



Thank you to Peggy Brockett from Lily of the Valley for the time given in planting and caring for the flowers under our sign and thank you to Paul Bauers for the inspiring words!

“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

AUGUST 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

Psalm 34:8 *“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.”* NIV

God is so good and I am so thankful for the blessings He has been providing this summer. First Baptist has been busy this summer serving our neighbors and sharing this goodness with all.

Summer Discovery Camp was a huge success and there were 42 children who participated. Many of these children had never set foot in a church before camp. It is awesome to work with the other churches in the area to provide this outreach to our community.

Another community event right in front of our church is Street Fest, on August 7, 2026. The last Street Fest we had 32 points of contact with individuals as they participated in our game of guessing how many animal crackers were hidden in a larger container of snacks. A 12-year-old boy, Roger, from Manchester won with the closest guess. We will be running a game again to help encourage people to stop at our table. Thanks for all your donations. We would love more snacks to hand out, along with small bottles of water.

August 30 we will be having a church picnic following church service. Alvie is donating hamburgers and hot dogs and everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share. The picnic will be at the Rec Center. Lawn games and lots of fun will be available to all.

August also finds us diving into a short sermon series on Cooperate Prayer. God makes it clear in the Bible the priority we must put on praying together as a family of God. Please let me know if there are other topics you may be interested in having as sermon series.

We are also freshening up the kid's space upstairs to help welcome the little ones of our community. There will also be a tablet available for a caregiver to watch or listen to Zoom while in the nursery. Please pray for families to find a reason to join our family.

Let's start reaching out to those around us and inviting them to church. Ken and I are a prime example of how our neighbor's consistent asking finally got us to church with her. That Sunday changed our lives towards eternity and we are so grateful that she kept asking. We were pretty set against it, but she didn't take it personally and she didn't give up.

Please reach out for any reason by phone, email or text. I would love to hear from you. May you see God and His goodness all around you this summer.

Shalom
Pastor Theresa



CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL JUNE 2026

The outstanding \$1700 Suburban bill has been fully paid.

The next **Street Fest** will be held on August 7.

The **front step** repair is scheduled to begin work the weekend of July 18.

The **church picnic** will be held at noon at the Rec Park on Sunday Aug 30. Please bring lawn games to share.

A **sound board technician** with in-house and zoom skill is needed for worship services.

Digital **Sign-up sheets** are online and in the vestry for: Worship Assistant, Serving Communion and Fellowship Refreshments. A cleaner sign-up sheet is forthcoming.

J&J Dry Cleaning **donated their services** and cleaned our flags.

Floor refinishing in Main St Foyer is in progress with Alvie McKinstry offering his skill.

Next Meeting Date - August 12 5pm

Submitted by Dottie Sundquist, CLC Secretary

CHURCH PICNIC

The Church Council is planning a church family picnic at the Manchester Rec. Area on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026 beginning at noon.

There will be a signup sheet at the church. Sliced ham, hot dogs, rolls and condiments will be provided. Sign up if you are coming and let us know what you are bringing: salads of any kind, casseroles, dessert or chips, etc. We are hoping for a wonderful day. Lawn games will be provided. A grill will be going for the hot dogs and maybe enough heat left to roast marshmallows.

Bring your lawn chair. Come one and all for a relaxing afternoon of good food and fellowship. Questions? Contact Martha at 802-362-3473.



UPDATE for MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP and the INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTSHIRE

Mary & Martha Fellowship is on vacation for the summer. Our Sept. meeting will be on September 13th.

Interfaith Council is also on vacation though they have just finished Discovery Camp at First Congregational Church with seven churches participating.

Their first fall meeting will be on September 3rd.

~submitted by Martha Thompson



BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

WOW! Check out the number on the thermometer! \$311,222.83! This number reflects the total amount of funds donated up until July 7th. Previously, when we have reported, we continually subtracted money paid out for work completed which did not give the actual picture of actual money totally raised.

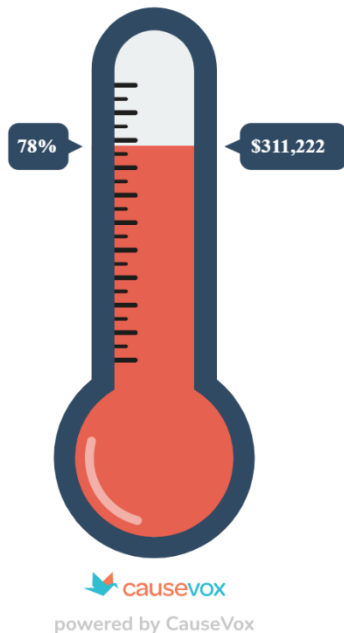
With the last of the bills paid which were connected to the support of the wall, it shows that Phase 1 came in \$21,241.12 over budget at \$86,241.12.

The roof replacement is next up as we continue to try to get a contractor to look at the foundation repair. Work should begin in the middle to the end of August. We are assured that the roof can be done before the foundation work.

A HUGE shout out to Bruce Fielding who thankfully helped out by cutting down all of the shrubs in the front of the church to make way for the lift to enable workmen to replace the roof. Now, another group of volunteers will cut, pull, dig, or whatever it takes to remove what is left to smooth out the ground. It truly takes everyone doing something to get our beloved little red church back into shape. Too much has gone too long without attention. If you have any time, please contact the Church Leadership Council for a list of things to do. Most will not take a lot of time, just “elbow grease” and time.

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman
Building Preservation Committee

GOAL: \$400,000



Thank you to all who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to our renovation project! As we proceed with the work, we feel blessed by your generosity!

THE FBC PRAYER & STUDY GROUP

Are you looking for a safe and casual place to explore and grow your faith? The Prayer and Study Group may be your answer.

This group meets every other Tuesday from 7 – 8:30 pm via zoom. After taking a break for August, we will begin again in September.

For the first 15 minutes or so of our meeting time, we bring our praises and concerns to the group. If you don't have ones you want to voice that evening, that's okay. Not everyone does.

Following this prayer time, one person, often the facilitator for the evening, will read a short passage – one he or she hopes will be thought-provoking or meaningful for the group.

Then we begin the “study” part of the evening. Together we will have already chosen a book (see below) that will serve as our study for the next several weeks. We usually do a couple chapters each time we meet, depending on the length and challenge of the chapters. After all, this is meant to be fun as well as educational! One person facilitates the discussion each time we get together. We always have a few willing facilitators so if the thought of facilitating makes you uncomfortable, don't worry about it.

As you become more comfortable with your prayer & study group friends, you will find that your faith will grow as we all grow together! Confidentiality is always expected.

We hope you will join us and see for yourselves if this is not one of the best decisions you have made in support of your Christian walk.

Let Pastor Theresa know if you have questions or would like to receive the zoom link.

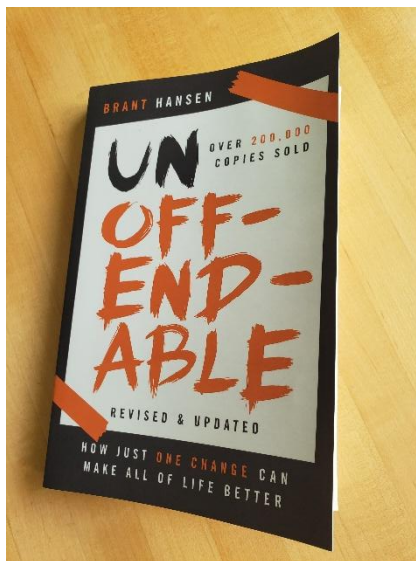
UN-OFF-END-ABLE

That's the title of our next book. Written by Brant Hansen, it's perfect as we live in a time where displaying “righteous anger” is made to seem normal!

Brant takes us into the Bible and shows us how to experience the joy of gratitude. When we choose to be unoffendable...when we choose not to allow hurt feelings into our lives... we can flourish the way God intended for us!

Writing in a conversational manner and with great humor, Brant can help us ALL be less grumpy and more joyful!

Join us and see if it works! 😊





August



Community Food Cupboard

"Back to School" Wish List !



- Backpacks
- Pencils/Pens
- Markers/Crayons
- Scissors/Glue Sticks
- Small Snacks
- Fruit Cups
- Tissues/Lip Balm
- Deoderant



*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.
(CFC 802.733.8119)

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 AUGUST

2 Worship Service at 9:30 am
5 Praise team practice at 10 am
 Building Preservation Committee at 1 pm
7 Street Fest 5:30-8:30
9 Worship Service at 9:30 am
11 Feed Your Soul in the Fellowship Room at 11:30
12 Praise team practice at 10 am
 Church Leadership Council meeting at 5:00 pm
16 Worship Service at 9:30 am
19 Praise team practice at 10 am
23 Worship Service at 9:30 am
25 Feed Your Soul in the Fellowship Room at 11:30
26 Praise team practice at 19 am
30 Worship Service at 9:30 am
 Church Picnic at the Recreation Area at noon
31 Uplift Cancer Support Group at Linda H's home

FLOWERS

Aug. 2: Lisa Hess in honor of her birthday
Aug. 9 Linda Hulett in honor of her husband Butch Hulett
Aug. 16 Carol Lattuga in memory of Charles Moore
Aug. 23 Lindy Mylott in memory of Jan Casey and Helen Brimlow
Aug. 30 Russ & Glenna Taxter in honor of Skip and Derry Dickinson

