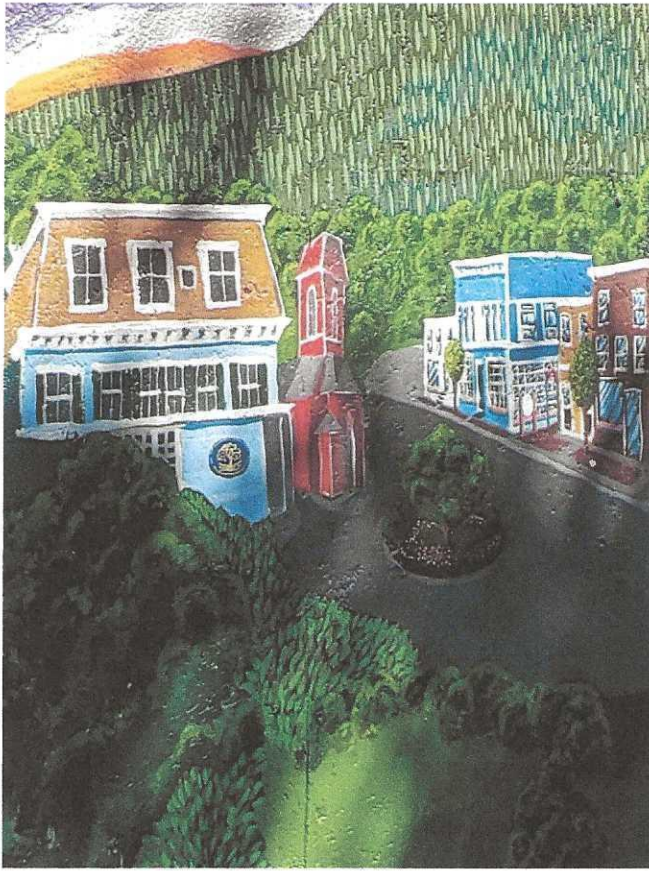




Riverwalk Mural to Celebrate Manchester (See page 7 for information.)

"SpiritSpark"



**The First Baptist Church of
Manchester Center, VT
P.O. Box 1049, Main St.**

802-362-1555

www.fbcmantv.org

fbcmantv@gmail.com

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Theresa
Taylor**

OCTOBER 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

"Let us not grow weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap the harvest, if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9

What a wonderful time of year to regroup and reflect on the importance of sowing seeds of God's goodness to our neighbors, friends and family. Yes, this may seem like the seed will never germinate, but God will continue to show you how to gently bring out the bounty of His goodness.

First Baptist has been bustling with activity in and out of the building. We are praising God for the work being done to the building. Vermont Roofing has made splendid progress on replacing our roofs. The pigeon entry point into our building has been securely closed! The window by the Bonnet Street door has been protected by a new piece of plexiglass. Various items have been painted. Silver has been polished. Informational pictures and notes have been taken to help compile a centralized manual on various parts of the workings of our building. The Main Street steps have been repaired. The bulletin board and visitor center have been artfully arranged. The fall decorations are tastefully and beautifully placed. Also, lots and lots of cleaning is being done. It is amazing to see the beauty of this wonderful building come to life. THANK YOU so much for each of you for lovingly caring for God's building. I also super appreciate all the help that went into hosting the singing men of Texas - West.

We also need to cultivate the seeds of God's love that are being sown in our community. Full-proof ways of caring for these seeds is to regularly pray for our neighbors. Let our actions of kindness speak louder than our words. Take a moment to invite someone to an event at First Baptist. We must continue to be a "beacon of hope, welcoming all" into our family.

Love,

Pastor Theresa

CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

The Church Leadership Council (CLC) met on Sept. 9, 2026.

The meeting started with good news about "the pigeon problem". Ryan Comar, Jim and Cathy's son, climbed to the belfry, chased out some pigeons and nailed down the board holding the screening. NO MORE PIGEONS in the belfry. Hurray for Ryan. The next steps are getting our neighbors to stop feeding the pigeons and getting ServPro to come and vacuum and clean the belfry.

The Council adopted the revised policy and fees notice for those using our church.

Church Cleaning

Paul Bauers, Ken Taylor and Pastor Theresa have been doing some cleaning. Alvie McKinstrey has been doing some repairs and painting and signed up to clean in the month of October. Ray and Judy Koch have signed up for November. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship room and you can also sign up digitally.

Outreach

Have you any ideas about outreach? A soup and bread or salad meal open to the community or a fun festival for kids have been suggested.

Ideas are welcome and encouraged.

Directory

Lisa Hess has been working on updating our directory information. This will soon be available.

Christian Education

Sunday School classes are being held now every Sunday and the Council would like to be ready to offer children's classes. A leader for these classes is needed. Someone ready with a planned lesson or lessons when children come along. Please speak to Pastor Theresa if this is a way you could help make our church inviting.

The congregation is invited to a prayer meeting at 6:00 o'clock in the church on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026.

Preservation

Lorraine reports the church roof is near completion and may be done by the end of the month or the beginning of October.

Church Work Party

Following worship on Oct. 4, 2026, the willing workers of our congregation will gather for a soup and sandwich lunch followed by a cleaning party to work in Joy Hall. Ken and Theresa also have some ideas. Willing hands are needed.

Next Meeting The next CLC meeting will be held on Oct. 14, 2026 at 5:00 o'clock.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee will be working on the information that will go into a church profile. This profile will ultimately be sent to possible candidates for the job of pastor. The information the congregation provided during the survey will be included in this document.

Some questions members might wish to respond to are: "What makes our congregation unique?" "What generates enthusiasm around here?" "What episodes from our congregation's history have become 'larger than life' and are retold repeatedly?" Thoughts like these can help make our profiles personal.

The committee will meet again on Oct. 20, 2026 at 5:00 o'clock.

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

A small group met on Sept.13, 2026 for a breakfast meeting.

Treasurer Judy Koch reported the Ham and Strawberry Dinner made \$1200.35. The generosity of a couple of members made the dinner especially profitable.

We voted at this time to donate \$1000 to the Fuel Fund and also purchase a long-handled duster for cleaning.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23,2026 the church hosted the "Singing Men of Texas" who performed a concert to which the community was invited. The choir were accompanied by their wives. Lisa T., along with a couple assistants, planned a dinner for them and, with help from others in the congregation and the Fellowship, served ham, potato salad, coleslaw and cookies for which they seemed very delighted.

Our next Mary Martha Fellowship meeting will be on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026 at 8:00 A.M.

It is time for the **Chicken Pie Supper** which will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026 with pick-up starting at 4:30 P.M. This take-out dinner is probably our biggest opportunity to attract the community's attention as it is a very popular dinner.

The menu features chicken pies topped with golden biscuits, mashed potatoes, green peas, butternut squash, cranberry sauce, an extra biscuit and pumpkin cake for dessert, all for \$15. Reservations may be made by calling Martha Thompson at [802-362-3473](tel:802-362-3473) or Lisa Towslee at [802-362-3076](tel:802-362-3076). Spread the word!

Martha Thompson, Secretary

WISH LIST from COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD

Low-sodium soups/veggies

Flour, Sugar

Coffee, Hot Chocolate

Small cooking oil

Shampoo/Conditioner

Small laundry detergent/dish soap

Tissues and toilet paper



THANK YOU from CFC!

The DEDICATION of MILLIE ELIZABETH RYAN



Millie with Parents Dustin & Sarah (Bovey) Ryan



Millie with Parents Dustin and Sarah, Sean and Bethany Maguire (Godparents) and Pastor Theresa Taylor

INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTHSHIRE

The Council met on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026.

The Council, in partnership with Truth and Justice, a group from the Dorset Church, are planning a "Breaking Bread" Heritage Festival at Adams park in Manchester, VT on Oct. 10, 2026 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The event will feature a wide variety of food and breads representing the different cultures that have helped make America and is a way of celebrating the 250th anniversary of American Independence. The IFCN and Truth and Justice are encouraging cultural groups, community members, food vendors, artists, performers and local organizations to participate. They are planning activities for people of all ages. Tasting portions of breads and other foods will be available for sampling at a small price. It sounds like fun for the whole family.

The next IFCN meeting will be Thursday, Oct 1, 2026 at noon. Come before for a bite to eat and some conversation.

~Martha Thompson

THE SINGING MEN OF TEXAS - WEST

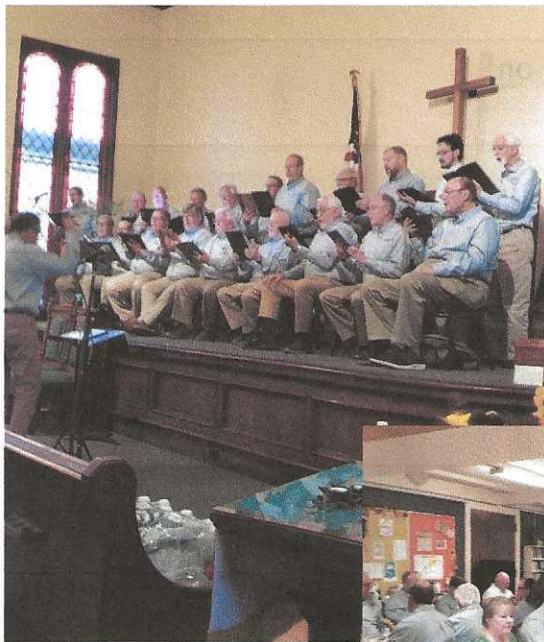
The Singing Men of Texas are one of six regional chapters, sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. They are comprised primarily of ministers of music, pastors, other church or associated staff members, and laymen actively involved in the music ministry of churches in the region. Their mission is to glorify God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through music.

Those of us in the audience on September 23rd were treated to a concert that filled our hearts and followed us home.

The music was fun, lively, jazzy, sometimes angelic, and always inspirational. The talented organist made our grand piano sound truly amazing!

It was also our honor to serve a dinner to these singers and their wives.

After the dinner, one gentleman poked his head into the kitchen and said, "I am going to give you the greatest compliment I can give. I felt like I was eating in my own church!"



The Singing Men
from Texas



Dinner for Singers & Wives



Organist

An Amazing Concert
and New Friends!

BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

It has been a very busy month here at First Baptist. The roof is almost to its final stage! Vermont Roofing has been absolutely wonderful! The Preservation hosted a lasagna lunch for the workers from Bennington and Rutland a couple of weeks ago. It was wonderful to sit with them and find out more about them. I believe we all enjoyed the lunch and conversation. Our neighbors have been wonderful in supporting our renovations. We truly thank them for this.

We are still working on getting someone to look at our foundation to give us an estimate. Who knew this would be such a problem?!

We have just received another large donation which certainly is appreciated! Without these continual donations, our renovations would not be possible!

Many other small projects continue to be completed. We are all so thankful for everyone helping out! (These are not Preservation projects, but worth mentioning. There is only so much money!)

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

And, the roof goes on!



RIVERWALK MURAL (from the cover)

This 10 x 60-foot mural faces out towards the Town Green and the Riverwalk Bridge along the back wall of the Union Underground Restaurant. This public piece of art was painted by two local artists, Garrison Buxton and Bill Strecker. This colorful mural depicts, among many other things, a fisherman, some sap buckets, a golf course, a farm, a ski area and a railroad train. Several important elements of the town's history are included as well, such as Hildene, Mt Equinox, the grandstand from the former racetrack and...the First Baptist Church! If you have not checked it out, it's a pleasant way to spend some available moments.



REMEMBER TO SET YOUR
CLOCK BACK ONE HOUR
ON NOVEMBER 1st!

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 OCTOBER

- 1 – Interfaith Council meeting at Israel Congregation at 11:45 am
- 4 – Adult & Youth Sunday School at 8:30 am
 - Worship service w/communion at 9:30 am
 - Potluck & workday at 11 am
 - Preservation Committee meeting following clean-up
- 6 – Prayer & Study Group Ch. 7,8,9 from *Unoffendable* via zoom at 7 pm
- 7 - Worship team practice at 10:00
- 10 - Breaking Bread – Heritage festival
- 11- Mary & Martha breakfast & meeting at 8 am
 - Worship Service at 9:30 am
- 12 -Indigenous People Observance
- 13 Feed Your Soul at 11:30 am
- 14 –Worship Team practice at 10 am
 - Church Leadership Council at FBC at 5 pm
- 15 - Chicken Pie Take-Out Dinner at 4:30
- 18 –Adult & Youth Sunday School at 8:30 am
 - Worship Service at 9:30 am
- 19 – Uplift Cancer Support at 2 pm
- 21 – Worship Team Practice at 10 am
- 20 – Prayer & Study Group Ch. 10,11,12 from *Unoffendable* via zoom at 7 pm
 - Pastoral Search Committee at 5 pm
- 25- Adult & Your Sunday School at 8:30 am
 - Worship Service at 9:30 am
- 27 – Feed Your Soul at 11:30 am
- 28 – Worship Team Practice at 10 am
 - Prayer Meeting at 6 pm

FLOWERS

- Oct. 4: John & Cheryl Hess in loving memory of parents Ted & Julia Lee, Shirley Gutridge & Geoge Hess, Sr.
- Oct. 11: Linda Bushee in memory of parents, Dave & Flora Bushee
- Oct. 18: Carol Lattuga in loving memory of mom, Mary Moore
- Oct. 25: Peggy Brockett in loving memory of parents, Dottie & Harvey Brophy

