



“SpiritSpark”

The First Baptist Church
of Manchester Center, VT

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

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor

“EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE”

(Captured by Dottie Sundquist at The Dormy Grill 2024)

APRIL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

[Making Wishes: Quotes, Thoughts, & a Little Poetry for Every Day of the Year](#)

Richelle E. Goodrich,

Easter is...

Joining in a birdsong,
Eyeing an early sunrise,
Smelling yellow daffodils,
Unbolting windows and doors,
Skipping through meadows,

Cuddling newborns,
Hoping, believing,
Reviving spent life,
Inhaling fresh air,
Sprinkling seeds along furrows,
Tracking in the mud.

Easter is the soul’s first taste of spring.



Amen! This whimsical poem summarized wonderfully the feelings that Easter sparks in me. What a splendid privilege to be able to honor our King through Easter celebrations.

I am so grateful for each of you and your patience and participation in helping us move back into the sanctuary. Hats off to the preservation committee, for raising the funds and orchestrating the various parts that needed to happen to finish phase 1. It is very impressive. We will press on with phase two in the near future.

As spring comes to life all around us in our valley, I would love to hear of activities you desire to have to continue to bring hope to our Manchester and surrounding neighbors. We need to continue the energy of Easter to be Jesus with skin on to our community. I would love to hear your thoughts.

My prayer for each of us is that we can discover and experience Jesus Christ in fresh and exciting ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Theresa

CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Reconstruction is progressing and awaiting contractor work.
March 21 is Clean Up Day at FBC when all available areas will be on the list!
Share the sparkle and join in!

Sunday worship services offer opportunities for anyone to participate. Roles include:

Worship Assistant Serving Communion Fellowship Refreshments

“It takes a village”, as the saying goes.

We are blessed with many active members who have volunteered.

Thank you! Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall on clipboards by the calendar.

Plans for FBC's anniversary celebration are underway. TBC
AA returns to FBC in the spring.

Dottie Sundquist, CLC Secretary

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee had their first meeting on Wednesday, March 18th.

Members of the committee are James Comar, Lisa Hess, Jim Holden, Ray Koch, Alvie McKinstrey and Martha Thompson.

At this meeting we discussed our first task which is to plan and send out a "Core Beliefs" questionnaire to our membership.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:15.

Secretary, Martha Thompson

Message from CLC Chairperson Jim Comar

Please participate when and where you can!

Fellowship Host Responsibilities

- Make coffee. Instructions for the coffee pot will be posted in the kitchen.
- Set out plates, cups, napkins and silverware. Available in the bottom cupboard next to the refrigerator.
- Provide snacks.
- Clean counters and any dishes used.

Worship Assistant Responsibilities

- Read designated sections of the bulletin.
- Provide a Word of Preparation. Pastor can assist if you desire.
- Light candles before service.

Communion Server Responsibilities

- Provide and cut gluten free bread. Check freezer for available bread.
- Provide and put on small tray a bun to be broken.
- Place a small amount of juice in chalice.
- Arrange communion elements on the table.
- Serve the elements as indicated in the service.
- Collect items, clean and store.

Thank You!

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

Members of the Mary Martha Fellowship enjoyed a breakfast meeting at the Firemen's Community Breakfast on Sunday, March 15th.

Final plans for the upcoming Pork Roast Dinner were discussed.

Easter is coming soon and we face uncertainty about the Easter cross which has been a part of our Easter service for many years. At the core of our uncertainty is whether we will be worshipping in the fellowship room or the sanctuary.

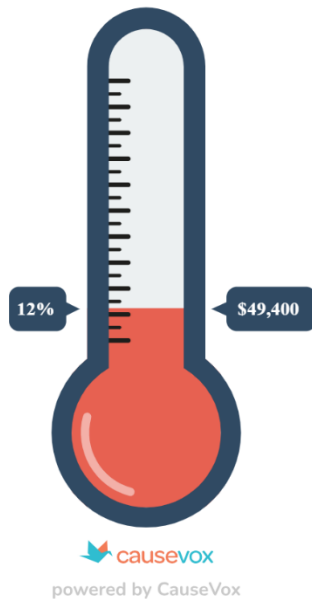
After much discussion, we decided to use the large cross, regardless of which area we are in, however, instead of the small bouquets we've made and used in the past, we hope to use single carnations which will be inserted in the cross by the congregants during the service.

The men's group, FOCUS (Fellowship of Christian Understanding), had money set aside for a project that is no longer needed, so they donated the \$100 to MMF to assist with our responsibility for buying paper goods and other supplies for our church. We thank them for thinking of us!

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, April 4, 2026, at 8:30 A.M.**, and will be a breakfast meeting.
Martha Thompson, Secretary

BUILDING PRESERVATION

GOAL: \$400,000



The Preservation Fund stands at \$49,400.53. This total reflects good and services already paid. Thank you for your continuous giving!

BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Very excited to tell you we are on the finishing touches to Phase 1 and beginning Phase 2 which kind of overlap. We are trying our best to be in the Sanctuary for Easter, but everything will not be back in place. The runners have to be rebound/cut, the curtain rod in the front is being moved down, and all of the rugs will be professionally cleaned. As Phase 2 will require painting the front wall, the rod is being moved down not so any mess is made before the rug is cleaned. Please have continued patience as we get these last few items completed. We ask that you do not move anything else into the Sanctuary without asking to ensure that this work can be completed as quickly and as easily as possible.

We have secured a contractor for Phase 2 who will be working with our Structural Engineer to rebuild the foundation. I am not sure how long this will take right now. We have to get the two together so they can discuss it. I can not imagine it would take that long.

Phase 3, the roof, is in the very beginning stages of being started. I will contact the Zoning Board this week to see what has to be done.

All of this work has taken a long time and a great deal of effort. We are continuing our Capital Campaign and have received some very generous donations for which we are truly grateful! This work could not have been completed without our supporters and the very dedicated people on this committee.

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTHSHIRE

The Interfaith Council met on March 5, 2026 at Zion Episcopal Church.

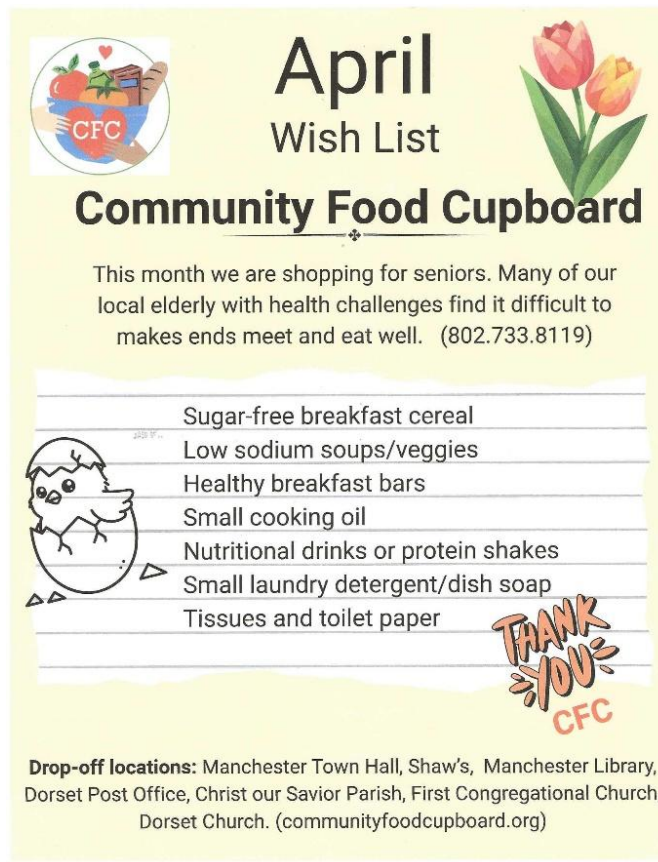
Martha Mackey was a guest and talked about upcoming plans for VIA which I think stands for Vermont in Action. They have been involved in the migrant crisis.

Neighbor to Neighbor reported that they have hired a new Administrative Assistant, Liza Dee. N to N is pleased to have this capable help for Danielle who has been carrying the load alone. Danielle Moran, who is our new director, had previously been the Administrative Assistant and applied for the Director's position when our previous director, Elisa Denato, resigned.

The IFCN is planning an **Easter Sunrise Service at The Dormy Grill at the top of Union St at 6:00 A.M.** Pastor Theresa will be participating. Attendees are invited to the Congregational Church for coffee and doughnuts following the service.

The next IFCN meeting is on May 7, 2026 at St. James Episcopal Church.
~submitted by Martha Thompson

COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD



The poster features a yellow background with a white list of items. At the top left is a circular logo with 'CFC' and food items. At the top right is a tulip illustration. At the bottom left is a cartoon chick. At the bottom right is a 'THANK YOU CFC' graphic. The text is centered and reads: 'April Wish List Community Food Cupboard This month we are shopping for seniors. Many of our local elderly with health challenges find it difficult to makes ends meet and eat well. (802.733.8119) Sugar-free breakfast cereal Low sodium soups/veggies Healthy breakfast bars Small cooking oil Nutritional drinks or protein shakes Small laundry detergent/dish soap Tissues and toilet paper Drop-off locations: Manchester Town Hall, Shaw's, Manchester Library, Dorset Post Office, Christ our Savior Parish, First Congregational Church, Dorset Church. (communityfoodcupboard.org)'

April
Wish List

Community Food Cupboard

This month we are shopping for seniors. Many of our local elderly with health challenges find it difficult to makes ends meet and eat well. (802.733.8119)

- Sugar-free breakfast cereal
- Low sodium soups/veggies
- Healthy breakfast bars
- Small cooking oil
- Nutritional drinks or protein shakes
- Small laundry detergent/dish soap
- Tissues and toilet paper

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

ABC/VNH ANNUAL GATHERING 2026

April 10-11, 2026 | Fireside Inn & Suites, West Lebanon

Join us for a weekend of **earnest worship**, **rich teaching**, and **meaningful fellowship** at the **Fireside Inn & Suites** West Lebanon. Connect with fellow **ABC/VNH pastors and leaders**, share insights, and build lasting relationships.

Go to: <https://abc-vermontnewhampshire.com> for more information and to register.

SUMMER DISCOVERY CAMP!



hey kids -
are you
ready?!

Summer Discovery Camp 2026

➔ *Save the Date* ⬅

July 20-24

Presented again *FREE* by these area churches:
First Congregational, Zion Episcopal, St James Episcopal,
Federated East Arlington, First Baptist,
and St Peter's Episcopal.

Camp this year will be @ First Congregational in Manchester Village. 802.362.2709



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

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 our construction.

CALENDAR of CHURCH ACTIVITIES for APRIL

- 2 Maundy Thursday Potluck and Communion Service at 5 pm
- 3 Good Friday Community prayer and Meditation from noon to 3pm
- 4 Mary & Martha Fellowship breakfast and meeting at 8:30 am
- 5 Easter Sunrise Service at Dormy Grill (FCC sanctuary if bad weather) at 6 am
Easter Service at FBC (Note the time change) at 10:00 am
- 6 Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda H's home at 2 pm
- 7 Prayer group/book study via zoom at 7 pm
- 8 Building Preservation meeting at FBC at 4 pm
CLC meeting at the church at 5 pm
- 10 ABC/VNH Annual gathering 9 am -3 pm
- 11 ABC/VNH Annual gathering 9 am -3 pm
- 12 Sunday School at 9:30 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am
- 15 Pastoral Search Committee at 5:15 pm
- 18 FOCUS Men's breakfast & service activity at 9 am
- 19 Sunday School at 9:30 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am
- 20 Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda H's home at 2 pm
- 21 Prayer group/book study via zoom at 7 pm
- 26 Sunday School at 9:30 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am

FLOWERS

April 5: Peggy Brockett in loving memory of Harvey & Dottie Brophy

April 12: Lisa Hess in celebration of Ashley's birthday

April 19: Ray & Judy Koch in loving memory of Sienna Brosmer

April 26: Kay Keith in loving memory of Craig Keith



**Easter service
will be at 10:00 am!
Please note the time change!**