



Our church, as shown in the bottom photo, was built in 1833.

“SpiritSpark”

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

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor

FEBRUARY 2026

A MESSAGE from PASTOR THERESA

The wonder of God’s creation is all around us blanketed in snow. This is in contrast to the hate that seems to be happening in one form or another around our country. Thankfully, as believers in Christ, we know that God is a good and perfect God and his ways are the right path. This world may be filled with turmoil, but the joy that comes from the everlasting God is endless. Cling to this promise if you start to feel discouraged. I am also available to talk with you and pray with you.

February is often thought about as the love month. This conjures up for me John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

How can we share this love from God with our neighbors? We can continually offer smiles of hope, a helping hand or keep extending a welcome to the people you know and invite them to one of the activities at First Baptist. God wants and expects us to share the Good News of His son with all of those around us. Take a step of faith and invite someone to join us.

The construction on the Bonnet Street Wall is moving right along. The 3 beams are in place. Here is a picture before the finishing work is completed. The progress is encouraging.



We will finish Ruth this month in our sermon series. We will also take a six week journey in Radical Hospitality. This looks at the Biblical definitions of home and ways we can welcome strangers. It is also a look at the important elements of hospitality such as the Table of God.

It is a great privilege to serve each of you. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I will always try to make myself available to chat or pray with you. If you have any ideas for new events at church or items you want to see improved upon, please let me know. Stay warm and grounded in God's Word this chilly month of February. Spring is getting closer.

Shalom,
Pastor Theresa

Notice of First Baptist Church Annual Meeting

The members of The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, Vt are hereby notified to meet in person at their house of worship in Manchester Center, VT or by Zoom, or by phone following worship and lunch on February 1, 2026 for the following purposes:

1. To determine the leadership direction to maintain the structure of the past or to embrace the new Church Leadership Council pathway into the future.
2. To elect officers and committee members for the coming year or members of the Church Leadership Council.
3. To hear the reports of the officers and committees for the past year and act thereon.
4. To hear, discuss, and act upon any other business proper to come before the congregation.

Church Clerk
Dottie Sundquist

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

The Prudential Committee met on Jan.14, 2026.

The proposed budget for 2026 was reviewed by the group.

The restoration project was discussed and the best news was that construction would begin in the middle of January.

The Prudential Committee voted to hire Harvey Iris to take care of extermination problems. The cost will be less than the Orkin man. Although Mr. Iris will not come as often, he will come if we notice a problem.

The new computer and photocopier are in place and in operation.

We have been in touch with Nick Coyne about repairing the hole by the righthand front door. We are waiting for an estimate.

Paul Bauers, who changes the sayings and quotes on the sign in front of the church, reported that the door was broken. Jim Comar took a look at it and was able to repair it by resetting a hinge.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

DIACONATE

What a winter wonderland January was. God's handiwork was enchanting but challenging at times to meet in person. We have rescheduled the potluck and game night for February 21, between 4-7 pm. Bring a dish to share. Feel free to bring a favorite game or play the ones provided. We will have a combination of small and large group games.

We will be starting a new Adult and Youth Sunday School series on February 8 at 9:30am in the conference room. The series is "The Five Postures of a Global Christian". Please join us for a great time of learning and sharing. If you are interested in teaching a Sunday school class or series, please let Pastor Theresa know.

Men's Focus group will also meet on February 21 at 9:00 am for a potluck breakfast and a discussion on how to serve God through helping others. Let Ken know if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Theresa

MARY & MARTHA FELLOWSHIP

Members of the Mary Martha Fellowship met on Sun., Jan.11, 2026 at 8:30 for breakfast and a business meeting.

The Cookie Sale was a success and raised \$838 which was donated to the community food shelves. We hope to advertise more widely for this year's cookie sale which will be held on Dec. 5, 2026.

Linda Bushee continues to keep track of birthdays, anniversaries, illness, etc. and sends cards on these occasions.

This year, Butterfly figures were gifted to our shut-in members.

On Jan. 5th MMF hosted a dinner for Manchester firemen and about 30 Firemen were celebrated. Rescue Squad members and Police were invited also. (See photos on next page.)

The group voted to donate \$400 to the Fuel Fund as this account is low.

Next month at our meeting on Feb. 8, we will discuss plans for a Pork Roast Dinner.

Martha Thompson, Secretary

THE MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Missions and Outreach committee met on January 15, 2026 at 7 PM via Zoom.
In attendance were Bonnie Lincoln, Bryan Richheimer, Linell Pike and Pastor Theresa.

Our balance was \$421.26.

From the Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO) offering, we received \$245.00.

We received a thank you note from the Heifer International project.

The group decided to give \$100 to Doctors Without Borders, \$50 to TL Africa, and \$50 to the Manchester Rescue Squad.

Our next meeting is set for Wednesday, February 18 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by Linell Pike secretary.

God bless you all.

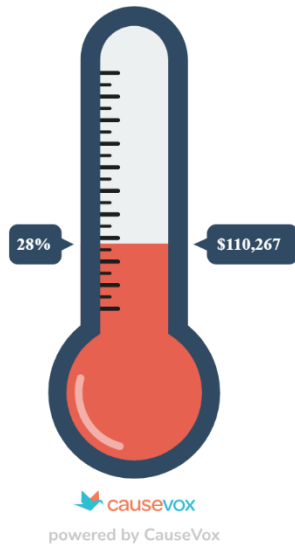


Each year the Mary & Martha Women's group sponsors a dinner for the Fire Department. Lisa Towslee very capably heads this up for us. This year's dinner took place on January 5th. We are grateful for those who helped with food and baking!

Bottom photo:
Preparing and serving: Jim W, Jim C, Glenna T, Cathy C and Lisa T. Russ Taxter behind the camera. (Cissy Towslee not pictured.)



GOAL: \$400,000



The Preservation Fund
stands at \$110,267.35.
This total reflects
deductions for
payments already made.
Thank for your
continuous giving!

MORE CONSTRUCTION PICTURES



Behind wall in the basement - streetside



A temporary support

INTERFAITH COUNCIL of the NORTSHIRE

The Council did not meet this month, but did hold a Martin Luther King Service at The Federated Church of Arlington on MLK day, Jan.12, 2026. The speaker was Paul Sangre, an advocate for civil rights. Rev. Andris Berry, Rev. Bill Boror, Cantor Scott Buckner and Harriet Welther provided music. Pastor Theresa and Martha Thompson participated in the service.

The Council's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026 here at First Baptist.

~submitted by Martha Thompson

"DESERTED MAIN STREET"
Taken by Robert J Waibel on January 25, 2026



Snowy, Windy, 8 Degrees



(posted on Facebook)



February



Wish List

Community Food Cupboard

Will you be our Valentine? February can be pretty cold and bleak around here so Valentine's Day is a great opportunity to brighten up the winter with a warming gift from the heart and a bright splash of red or pink! (802.362.0057)

♥	Canned Salmon or Tuna
♥	Ketchup
♥	Strawberry Jelly & Peanut Butter
♥	Marinara Sauce & Pasta
♥	Tomato Soup
♥	Instant Oatmeal
♥	Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate
♥	Shampoo, Soap, Body Wash



Drop-off locations: Manchester Town Hall, Shaw's, Manchester Library, Dorset Post Office, Christ our Savior Parish, First Congregational Church, Dorset Church.

COMMUNITY
FOOD
CUPBOARD

**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

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

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for FEBRUARY

- 1 Adult and Teen Sunday School: "Kingdom Race Theology" final episode at 9:30 am
- 1 Worship Service with Communion in the Fellowship Room and via zoom at 10:30 am
- 1 FBC Annual Meeting following morning service in Fellowship Room and via zoom
- 2 Building Preservation meeting via zoom at 7:00 pm
- 3 Deaconate Meeting at 1:30 pm
- 5 Interfaith Council Meeting at FBC at 11:45
- 8 Mary and Martha breakfast & meeting at 8:30 am in Fellowship Room
- 8 Adult and Youth Sunday School: Week 1 "The Five Postures of a Global Christian" at 9:30 am
- 8 Worship Service in the Fellowship Room at 10:30 am and via zoom
- 9 Uplift Cancer Support group at Linda H. home at 2:00 pm
- 10 Prayer Group/Book Study *What Happens Next* chapters 5 and 6 at 7:00 pm via zoom
- 11 Prudential Meeting at 5:00 pm
- 15 Adult and Youth Sunday School: Week 2 "The Five Postures of a Global Christian" at 9:30 am
- 15 Worship Service in the Fellowship Room and via zoom at 10:30 am
- 18 Missions meeting via zoom at 7:00 pm
- 21 Men's Focus group breakfast 9:00 am
- 22 Potluck and Game Night in the Fellowship Room 4-7 pm
- 22 Adult and Youth Sunday School: Week 3 "The Five Postures of a Global Christian" at 9:30 am
- 22 Worship Service in the Fellowship Room at 10:30 am and via zoom
- 23 Uplift Cancer Support group Linda H. Home at 2:00 pm
- 24 Prayer Group/Book Study *What Happens Next* Chapters 7 and 8 at 7:00 pm

FLOWER PROVIDERS

Feb. 1: Dottie Sundquist in memory of Jenica Lynn Junnila

Feb. 8: Paul Bauers in memory of Susan Bauers

Feb. 15: John and Cheryl Hess in memory of mothers, Julia Lee and Shirley Guthridge

Feb. 22: Lindy Mylott in memory of parents, Wayne and Ruby Norse



*The First Baptist Church family received the news of Bill Moore's passing. His daughter, Jeannie, let us know that he passed away peacefully in his sleep 3 weeks before his 99th birthday of February 9th. Bill and his wife Dottie, who passed in 2021, were well loved by their Vermont church family. They lived their later lives in Florida year-round, but in earlier years they would spend their summers in Vermont and we looked eagerly for them every summer!
We considered ourselves blessed by their presence.*



The First Baptist Church would like to extend condolences to Cathy Preble's friends and family and especially to her husband, Brian. Brian shared that Cathy passed away on January 27th after a courageous battle with cancer. Cathy was gifted with a bright personality and a beautiful voice and the FBC choir members, as well as her many church friends, treasured the time they had with her.

