

First Congregational Church
1 Monument Circle
Old Bennington, VT 05201

JUNE 2017

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



Hot Dog Cart at the

MONUMENTAL TAG SALE

June 10th

Thank you to Bill Hartz for hosting the very popular hot dog cart this year at the Monumental Tag Sale. Donations of food items would be greatly appreciated:

Needed:

- Boxes (2.5 lb. or larger box) of McKenzie Natural casing hot dogs
- Bottled water
- Large bags of chips
- Condiments
- Bags of ice

**Saturday, June 10, 2017
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**at the Church Barn
1 Monument Circle
Old Bennington**





The Lantern

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church
(Old First Church)

JUNE 2017

FROM THE MINISTER

As part of the varied weather this May we had one strong wind move through here and up the valley. It turned out our very special weathervane atop the meetinghouse was pushed to an angle so that it was visibly leaning when viewed from the ground. Later the same day a wedding occurred and it so happened that all the groomsmen were graduates of the Colorado School of Mines. We were already in the process of seeking opinions about whether the tilt of the vane was dangerous or not as we did not want it to come crashing down so I thought what better than to solicit these expert opinions?

Their verdict, in good engineering speak, was “not correct but stable”.

Not correct but stable. What a use phrase! So much of life is this way. We encounter setbacks and disappointments, but we carry on. Not correct and unstable is another matter but so much of life lies where things are not correct but stable. It means we have time and a chance to make things better. It means we will not be carried off by crisis this hour. We can think, act and work for better things. It is not a bad thing and, in fact, the opportunity for much good to come. That kind of weathervane marks a good church--inviting us all to gain what we need for the work before us. Yes, the weathervane is now okay (thanks to Doug Kuzmicki and unnamed others for your effort) but the church is here in season and out despite whatever winds may blow.

There has been much to mourn in the church in the last months; the cycle of birth, marriage and death never is even but this spring has been tinged with much sadness amid the green hopes of the season. The church is a place--stable--in a world that is not always correct.

The Rev. Ken Clarke

OPEN CHURCH

Our Open Church season has officially begun, and we look forward to a busy season welcoming thousands of visitors to the church. In June we are open weekends only and starting July 1st we are open every day.

Regular guides are needed for Friday afternoon shift as well as Saturday morning and afternoon shifts.

If you have never hosted and are hesitant to volunteer, please know that the MOST important function of Open Church is to be OPEN and welcoming to visitors. Most visitors simply want to wander the church building and read a little of our history from already printed materials. If you are willing to be that smiling greeter in our Open Door, please call Paul Goodrich or the church office.

Morning shift 10:00 – 1:00; Afternoon shift 1:00 – 4:00

Monday a.m.	Sue & Marsha
Monday p.m.	Ann
Tuesday a.m.	Lou & Marie
Tuesday p.m.	Don and Lynda & Patty
Wednesday a.m.	Vicky & Kathy
Wednesday p.m.	Roberta & Jane
Thursday a.m.	Patrice
Thursday p.m.	Marietta & Walt
Friday a.m.	Claudia
Friday p.m.	
Saturday a.m.	
Saturday p.m.	
Sunday p.m.	Stacy & Paul G.

PICNIC ON THE GREEN JUNE 25th

The Old First Church’s annual picnic on the Village Green follows worship on Sunday, June 25th and we hope you can join us on this special day! We have much to celebrate at Old First including our very talented and dedicated choir who will be going on summer break and the work of our Sunday School.

1 Monument Circle, Old Bennington, Vermont 05201

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

Kenneth A. Clarke, Minister

Don Miller, Moderator

MONUMENTAL TAG SALE

Come one, come all to the 10th Annual Old First Monumental Tag Sale at the Barn, on **Saturday, June 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Be sure to tell a friend or bring them along!

We hope your boxes of donations are packed and ready to go for our kick-off luncheon after church June 4th. Donations can also be dropped off during our set up week, Monday through Thursday, June 5th through the 8th. We will be working on the tag sale organization from 9AM to 4PM each day that week and welcome your donations during that time. No books or clothing please.

Our tent will be up on Wednesday this year and we encourage you to donate your larger items late Wednesday afternoon and Thursday throughout the day. If you need arrangement for pick up please call Marsha Pilachowski or the church office.

On Saturday, June 10th, we hope that everyone will participate in some way: by volunteering to work, by providing food for the concession or by coming to shop. Again this year we will have our Silent Auction room set up for bidding on some special items. Ann Herrick's 2017 hooked rug will be displayed and raffle tickets will be available for \$5 each. Also this year Bill Hartz will be manning the hot dog cart for your lunchtime dining pleasure! Desserts will be available at our indoor food concession as well!!!

Our tag sale is a fun way to support our church and the larger community. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Bennington Interfaith Council Food and Fuel Fund and general church projects. Leftover items from the sale will be donated to the Bennington Museum Christmas children's shopping day. New this year to generate a new fun twist to the end of the day, workers present to help with cleanup will be able to choose any leftover items for themselves (monetary donations accepted). Any remaining items will be donated to the Bennington Goodwill.

Thank you to all who have volunteered so far. Check the BLOG for more details and volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks. Good times ahead! Don't miss out.

**BOOK
CLUB**



The **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** will meet on June 15th at 6:30 p.m. at Pat Guerrero's home to discuss *Wonder* by P.J. Palacio.

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 the church office for a paper copy.

RUG UNVEILING

Celebrate the unveiling of the 2017 hooked rug designed and crafted by Ann Herrick at worship this month!



This charming rug is especially designed for our church to raise funds for the Church's Preservation Fund. The rug will be raffled at the church's annual Harvest Meal on Sunday, October 22nd. Tickets will be on sale at the Monumental Tag Sale, the office and at Open Church. **New this year:** with every raffle ticket purchased you will receive a coupon for \$1 off the purchase of *Robert Frost's Poems*, by Louis Untermeyer (coupon good at the Old First Church only).

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers to *the family of June King*. June passed away on May 1, 2017. A memorial service was held at the Old First Church on Monday May 8th with a lovely reception following at the Barn.

Our deepest sympathy to *Sherelle Mills* whose husband Tom passed away unexpectedly on May 23rd in Chadds Ford, PA. Please keep Sherelle in your prayers.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Ken, Charles, the Choir, the Trustees, the Deacons, and the Congregation of the Old First Church,

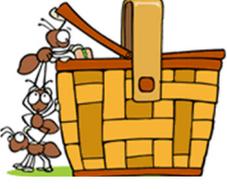
My words and those of my family cannot adequately convey the very deep thanks and affection that we have for all of you.

Since the last week in January, when George first became seriously ill, you have been remarkable in your help to all of us. Your visits, flowers, prayer shawls, cards, and phone calls were not only thoughtful but enabled us to manage the stress presented by George's health issues. Your consideration meant so much to our family who could not always be in Bennington but, most importantly, it meant the world to George.

After he passed away, your caring continued in your offers of help and your creation of flower arrangements for the memorial service. The reception that you gave following George's service was beyond generous and very beautifully demonstrated your ongoing support for our family and friends. Thank you from the bottom of all of our hearts...You will never be forgotten.

- The Family of George Peters

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Gauthier family Barn use, afternoon/evening	3 AM: _____ PM: Jane Klebbe family Barn use, afternoon
4 PM: Paul & Stacy Tag Sale Luncheon Communion Sunday 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	5	6 Old Bennington Trustee mtg. 7 PM, Barn	7	8	9	10 AM: Betsy PM: Patrice 10th Annual Monumental Tag Sale 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
11 PM: Paul & Stacy Shultz family Barn use, afternoon 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	12 Old Bennington Planning mtg. 7 PM, Barn	13	14	15	16	17 AM: _____ PM: _____ AAUW Barn use late morning/early afternoon
18 PM: Paul & Stacy Sweet family Barn use, early afternoon 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	19	20	21 Deacon's mtg. 4 PM, Barn Trustee's mtg. 5:30 PM, Barn	22 Women's Book Club, 6:30 PM, Pat Guerrero's home	23	24 AM: _____ PM: _____ Armstrong family Barn use, afternoon
25 PM: Paul & Stacy Church Picnic following worship 11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	26	27	28	29 Sunrise/BCCCA Barn use, evening	30	

DEACONS ON CALL:

Donna Jones & Lynda Swanda

USHERS:

6/4: Donna Jones, Lynda Swanda & Claudia Dalton

6/11: Sam Jones & Don Swanda

6/18: Stacy Carreau & Paul Goodrich

6/25: Connie & Marshall Barrett

READERS:

6/4: Katie Traver

6/11: Marsha Pilachowski

6/18: Don Miller

6/25: Claudia Dalton

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

6/4: Tag Sale Luncheon

6/11: Sandy Bechtel & _____

6/18: Stacy Carreau, Harriette Hamilton,
Donna Jones & Lynda Swanda

6/25:

FLOWERS:

6/4: Pat & Larry Ross

6/11: Claudia Dalton & Cynthia Locklin

IMO of June King & Donald Locklin

6/18:

6/25: