depth look at not just Gentleness, but all the Spiritual Gifts. It gives practical advice on how to live out these gifts in an increasingly hostile environment.

Courageous Gentleness: Following Christ’s Example of restrained Strength by Mary Ann Froehlich
This book sounds amazing! It provides everyday advice on living out “Gentleness” in all of our relationships. She emphasizes Jesus’s approach and provides insight into putting it to work in our lives.

The Allure of Gentleness: Defending the Faith in the Manner of Jesus by Dallas Willard
This is a more academic read, but still provides down to earth strategies for living out a “Gentleness” filled life.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Theresa

The INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTSHIRE

The next meeting of Interfaith Council will be on Thursday, Sept 4, 2025 at the Dorset United Church at 11:45 A.M.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



We love to celebrate milestones! Natalie Sommons & Jason Buffenmeyer are engaged to be married on November 8th, so we celebrated their engagement with a Church Brunch! Best wishes to this wonderful couple!

COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD



September Wish List

Community Food Cupboard

School Begins!

The beginning of the school year is hectic with new activities and schedules. Our September wish list is for quick and easy dinner items that will help families get back into the swing of the school year!

Rice and Pasta Meal Mixes
Canned Soup, Stew, Or Chili
Canned Tuna, Salmon, or Spam
Canned Vegetables
Pasta Sauce
Cooking Oil
Dishwashing Soap and Sponges
Paper Towels



thank you
CFC

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

MISSIONS and OUTREACH COMMITTEE

A short update: The committee will continue to support Seek the Son Ministry. For September, the need is to replenish our Mission Fund at First Baptist Church.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 18 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Again, thank you all for your support to all these causes.

Secretary, Linell Pike

God bless you all 🙏

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 beginning September 1st 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 SEPTEMBER

- 4 Interfaith Council at Dorset Church at 11:45
- 4 Diaconate in the fellowship room at 3 pm
- 6 Work party and luncheon (see Diaconate report) at 10:00 am
- 7 Mary & Martha meeting in the fellowship room at 8:30am
- 7 Church Service in the Fellowship Room at 10:30 am/church meeting following**
- 9 Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda Hulett's home at 2:30 pm
- 9 Prayer & Study Group chapters 1-3 from "You Were Born for This"
- 14 Church Service in the Fellowship Room at 10:30
- 18 Prudential via zoom at 5:00 pm
- 18 Mission & Outreach via zoom at 7pm
- 21 Church Service in the Fellowship Room at 10:30
- 23 Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda Hulett's home at 2:30 pm
- 23 Prayer & Study Group chapters 1-3 from "You Were Born for This"
- 28 Church Service in the Fellowship Room at 10:30

FLOWERS

- Sept. 7: Jim West in memory of father, Lewis West
- Sept. 14: Martha Thompson in memory of Joe Stannard
- Sept. 21: Lorraine Wilkins in memory of Jackie Perry
- Sept. 28: Lisa Towslee

Photo on front page: We think this photo was taken by Lyn Campney a few years ago.

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. Thank you for sharing, Lyn!

In July, Dave Cobb went to be with the Lord. Dave was a gifted organist and spent many summers playing our organ for our Sunday services.

We always looked forward to walking into church on a Sunday morning and seeing Dave and Mary there. We knew summer had arrived!

Dave could play "God Bless America" like no one else! The organ would fill the church and spill out onto the streets! We sorely miss them and pray for comfort for Mary and her family.

