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"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. Dr. Theresa Taylor

May 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

“Keep your face to the sunshine, and you cannot see the shadows”. Helen Keller

This quote always fills me with a sense of hope and wonder. May is the time where I totally enjoy being out in the sunshine. It warms me from the inside out and reminds me of the goodness of God and his creation.

At FBC this month we have the pleasure of celebrating mom along with Pentecost. Please join us on May 10th at 8:30 in the fellowship room where we will enjoy a breakfast which the gentlemen of the church will be preparing for the ladies. All are welcome.

Pentecost this year is on May 24, Memorial Day weekend. It is an incredible celebration of the Holy Spirit and how it unites all believers, regardless of language, together as one global body of and for Christ. It is a symbol of God's comfort & counsel to us by providing us with the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and believers in Jerusalem as flames that appeared as "tongues of fire".

May will also find us continuing in the sermon series “questions that Jesus asked”. This has been a unique opportunity to have our questions answered by looking at the questions that Jesus poses to us. I would love to hear what sermon topics you may want to learn about during the summer months.

Our adult and youth Sunday school class began a new series: “How do we live as Christians”. Please consider joining us either in person or by Zoom. Class begins at 9:30 AM in the fellowship room and

lasts 30 minutes. All are welcome. You may pop in for one time or for all. It is a time of learning from each other about what God's word is asking us to do. We would love your company!

Please know that I would love to connect with you during May in any way that makes you feel most comfortable. Please feel free to call, text, email or let me know in person. I pray for each of you on a regular basis and love to hear what is going on in your life. Please remember what God teaches us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

In God's love,
Pastor Theresa

CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Church Leadership Council (CLC) is thrilled with the rallied support allowing a return to our beautiful sanctuary on April 5, Easter Sunday. Thank you one and all! The organ will remain protected from dust and covered until the wall repair and plastering is completed.

The worship bulletin will be shortened to conserve paper. Hymnals will be used both in church and at home. Anyone who worships via zoom may contact our Church Clerk, Dottie Sundquist (802)375-6127, and a hymnal will be made available to you for at-home use. Announcements and the church schedule will be included on an insert.

Please share ideas for celebrating our anniversary with any CLC member. Some interesting possibilities are afloat!

We are considering moving to a 9:30 am year round worship service. A decision will be made by the membership at a future meeting.

In case of an emergency at church - do not call 911 - **call 1-802-362-2121**

Dottie Sundquist
Church Clerk

On April 19, 2026, we were delighted to officially welcome Joyce Scribner as a new member to our FBC family!



FBC Master Warning Notice of Special Meeting

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 Sunday, May 17, for the following purposes:

1. To hear an update from the Preservation Committee and hold a discussion on the roof.
2. To hear, discuss, and act upon any other business proper to come before the congregation.

Church Clerk

Dottie Sundquist

April 29, 2026

MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship met on April 4, 2026 for breakfast and a business meeting.

Glenna, Judy, and Barbara T. prepared the Easter cross with greens and white carnations. This year the congregation will join in with carnations instead of bouquets. Peggy Brockett of Lily of the Valley donated the flowers as she always does.

In old business Treasurer Judy Koch reported a profit of \$1160 from our Pork Dinner. Best ever for this takeout dinner.

Mary Martha Fellowship members encourage all from the church to join us for a Mother's Day breakfast which will be prepared by the gentlemen of the church with a little help from the ladies. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 A.M. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



The Ham and Strawberry Dinner date was discussed and will probably be June 25th.

Along with our usual donations to the church and food shelves, \$200 was donated to Meals on Wheels and an additional \$250 to the church for the Fuel Fund.

As reported, our next meeting will be on Mother's Day for a "catered" breakfast.
Martha Thompson, Secretary



There are many jobs, large and small, necessary for our church to run smoothly. In order to keep the workload light for everyone, we need many people to volunteer for a small part.

As you know, there are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Room. Each responsibility is explained below. Thank you to all who have already signed up and served!

**Suggested tip: Consider teaming up with a friend for hosting fellowship time.
Less pressure and more fun!**

Fellowship Host Responsibilities

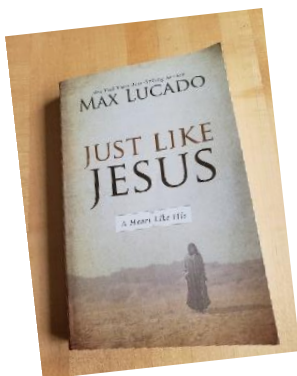
- Make coffee. Instructions for the coffee pot will be posted in the kitchen.
- Set out plates, cups, napkins and silverware. Available in the bottom cupboard next to the refrigerator.
- Provide snack.
- Clean counters and any dishes used.

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.



The next meeting of the Prayer & Book Study Group is Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm through zoom. We will be starting a new book by Max Lucado titled *Just Like Jesus – A Heart Like His*. This would be a great time for you to join us! Let Pastor Theresa know if you have questions or would like a link to the meeting.

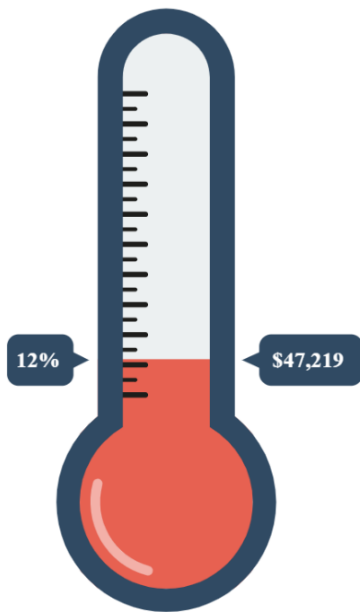
BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Good news! The carpet in the Sanctuary will be rebound on May 8th! However, all of the binding has to be done because we could not find a match to what is currently on the pieces that had to be taken up. So we need **URGENT HELP** to get all of the staples out of the rest of the carpet making it more cost effective to replace. This will enable all of it to match. So - anyone who can help prepare the carpet, please join us on Monday, May 4th at 9 am. The work party will be from 9-12, but do come and help out even if you can only stay for a shorter period of time. "Many hands make light work!" Please bring your own tools. Thank you in advance. We are making progress!

The Building Preservation Committee is calling a congregational meeting on May 17th to discuss the replacement of the roof. We will also give an update of where everything stands at this time.

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

GOAL: \$400,000



At this time the Preservation total stands at 47,219.19. This total reflects deductions for goods and services already delivered and paid. Thank you for your continuous and generous giving!

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FEED THE SOUL!

Please join us on May 12 at noon at FBC to talk about various spiritual growth topics We could also work through different books of the Bible. Bring your own lunch and join us for an hour or so, giving your soul extra nutrients. Please contact Pastor Theresa with any questions ideas or comments.

INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTHSHIRE

The last meeting of the Council was held on March 5, 2026 at the Dorset Church. One of the topics was The Kids Summer Lunch Program. This project provides food for about 250 children during the summer months when school is out and food insecurity is most likely to occur. Karen Allen has been the manager and Kate Coss joined her a couple of years ago as a co-manager.

The cost is about \$30,000 a year and, as you can imagine, prices will be higher as will be the need. Help is needed with funding, picking up food, delivering food, packing bags and helping out the day of distribution.

If you would like to help, contact the Dorset Church at 802-867-2260 or Karen Allen at 802-362-1365.

The next Interfaith meeting is on May 7, 2026 at St. James Church in Arlington at 11:45 A.M.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PRAYER TEAM

Would you like to be part of the First Baptist Prayer Team?

We believe that a vital part of our faith is to pray for the needs of each other and for those we know in the community and in the wider world.

If you are not presently part of this team and would like to be, here are some things that we want you to know.

- 1) The information learned from the prayer requests is confidential and should be kept confidential.
- 2) Prayer requests should be prayed for as soon as possible upon receiving them. Some choose to pray every day for 30 days. We just ask that you pray for the request.
- 3) Requests are not edited, and not all requests are forwarded. (We receive requests from around the world and, occasionally, receive some strange prayer requests.)
- 4) You may be removed at any time, and you can ask to be removed at any time.

If you are interested, contact Pastor Theresa for more information. She will advise the team.



Dorset Church Rummage Sale is Saturday, May 2nd. Outside tents open at 8:30 am and inside opens at 9:00 am. Check it out!

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD



May
Wish List



Community Food Cupboard

May is for Moms !!
Honor a Mom who has everything by making a food gift for a Mom who does not.



Protein Bars
Easy to pack snacks for kids
Brownie/Cake mix and Frosting
Diapers size 3 & up/Wipes
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Body Wash/Shampoo/Soap
Feminine care products

thank you!
CFC

Drop-off locations: Manchester Town Hall, Shaw's, Manchester Library, Dorset Post Office, Christ our Savior Parish, First Congregational Church, Dorset Church. (communityfoodcupboard.org) 802.733.8119

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.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION 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

CHURCH EVENTS for MAY

- 1-3: Northshire “Booktopia” All day Friday and Saturday; afternoon on Sunday
3 Adult and Youth Sunday School “How to Love Others” 9:30 am
Worship service w/Communion at 10:30 am
4 Work party to remove staples from sanctuary rugs from 9-12
Uplift Cancer Support Group at FBC at 2 pm
5 Prayer group & book study – Ch. 1 and 2 “Just like Jesus” by Max Lucado at 7 pm via zoom
7 Interfaith Council meeting at St. James Episcopal in Arlington at 11:45
Search committee meeting at FBC at 5 pm
10 **Happy Mother’s Day!**
Breakfast catered by the men of the church at 8:30 am
Mary and Martha meeting at 9 am
Worship Service at 10:30
12 Feed the Soul at noon (See details on page 5.)
13 Church Leadership Council at FBC at 5 pm
17 Adult and Youth Sunday School “What does the kingdom of God look like?” at 9:30 am
Worship service at 10:30 am
18 Uplift Cancer Support Group at FBC at 2 pm
Building preservation meeting at FBC
19 Prayer group & book study – Ch. 3 & 4 “Just like Jesus” by Max Lucado at 7 via zoom
24 Worship service Pentecost Sunday at 10:30 am
26 Feed the Soul at noon (See details on page 5.)
31 Adult and Youth Sunday School “How can I represent the kingdom of God?” at 9:30 am
Worship service at 10:30

FLOWERS

May 3: Peggy Brockett in loving memory of Grandparents Willard & Edith Thompson

May 10: **Happy Mother’s Day!**

Lorraine Wilkins in loving memory of Frances Mitchell

May 17: Jim & Cathy Comar in memory of Ken & Jean Pierce

May 24: Jim West in loving memory of Barb West

May 31: Martha Thompson in memory of mom, Edith Krakaukas

We received news of the passing of Dennis Sverduk, 92, of Melbourne, Florida. Dennis lived in



Manchester and was a member of our church for many years. He passed on December 12 at his home. He was predeceased by his wife, Marjorie Porter Sverduk. Funeral services will be held at a later date at The Brewster-Shea Funeral Home in Manchester VT, with burial in the Vermont National Veterans Cemetery in Randolph, VT.

Below is a link to his obituary from the Rutland Herald.

https://www.rutlandherald.com/obituaries/dennis-p-sverduk/article_e59e0dff-c680-5a9d-8edf-cbeaf883b362.html

(Thank you, Jeff Linebeck, for bringing this to our attention.)