

"SpiritSpark"

The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT

P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555
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fbcmanvt@gmail.com
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor

Notice how the trees in the forefront frame our church. Thank you for this photo, Dottie!

November 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

This passage remains amazingly important for my life and ministry. The image of us moving towards Jesus with all the heroes of our faith watching and cheering us on, is exhilarating to me. It doesn't matter how we move forward. We may even need to be carried at times. God and The Saints will be there rooting us on. To top off my image, Jesus did this with unbelievable joy! That to me is something to be thankful for - for the rest of eternity.

I challenge each of you to find a verse that brings thanksgiving to your lips and overflows your heart. Find ways to share this verse with those around you in unassuming ways. You can even make it anonymous. The important part is that we are blanketing our sphere of influence with God's goodness.

There are so many ways to be thankful around First Baptist. Huge gratitude for all of the preservation work that has been accomplished and eager anticipation of those projects yet to come. Grateful for new faces in the church's activities and grateful for the forever friends we work alongside in ministry. I am incredibly blessed to serve each of you and so very thankful for the love you share back with me and to our mighty Creator. Each of you reflect God's goodness!

Keep reading in order to check out some activities happening here at FBC. There will be a shoebox packing party on November 14 for Samaritan's Purse. Please join us. If you cannot make the party, it would be awesome if you could leave appropriate items for the box. There will be a collection box by the piano in the vestry.

We will also be hosting the Northshire Interfaith Ecumenical Thanksgiving service on November 24th. What an honor to open our doors and create a service around being thankful to promote unity among us all. We would love your attendance and would appreciate it if you could bring a treat to share after.

May each of you enjoy this holiday season and know that Ken and I are thankful for each of you!

In God's Love,
Pastor Theresa

CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Plans are underway for a new manger made by Alvie McKinstry and Jim Comar.
The roof project is 98% complete!

A new sound system and projector is in the works.

The Bonnet Street window next to the west entrance has been repaired inside. In the spring the outside will be done.

Russ Taxter is working on a maintenance manual.
A Thanksgiving Ecumenical service will be hosted by FBC on Tuesday November 24 at 7 PM.
The Advent Series is : The Jesus Straightaway

Dottie Sundquist
CLC Secretary

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Peggy Brockett has offered to deliver poinsettias to the church for Sundays in December. They will be $18.75 each. They are always of high quality and Peggy puts a bow on them.
Here is the plan**:** Call Peggy directly. They must all be ordered on or before November. 16th. You may select that the flowers be delivered on either December 4th or December 16th with the name or names of those you wish to memorialize. Lily of the Valley (Peggy's business) telephone number is 802-362-7181 or call her cell at 802-681-6417.



MARY MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

Members of the Mary Martha Fellowship met on Oct. 11, 2026 for a breakfast meeting.
Upcoming events were discussed. These included The Chicken Pie Supper, Oct. 15th, the Cookie Sale on December 12th, and recognition of Firemen, First Responders and Police Officers which will take place in January.

The Chicken Pie Supper was a great success. The food was top notch and MMF made over $2000. So thanks to all the wonderful cooks, kitchen workers, dishwashers and servers, many of whom individually filled in several of those jobs.

Details of the Cookie Sale will be in next month's Spirit Spark.



The group voted to again participate in the Interfaith Council's Christmas program. We agreed to provide Christmas presents for two children. Details will soon be available.
Listen for announcements and check the bulletin board.



Our next meeting will be held on November 8, 2026 at 8:30 A.M.
Martha Thompson, Secretary

BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

As the dust settles on our glorious new roof (or other unwanted things settle there) the committee has been working diligently on the foundation. Although nothing appears to be happening, I can assure you we are working on it. It is very difficult to get contractors to come, but we won't let up.
The roof will be 100% done by the end of this week or at least that's the plan.

It has been a long haul. We are very thankful for your patience and understanding. Keep our wonderful little church in your prayers. We will get there.

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman



To date we have received gifts totaling $335,688.15!
We thank everyone for this generous giving!

Another year, and it's time for Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child. Last Year First Baptist Church filled 14 shoeboxes. This year we would love to exceed that number.

Please consider filling 1 or 2 shoeboxes to help children around the world experience the love at Christmas. Shoeboxes should be designated girl or boy. Please include a large gift, hygiene items, pencils, crayons etc. There will be a list on the bulletin board in the vestry.

We will also have a packing party on November 14 at 10:00 am at church. Please join us for packing boxes and great fellowship. There will be a collection area in the vestry for items to go in the box. We will also need money to help ship the boxes.

God is so good to us; let us share God's goodness with others.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee is working on creating a church profile. Each member is working on some portion of the booklet. When each part has been completed, it will be edited and then compiled. We will share it with our Executive Minister, Jay Noll, for his approval and it will be ready to be distributed to likely candidates. Our next meeting is November 10, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
~submitted by Martha Thompson

INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTHSHIRE

The Council held their last meeting at The Israel Synagogue. Plans for the Harvest Bread Festival were finalized. The Festival was then held on Oct. 10, 2026 at Adams Park. There were many events connected with the Festival and there was a good turnout.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7**:**00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 24th at The First Baptist Church. Pastor Theresa is delivering the message. An offering of money and food will be taken at the service. This will benefit The Emergency Needs Fund which oversees The Interfaith Holiday Project. Suggested Food items**:**

stuffing mix	egg noodles
cooking oil	chicken broth
cranberry sauce	sugar
flour	spices
dishwashing soap	sponges
foil pans	aluminum foil

Other non-perishable food items would also be welcome. The service will be followed by a fellowship time. Community members who contributed to our renovations may be present, so a good turnout would be nice as we share the joy of completed work and to support Pastor Theresa.

The next Interfaith Council meeting will be on Nov. 5th at noon at Christ Our Savior.
~submitted by Martha Thompson



COMMUNITY CUPBOARD



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 NOVEMBER

1 Worship service w/Communion at 10:00 am
Adult and Youth Sunday School at 9:00 am
2 Prayer group & book study – Ch. 13-15 from *Unoffendable* at 7 pm via zoom
Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda H's home at 2 pm
5 Interfaith Council meeting at Christ Our Savior at 11:45
8 Mary & Martha Fellowship meeting at 8:30 am
8 Worship service at 10:00 am
Adult and Youth Sunday School at 9:00 am
10 Feed Your Soul at FBC at noon
Search Committee at 5:00 pm
11 Church Leadership Council at FBC at 5 pm
14 Shoebox packing party for Samaritan's Purse
15 Worship Service at 10:00 am
Adult and Youth Sunday School at 9:00 am
16 Uplift Cancer Support Group at 2 pm at Linda H's home
17 Prayer group & book study – Ch. 16-18 from *Unoffendable* at 7 pm via zoom
22 Worship Service at 10:00 am
Adult and Youth Sunday School at 9:00 am
24 Thanksgiving Ecumenical service at FBC on Tuesday, November 24 at 7 pm
29 Worship Service at 10:00 am

FLOWERS

Nov. 1: Jim & Carol Johnson in honor of Veterans Day
Nov. 8: Jim & Carol Johnson in honor of Veterans Day
Nov. 15: Lisa Towslee
Nov. 22: Lisa Towslee
Nov. 29: Lisa Towslee

