



“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

July 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA

Happy Birthday to our Declaration of Independence. What a time to reflect back on the faith stories, the struggles and joys they experienced on leaving the fingerprints of God on our history.

William Barclay sums it up well: "Christian freedom does not mean being free to do as we like; it means being free to do as we ought." ~ As we continue to study the book of Ecclesiastes, I challenge you to look at your season of life. Are you sharing authentic Christian Freedom with your family and neighbors?

On July 16, we will be hosting a potluck for our community on behalf of Vermont Community Resiliency. This is a group formed through the Vermont Interfaith in Action to help communities to network to provide tangible assistance to the vulnerable populations among us. Please pass the information to your friends who may be interested.

First Baptist is also participating in the Rainforest Summer Discovery Camp through the Northshire Interfaith Council. If you know an elementary-aged child interested in attending, please register quickly to ensure there is room.

I am grateful to each of you for all the ways you are stepping forward to make things happen at First Baptist. God's goodness shines through your work and commitment.

"The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country." ~ Calvin Coolidge

Shalom,
Pastor Theresa



MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship met on June 14, 2026 and celebrated an early Father's Day special by cooking breakfast for the gentlemen of our church family.

This was followed by a business meeting.

Plans for the Ham and Strawberry Dinner were finalized for June 25th and we hoped the berries would be ripe. The dinner turned out to be a great success and, of course, the berries were ripe! The proceeds were \$1315.00. Wow! Thanks for the wonderful support from the church family.

The Fellowship will not meet in July or August so plans were made to anticipate financial obligations. We pledge a certain amount to the church and Preservation Committee and also make frequent donations to our local food shelves.

The Fellowship will meet again on September 13, 2026 at 8:30 A.M. for a breakfast and business meeting. Our hostess will be Dottie Sundquist.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL JUNE 2026

1. Alvie McKintry, with help from Ken Taylor, stripped and refinished the front entrance floor.
 2. Fuel Angels are needed to help with an outstanding bill of \$1700.
 3. Ken Taylor is creating a church calendar schedule.
 - a. Pastor Theresa and Ken will be gone the entire week and will return for Sunday's worship service on July 5.
 - b. August 30 - Church picnic at the Rec Park. Details will be in the August newsletter.
 - c. September 23 - Men's Choir from Texas performing at FBC.
 4. Nursery needs to be cleaned out to provide space for mothers to tend to their young children - Lisa Hess has volunteered.
 5. AA groups will not be returning to FBC. The new meeting locations offer parking which is one of the reasons for their decision.
- ~submitted by Dottie Sundquist

**HEADS UP!
SUMMER
DISCOVERY CAMP!

JULY 20-24!**



SUMMER DISCOVERY CAMP

FREE!

7 AREA CHURCHES PRESENT:

RAINFORREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

JULY 20-24, 2026
9A-12P DAILY

FREE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. AGES 5-12

4TH ANNUAL COLLABORATIVE CAMP BROUGHT TO YOU BY
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL, ZION EPISCOPAL, DORSET CHURCH,
FEDERATED E. ARLINGTON, FIRST BAPTIST, ST. JAMES, ST. PETER'S

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER OR
EMAIL NKIMBALL.BLESSINGS@GMAIL.COM
LOCATION: FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
3624 MAIN ST. MANCHESTER
(ACROSS FROM EQUINOX)
802.362.2709

MUSIC GAMES
OUTDOOR PLAY
BIBLE STORIES

ARTS/CRAFTS
SNACKS
NEW FRIENDS
.....FUN!



FCC Manchester
a sanctuary of hope

COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD EVENT and JULY/AUGUST VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS

Summer at the CFC is beautiful. We're stocked full of local and colorful produce, the doors are always open, and we get to see all our wonderful volunteers that spend the winter months in warmer climates.

If you'd like to volunteer, the signup sheet is set up through August. Please sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jcz0CruMJQraDkuBFqc0yu19R0GjLedBmch507yunvU/edit?tab=t.0>

We appreciate all our volunteers and welcome anyone to come check us out.

We want to let you know about a funny event coming up. On July 18th, The Manchester Community Library is hosting Bob Alper, a local stand-up comedian. Admission is by donation which will benefit the Community Food Cupboard. There will be an opening act-The Don't Leave Band. Please plan to join us for a night of great music and big laughs.

Our July wish list is attached. If you'd like, please bring these items to one of the drop-off locations. These simple items truly make a difference.

Lots of gratitude,
Team CFC



July Wish List
Community Food Cupboard

As we celebrate our incredible country's 250th birthday, let's all fill the food cupboard to help our neighbors! (CFC 802.733.8119)

| | |
|---|---------------------|
|  | Canned Tuna/Chicken |
| | Pasta & Pasta Sauce |
| | Crackers |
| | Coffee |
| | Sunscreen/Bug Spray |
| | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| | Soap |
| | Dish Soap |


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.



Comedy
feeds our souls
Food Cupboard
feeds our neighbors
COME FOR WATER OR
JULY 18 7:00 PM

Starring
international headliner and
East Dorset's own
Bob Alper
Rabbi / Stand-Up Comic (Really)

"... had the audience
crying!"
-*The New York Times*

"You are likable
and engaging
and funny."
-*Andrew Ross*

Opening with
Inland Incomers favorite
THE DON'T LEAVE BAND

MCL
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

SNACKS
ARE GIVEN

ADULTS AND
CHILDREN 16
AND OVER
WELCOME

ADMISSION IS FREE
ALL DONATIONS GO TO
THE COMMUNITY FOOD
CUPBOARD

Laugh. Give. Make a Difference.

BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Right now, the Building Preservation Committee is currently focused on the roof replacement. Committee members are busy soliciting donations by reaching out to potential donors via letters, phone calls, personal contacts, and media. We would not be where we are if not for their continued dedication to raising the needed funds!

Next month, in an effort to be totally accurate with the thermometer, we will begin to record the total amount of funds raised. Previously, we have only shown the remaining amount after paying current invoices.

I recently met with our roofing company to go over the actual placement of the scaffolding and to take a closer look at the corner where we seem to have water creating issues with the foundation, which is not a new situation. We discussed how we can divert some of the water away from the corner to hopefully alleviate further water issues.

In doing this "walk around" and a meeting with the scaffolding company, it was determined that neither scaffolding nor a lift can get to the front sections of the building with the current shrubs there so....they need to come out before August. We are looking for volunteers to help. Once we have volunteers we can determine the actual date. There will be a sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to all in advance.

Please contact me with any questions.
Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTSHIRE

The Council met on June 4, 2026 and, although they will not meet again until September, they are still active in the community.

They are spearheading a Summer Discovery Camp to be held July 20 to July 24 from 9 to 12 noon daily at the First Congregational Church. This camp is free and all children ages 5-12 are welcome.

Activities are centered around The Rainforest including bible stories, games, arts and crafts, and even snacks. Do you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc? Encourage them to participate. Call our church at 802-362-1555 for more information or email nkimballblessings@gmail.com.

The Summer Lunch program is in full swing feeding 240 children, one bag per child each week at \$35 a bag, for 10 weeks. This will be the last summer under the umbrella of the Interfaith Council. They will soon be their own organization with their own 501c3 status. To raise money, they will send an appeal letter once a year and apply to foundations for grants.

This fall The Interfaith Council will be joining with the Truth and Justice group from Dorset Church for a "Breaking Bread" Heritage Festival at Adams Park during Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day weekend on Saturday, Oct 10th. More information as plans evolve.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2026.
~ submitted by Martha Thompson

**Vermont Community Resiliency potluck
July 16, 5 PM at first Baptist Church**

The potluck is an amazing opportunity for community and capacity building and is especially focused on building the resilience needed to face the many challenges ahead of us as a community--from war, food shortages, and climate disasters to illiberal democracy and violence against our neighbors

At this potluck, we will have table discussions on specific resources within our community that could provide mutual aid to someone in need. We will also focus on ways to work with one another to discover potential areas of need.

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 JULY

- 1: Building Preservation Committee to meet with Manchester Zoning Board
- 5: Worship Service at 9:30 am
- 7: Feed My Soul at FBC at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Room
Search committee meeting
- 8: Praise team practice at 10 am
CLC meeting at 5:00 pm
- 12: Worship Service at 9:30 am
- 14: Prayer group/book study via zoom at 7 pm
- 15: Praise team practice at 10 am
- 16: Vermont Community Resiliency potluck at 5 pm
- 19: Worship Service at 9:30 am
- 20-24: Summer Discovery Camp-Rainforest Falls from 9-noon
- 22: Praise team practice at 10 am
- 26: Worship Service at 9:30 am
- 27: Uplift Cancer Support Group at 2 pm
- 29: Praise team practice at 10 am

FLOWERS

July 5: Bruce Fielding in loving memory of mom Jean Fielding

Lois Squires in loving memory of Angie Coolidge

July 12: Martha Thompson in loving memory of brother Bill Krakaushas

July: 19 Russ & Glenna Taxter in loving memory of Aunt Maxine Chapin

July: 26 Lois Squires in loving memory of husband Phil Squires

