



**“SpiritSpark”** 

**The First Baptist Church of  
Manchester Center, VT**

P.O. Box 1049, 4895 Main St. 802-362-1555 [www.fbcmanvt.org](http://www.fbcmanvt.org)

[fbcmanvt@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmanvt@gmail.com)

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

**June 2026**

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**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THERESA**

*“The flower doesn’t dream of the bee. It blossoms and the bee comes.” Mark Nepo*

I was contemplating this quote in light of all the restoration work on our beautiful church and all the plans we are making to reach our neighbors with the Gospel. Our church has so much inner beauty with all the gifts of our church family working together. It also holds many sweet traditions, stories and historical treasures from all the generations before us. In the center of each of us and in the work we do...God resides and He is prepared to bring people in. We need to ensure we are prepared to welcome one and all.

Several outreach opportunities will be happening throughout the summer. The first Street Fest of the year is June 26. We plan on offering seating, lawn games, an opportunity for kids to win a huge container of snacks and free Bibles. We also plan on greeting and playing with our neighbors. Please stay tuned for some

needs we will have, such as snacks, water, some lawn games, and we would love people to join us on the lawn for an hour or the entire event. More details will happen later.

We are also looking for games or toys that would amuse our youngest guests during service. We are also hoping to pipe the service into the kids' area, so caregivers can still feel a part of service.

Just as we need to water and feed our gardens, we need to hold our church and church family in prayer. We need to be in constant communication with our master gardener. Pray for God to increase our family and for the Preservation committee, as they make another push to raise funds for the roof.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. I am confident God is at work in our garden and we just have to keep in the sunlight of His glory.

Love,  
Pastor Theresa

### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

First Baptist Church will host "The Singing Men's Choir" from Texas on September 23, 2026. Pastor Theresa is meeting with Pastor Tim later in May when he will be in the area to visit our sanctuary.

The Summer Sermon Series will address Ecclesiastes for 8 weeks followed by 4 weeks focused on corporate prayer.

#### **Our summer worship schedule begins on June 21 at 9:30 am.**

Street Fest Update - We are conveniently located at the heart of Manchester's Street Fest providing an ideal position for community outreach. CLC is considering fund raising opportunities including a June 26 - 50/50 raffle (a dollar a piece and 6 for \$5) and a Preservation Fund donation box.

Ken and Pastor Theresa are leading a group in Rainforest Falls for the summer discovery camp as an economical outreach. FBC is responsible for snacks one day. A sign-up is forthcoming.

Church Picnic - Plans are underway to hold a church picnic at the Rec Center pavilion at the end of August (Date TBD). Contact Ken with ideas and equipment for games. Hamburgers and hot dogs have been donated. Thank you!

New Heating system - Our new heating system is installed and appears to be working. Thank you to the anonymous donor!

We continue to address the leaking roof in the sanctuary with VT Roofing.

Carpet runner repair in the sanctuary has been completed (center aisle).

Our Project List is growing smaller with the help of volunteers who have stepped forward with both funding projects and/or leading projects. Thank you!

Dottie Sundquist  
CLC Secretary

## MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

The Mary Martha Fellowship met on Mother's Day, May 10, 2026 and were treated to a wonderful breakfast organized by the Men's Group and assisted by some of the Fellowship members. Thank you gentlemen, we enjoyed the food and appreciated the thought!

We expect to reciprocate on June 14, 2026 by preparing breakfast for all the gentlemen of our congregation. Please come! We are serving at 8:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

The fellowship discussed the upcoming Ham and Strawberry Dinner which will be held on June 25th as a takeout dinner. In the next few weeks, we will be seeking help with the cooking and the strawberry picking and preparation.

As mentioned earlier, our next meeting is planned for June 14th at 8:30 A.M. breakfast in honor of the gentlemen of our church followed by a Fellowship business meeting.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

## HAM and STRAWBERRY TAKEOUT DINNER on JUNE 25, 2026

Pickup will begin at 4:30 P.M. For reservations - call Martha Thompson at 802-362-3473 or 802-379 -7820 or Lisa Towslee at 802-362-3076. Donation is \$15 per dinner.



Menu:

Baked Ham

Potato Salad

Baked Beans

Broccoli Salad

Biscuit

Strawberry shortcake - fresh strawberries, with real whipped cream on homemade biscuits.

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee met on May 11, 2026 and finalized the survey which we worked together to have ready by Sunday, May 17. The survey was available in the Fellowship Hall, May 17th and 24th. The surveys that have not been picked up are being mailed.

The committee urges you to fill out your survey and return it to church either by mail or in person. If this is a problem for you, call and someone will come and pick it up.

It is of the utmost importance that you share your thoughts and any comments you may wish to make. **Surveys should be returned by Sunday, June 14th.**

Thank you and blessings on you and your thoughts.

Jim Comar, Lisa Hess, Jim Holden, Alvie McKinstry, Linell Pike

Martha Thompson, Secretary

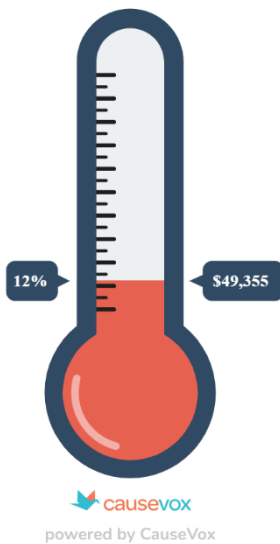
## BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Building Preservation Committee continues to be very busy. Members are still soliciting funds, finding contractors for the foundation, and getting everything ready for our roof replacement. Who knew there was so much to do to replace a roof! It certainly is a learning experience. We are still looking at August for our roof replacement work to be completed.

If any of you are interested in helping on this committee, please contact me. Many hands do make light work! Also, if you have any questions, please just ask.

Lorraine Wilkins, Chairman

**GOAL: \$400,000**



This total of \$49,355.11 reflects deductions for goods and services already delivered and paid. Thank you for your continuous and generous giving!

## INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTSHIRE

The committee met on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at St. James Church in Arlington.

Upcoming events are:

- \*The Summer Discovery Camp: a free opportunity for kids to enjoy a camp experience beginning on July 20 to July 24. More information in next month's Spirit Spark.
- \*The Kids' Summer Lunch Program which begins after school closes in June and ends when school begins in September.
- \*An opportunity to share breads from different ethnic groups to help celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary at a gathering later this summer.
- \*Neighbor to Neighbor will begin selling raffle tickets for a Calendar Cash Raffle in July with tickets being drawn every day in August.

Interfaith Council will meet again on June 4, 2026 at First Congregational Church.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

**COMMUNITY  
FOOD  
CUPBOARD**



**June** *Hello Summer!*  
Wish List  
**Community Food Cupboard**

Summer is here and school is out! Donations from our June wish list can help families with kids at home.  
(CFC 802.733.8119)

	_____	Peanut Butter/Jelly
	_____	Canned Tuna
	_____	Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise
	_____	Mac & Cheese
	_____	Breakfast Cereal
	_____	Deodorant
	_____	Sunscreen/Bug Spray
	_____	Band-Aids
	_____	

*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.

**HEADS UP!  
SUMMER DISCOVERY  
CAMP!  
COMING JULY 20-24!  
READ ALL ABOUT IT!**



**SUMMER DISCOVERY  
CAMP**  
7 AREA CHURCHES PRESENT:

**FREE!**

**RAINFORREST FALLS**  
Exploring the Nature of God

MUSIC  
GAMES  
OUTDOOR PLAY  
BIBLE STORIES

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

**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 NKIMBALLBLESSINGS@GMAIL.COM  
**LOCATION:** FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
3624 MAIN ST MANCHESTER  
(ACROSS FROM EQUINOX)  
**802.362.2709**

**FCC Manchester**  
a sanctuary of hope



**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**

Rev Dr Theresa Taylor: (802) 535-7710

First Baptist Church: (802) 362-1555

Website: [www.seektheson.org](http://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](mailto:revtheresa67@gmail.com)

**CHURCH EVENTS for JUNE**

2 Prayer & Book Study “Just Like Jesus” by Max Lucado chs. 5 & 6 at 7 pm via zoom

4 Interfaith Council at the Congregational Church at 11:45 am

7 Sunday School at 9:30 am

Worship Service at 10:30 am

9 “Feed Your Soul” in the Fellowship Room at 11:30 am

10 Building Preservation Meeting in the Fellowship Room at 3:30 pm

CLC meeting at 5:00 pm

14 Father’s Day Breakfast followed by Mary & Martha meeting at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Room

Worship Service at 10:30 am

15 Uplift Luncheon at the Taylor’s home at noon

16 Prayer & Book Study “Just Like Jesus” by Max Lucado chs. 7 & 8 at 7 pm via zoom

**21 Worship Service at 9:30 am**

23 Feed Your Soul at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Room

25 Strawberry and Ham Dinner - 4:30 – 6:00 pm

26 Manchester Street Fest 5:30 – 8:30 pm (more information to follow)|

28 Worship Service at 9:30 am

30 Prayer & Book Study “Just Like Jesus” chs. 9 & 10 at 7 pm via zoom

## **FLOWERS**

June 7: Bryan Richheimer & Dottie Sundquist in memory of Bryan's son, Jeffrey

June 14: Russ & Glenna Taxter in loving memory of Everett and Grace Hazelton

June 21: Martha Thompson celebrating the church's 246<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

June 28: Russ & Glenna Taxter in loving memory of Russell, Sr & Dorothy Taxter



Lucy McGibney went to be with her Lord on Saturday, May 23rd.

Lucy was a vital part of our church family. Many of us remember her singing in choir, teaching Sunday school, working on our church dinners, and hours of craft-making for Christmas bazaars! Her family wanted us to know that she felt her dearest friends were from the time she was with us and we certainly felt the same way about her.

Please pray for comfort and a sense of peace for her husband Tom, as well as Lucy's children, Shannon and Kendall and her grandchildren.

At the family's request, memorials for Lucy may go to the First Baptist Church Renovation Fund.