

First Congregational Church
1 Monument Circle
Old Bennington, VT 05201

April 2017

*Vermont's Colonial Shrine: Welcoming all to share God's light,
and proclaiming God's embracing love since 1806*



Knitting Group

Come join our knitting group! The Old First Church Knitting Group will meet next on **Wednesday, April 19, 12:00 p.m. at the Barn**. Bring along knitting needles, yarn and a lunch for yourself. Soup and cookies will be provided.



Women's Book Group

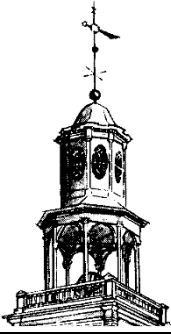
The **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** will meet on April 20th at 6:30 p.m. at Marie White Small's home to discuss *Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth. Newcomers are always welcome. For a listing of all the books being read this year go to the church website at www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org and click on the "Church Life" tab or contact Nancy in the church office and she can get you a paper copy. For more information, contact the church office or Wendy Schmitt.

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Thank you to those who collaborated on church events at our recent meeting. Discussions are continuing for a possible fundraiser either at the church, the Barn or off-site. If you have a fundraising idea or would like to help with an event, please contact Claudia Dalton.

OUR SCHEDULED EVENTS SO FAR ARE:

- June 4 – Tag sale luncheon, following worship
(Monumental Tag Sale on June 10)
- June 25 – Church picnic/Choir appreciation
- October 15 or 22 – Harvest Meal
- November 12 – Stewardship Sunday
- December 3 – Greening of the Church breakfast



The Lantern

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church (Old First Church)

April 2017

FROM THE MINISTER

Sometimes the promise is near; sometimes it seems far off. This April may find some of us in good cheer and hope. Others may see sadness, or struggle or loss. To each of us, Easter comes with a promise kept. The days of Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday and Easter give us opportunity to give our heart space to open to the news of this season. First it is sad and dark and then only slips to silence. At the end is God's word kept. In Christ's life we all live and however far from hope, light reaches us.

The church, with its doors open, conversation high, and flowers bright with joy on Easter day is the sign that we respond to God's word and work. It is in affirming life, in loving what is good, in welcoming neighbor and stranger alike, that the sign of God's presence in this difficult world is made real. Faith, alone, can be hard. Gathered together through the darkness into the light of Easter, as a worshipping community, makes the substance of faith real; no less difficult, but real. The substance of faith is our joyous response to God's presences in this world, and to the news of Christ's resurrection. Begin that journey of faith this April—the doors will be open, the flowers bright and the joy real.

The Rev. Ken Clarke

HOLY WEEK AT OLD FIRST

Palm/Passion Sunday April 9, 11:00 AM

Join us for worship on Palm/Passion Sunday at 11:00 AM. The children of the church will distribute palms to the congregation.

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 6:30 PM

supper & communion at the Barn

The supper is a simple gathering at the Barn where we share a meal of soup and bread (provided by the Deacons) and recall the events of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his followers.

Tenebrae service, April 13, 8:00 PM at the Church

Tenebrae (Latin for 'shadows' or 'darkness'): This distinctive ceremony of Tenebrae is the gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and Psalms are recited.

Easter Sunday Service, April 16, 11:00 AM

Come celebrate Easter Sunday at Old First and observe this most important day on our church calendar. The church will be filled with Easter lilies, spring flowers, colorful balloons and wonderful music. Our much-anticipated Easter egg hunt for the children follows worship. Come celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday!

EASTER MEMORIAL LILIES

If you would like to remember loved ones with Easter lilies, please send your gift to the Church no later than Sunday, April 9. Let us know how you would like us to list the name of the loved one(s) and the giver(s).

EASTER EGG HUNT

Donations of wrapped *candy for the Easter service* would be appreciated. Items can be left at the church or brought to the office during the week.

1 Monument Circle, Old Bennington, Vermont 05201

www.oldfirstchurchbenn.org • office@oldfirst.comcastbiz.net • (802) 447-1223

Kenneth A. Clarke, Minister

Don Miller, Moderator

OPEN CHURCH....CALLING ALL GUIDES!

We are in the process of setting up the Open Church docent schedule for the 2017 season. If you are a returning docent and wish to secure your shift, please speak with our Open Church Advocate, Paul Goodrich right away. If you haven't hosted before, but would like to, let Paul or the church office know so we can arrange training and place you on the schedule with an experienced docent.

The season officially begins Memorial Day weekend and runs weekends only through the month of June. Beginning July 1 through mid-October the church is open daily. The morning shift is 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the afternoon shift is 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SPRING HISTORICAL FIELD TRIP (MAY 24 OR MAY 25)

We are pleased to announce that our 2017 historical field trip will take place on either May 24th or 25th and will include the Adams, MA Quaker Meeting House (Adams, MA) and the Congregational Church of Lee, MA. The trip is open to anyone interested in going and might be especially interesting to docents of our Open Church program. A nominal fee of \$10 per person is requested for a donation to each site. Area restaurants are being researched for our group to purchase their own lunch, others may prefer to bring a bagged lunch. The People are encouraged to sign up for the trip in the Sunday morning BLOG or by contacting the church office. Be sure to indicate your preference on dates.



- The Adams, MA, Quaker Meeting House, 1780, now a museum owned by the Adams Historical Society - a simple, place for worship, like our first meeting house.

- The Congregational Church of Lee, MA, 1857, what we aspired to when we began to remodel the OFC: Italianate, amazing trompe l'oeil painting, red cushions which were considered scandalous.



DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to Marshall Barrett whose mother passed away on Tuesday, March 28th. Family and friends are invited to the wake for Lena M. Barrett on Friday, April 7th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Marra Funeral Home, 246 Remsen Street, Cohoes, NY. There will be a funeral service on Saturday, April 8th at 11:00 a.m. at the Old First Church with a reception following in the Narthex.

MONUMENTAL TAG SALE (JUNE 10TH)

March 19th Tag Sale Meeting Report

A dozen dedicated folks attended our first (hopefully only) tag sale planning meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Since the June 10th tag sale will be our 10th annual sale, much of the planning was duplication from the experience of years past. Many folks volunteered for various tasks including advertising, signs, tent acquisition, rug raffle, silent auction, food concession, jewelry and many other areas.

Some policies discussed:

Our pre-buy policy for workers will remain as in years past.

Lunches during the week will remain informal. Some people will bring bag lunches but folks are welcome to bring food to share.

The hot dog cart will need a new chef this year and we are working on that.

For the kickoff luncheon on June 4th, we will have a sign up in the Blog for sandwiches, chips, drinks, and desserts.

Half price policy will remain as in years past. The time to reduce prices to half price will be agreed upon by those workers present on Saturday afternoon when general sales slow and not at a particular time. Certain items may be excluded from half price reduction and located in a well-marked area.

Since we want to continue to encourage people to donate special items for the sale, it was agreed upon that a donor could set the price on their item with the understanding that it would be their responsibility to collect (or arrange for that) any of their unsold items at the end of the sale. Otherwise all unsold items may be donated according to the outline below.

New items discussed:



It was decided that leftover items at the end of the sale be dispersed as follows:

1. Workers at the end of the sale will decide which items should be stored in the attic for next years' sale.
2. Items for donation to the Bennington Museum Christmas Children's Shopping Day will be boxed for transport to the museum.
3. Workers present to help with clean up at the end of the sale will be allowed to choose any leftover items for themselves (monetary donations accepted).
4. Remaining goods will be transported to Goodwill for donation.

The Steiff Bears leftover from last year will not be included in the silent auction this year, but will be priced and sold as part of the regular tag sale.

It was decided by all present that we change the amount donated to the Bennington Interfaith Council Food and Fuel Program from the proceeds of our sale. Marsha will present our new recommendation to the Council on April 19.

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Communion Sunday 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	3	4 Old Bennington Trustee mtg. 7 PM, Barn	5 Choir practice 7-8:30 PM, Church	6 Foster & Adoptive Family Training Barn, 6-9 PM	7	8 DeMagistris family Barn use, afternoon
9 Jones family Barn use, afternoon Palm Sunday 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	10 Old Bennington Planning mtg. 7 PM, Barn	11	12 Deacon's mtg. 4 PM, Barn Trustee's mtg. 5:30 PM, Barn Choir practice 7-8:30 PM, Church	13 Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 at the Barn Tenebrae Service, 8 PM at the Church	14	15
16 Easter Sunday 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	17	18	19 Old First Knitting Group 12 PM, Barn Council Meeting 5:15 PM, Barn Choir practice 7-8:30 PM, Church	20 Women's Book Club, 6:30 PM, Marie White Small's home Foster & Adoptive Family Training Barn, 6-9 PM	21 Hyman family Barn use, Evening	22
23 Thomayer family Barn use, afternoon 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	24	25	26 Friends of the Monument Annual Mtg. 7-9 PM	27	28	29 Cottrell family Barn use, 11 AM-4 PM
30 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister						

DEACONS ON CALL:

Sandy Bechtel & June King

USHERS:

4/2: Sandy Bechtel, June King & Marsha Pilachowski
 4/9: Bill Gordon & Carol Wade Gordon
 4/16: Marietta Hibbard & June King
 4/23: Bill Hartz & Sue Katz
 4/30: Dave & Marsha Pilachowski

READERS:

4/2: Don Miller
 4/9: Marsha Pilachowski
 4/16: Anastasia Gauthier
 4/23: Steve Dalton
 4/30: Claudia Dalton

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

4/2: Sandy Bechtel, June King &
 Marsha Pilachowski
 4/9: Bill Hartz & Sue Katz
 4/16: Help from several
 4/23: Stacy Carreau, Donna Jones &
 Lynda Swanda
 4/30:

FLOWERS:

4/2: Courtney & Tara Cowan
 4/9: Palms
 4/16: Easter Lilies
 4/23: Easter flowers
 4/30: