

First Congregational Church  
1 Monument Circle  
Old Bennington, VT 05201

March 2018

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



## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY RESULTS



Thank you to all who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser on Super Bowl Sunday. A total of \$249.00 was raised. To make things interesting again this year two pots were available, one representing the New England Patriots and the other the Philadelphia Eagles. The Patriots soup pot was the winner with \$155 and the Eagles soup pot collecting \$94. The Bennington County Interfaith Council's Kitchen Cupboard is the real winner as 100% of the donations raised in our church went to this worthy cause.

## FREE SUNDAY SUPPER

Thank you to Bill Hartz, Sue Katz, Wendy and Tom Schmitt for signing up to host the **FREE SUNDAY SUPPER** at Second Congregational Church on March 11<sup>th</sup> and to the many others from our church who are providing food for the meal.



Daylight Saving  
Time begins on  
Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>!

## Women's Book Group



The **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** will meet on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Marie Small's home to discuss *The Reader*, by Berhard Schlink

Newcomers are always welcome. For more information or a listing of all the books being read this year contact Wendy Schmitt or the church office.

April's book is: *Khul-Khaal* by Nayra Atiya



# The Lantern

## Newsletter of the First Congregational Church (Old First Church)

March 2018

### FROM THE MINISTER

The season of lent is a time of reflection and preparation. We look both backwards in time and we look inward to see understand the path we are on. Even more, we prepare for new beginnings which are the Easter news with its joy and strength for going forward in life and good works. We can chart a course and make a plan but God's ways do not always run as we intend. Our lenten wisdom is to understand that as we leave the past behind the future is unwritten. The saving love of life made new and God's promise is enough for any path we must take.

Welcome to our new organist and choir director, Tom Salmon, and thanks to all for making him at home here. We will have our usual Maundy Thursday service at the barn and Tenebrae at church this year again and hope to see you there as well as in church on Easter morning. The choir has reassembled and so many remark that it is both a pleasure and true addition to our worship to hear them.

The Rev. Ken Clarke

### MEET OUR NEW ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

After an exhaustive search and more than a dozen applications whittled down to three finalists, the Organist Search Committee is delighted to announce the appointment of Tom Salmon of Dorset, VT, as our new Organist and Choir Director at the Old



First Church. Tom holds a B.A. in Professional Music with a concentration in Voice from the Berklee College of Music, as well as Teacher Certification in Music Education from Marywood University. He has years of

experience as a church organist, choir director, solo and group singer, multiple-instrument musician, and school and private music teacher for toddlers through adults.

Father of four kids, with three grown and the youngest still at home, Tom has an abiding interest in history, gardening, and running marathons. In his spare time, he is working on a historical renovation of a 200-year-old ice house turned residence/tiny house. He and his wife, Tracie, who works as a finance manager, have been happily married for 29 years and are enjoying their new one-month-old grandson. Tom has fond memories of spending summers at his family's ancestral home in Dorset throughout his childhood. In 2016, he and Tracie realized it was so much fun to visit from Pennsylvania that they should just move "home" to Dorset—so they did!

Tom's first Sunday at the Old First Church officially began on February 11. He is ready to jump right in with a friendly, welcoming introduction and orientation at 10:00 AM, before the 11:00 service, for anyone interested in exploring what it's like to sing in a choir. It's fun! *All are welcome*—no special skills or prior experience required. Regular weekly choir rehearsals will be held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and occasionally (only if needed) for a few minutes after the service. Why not come give the choir a try? (Or at least come see.)

Please join us in welcoming Tom to the Old First Church. We look forward to supporting and enjoying his talent and enthusiasm in our choir loft as well as at our pipe organ!

With joy and thanksgiving,

The Organist Search Committee:

Lucy Gardner Carson, Rev. Ken Clarke, Bill Gordon, Ann Herrick, Cynthia Locklin, Carol Poppe, and Wendy Schmitt

1 Monument Circle, Old Bennington, Vermont 05201

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Kenneth A. Clarke, Minister

Don Miller, Moderator

## OPEN CHURCH DOCENT MEETING

Our next Open Church Docent meeting will take place on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM in the Narthex of the Church. Open Church docents or anyone interested in becoming a docent is encouraged to attend.

**OPEN CHURCH DOCENT FIELD TRIP:** Mark your calendars, the 2018 Docent field trip will take place on **Wednesday, May 23, 2018**. This year our travels take us to the Rockingham Meeting House in Rockingham, VT and to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church in Windsor, VT. Detailed information will be provided in next month's newsletter.



## St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser

A decision has been made and there will be no change in the date of the St. Patrick's Luncheon.

We hope you will join us after worship on **Sunday, March 18** at the Barn for a traditional New England boiled dinner celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Like we have done in previous years there will be a \$10 per person suggested donation which will provide startup money for upcoming fundraising efforts. To help us plan this luncheon please let us know if you plan to attend and what dish you might be able to provide (corned beef, Jello salad, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, dessert, drinks, rolls, butter, mustard). **Invite a friend!**

## BENNINGTON BAROQUE CONCERT AT OLD FIRST CHURCH

*Springtime in Paris: Les Idées heurieux*

**March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.**

Donations accepted

In recognition of Early Music Month and in celebration of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of François Couperin (1668), Bennington Baroque will present a concert at The Old First Church, Bennington, at 3 PM on Saturday, March 17. Bennington Baroque plays on copies of instruments of the period, which undeniably serve this music better than their modern equivalents. Moreover, a space like that of Old First provides an acoustic especially well-suited to this music and these instruments. Performers include Emily Hale (baroque violin), André Laurent O'Neil (viola da gamba), and Sandra Mangsen (harpsichord). The ensemble was founded by harpsichordist Sandra Mangsen shortly after she moved to the area in 2011. Bennington Baroque presents three or four concerts each season, focusing on music from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

[www.benningtonbaroque.com](http://www.benningtonbaroque.com)

## WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

On February 28<sup>th</sup> we lost our dear friend and long-time church member Virginia (Ginny) Van Wormer. Ginny passed away peacefully at her home just one day short of her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had been a member of Old First Church since 1972 and was predeceased by her husband Willard in 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Van Wormer family and all who shared a special bond with her. A memorial service will be held at the church on Saturday, March 10, at 11:00 a.m., interment at Park Lawn Cemetery with a reception following at the Barn.

## MONUMENTAL TAG SALE

**Save the date!!!** This year the eleventh annual Old First Monumental Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, June 9. **NOW** is the time to clean out your attic and those over-stuffed closets and to set aside items for the sale. Ask your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Our first organizational meeting will take place on **Sunday, March 11, following worship.**

## LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

**Palm/Passion Sunday March 25, 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, March 29, 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, March 29, 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 1, 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!

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.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The congregation met for its annual meeting in the church sanctuary following worship on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We received the written reports submitted by officers and committees, elected new people to office and adopted the budget for the year. Thank you to all who provided food for the expanded coffee hour.

Thank you to all committee members who offered their time and talents throughout the year. Special thanks to those who have completed their terms or are stepping down:

Paul Goodrich – Deacons      Amy Tronsen – Mission      Marsha Pilachowski – Nominating  
 Lynda Swanda – Deacons      Ann Herrick – Council Member at Large      Betsy Ehrenfreund – Personnel Committee

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the report, stop by the church office for a copy.

## March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 	3 	4	5	6	7
8 Hurley family Barn use 10 AM – 5 PM <b>Communion Sunday</b>  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	9	10 Old Bennington Trustee mtg. 7 PM, Barn	11	12	13	14 UVM Fostering to Forever training 4- 10 PM, Barn
15 <b>Tag Sale Meeting following worship</b>  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	16 Old Bennington Planning mtg. 7 PM, Barn	17 <b>Deacon's mtg. 4 PM, Barn</b>  <b>Trustee's mtg. 5:30 PM, Barn</b>	18	19	20	21 UVM Fostering to Forever training 4- 10 PM, Barn
22 <b>St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Fundraiser at the Barn. Following worship</b>  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	23 MPCC Training 11:30-4:30 Barn	24 Bennington Garden Club mtg. 9-1 PM, Barn	25	26	27	28 <b>Women's Book Group, 6:30 PM at Marie Small's home</b> UVM Fostering to Forever training 4- 10 PM, Barn
29 Ferrannini family Barn use 10-3  11:00 AM worship The Rev. Ken Clarke Minister	30	31	32	33	34	35 <b>Maundy Thursday service @ the Barn 6:30 PM</b>  <b>Tenebrae service @ the Church 8:00 PM</b>
36	37	38	39	40	41	42 UVM Fostering to Forever training 4-10 PM, Barn
43	44	45	46	47	48	49 VAE Awards reception/dinner 5-10 PM, Barn
50	51	52	53	54	55	56 Eggsware family Barn use evening
57	58	59	60	61	62	63 Kiniry family Barn use 1-6 PM

**DEACONS ON CALL:**

Bill Hartz and Wendy Schmitt

**USHERS:**

3/4: Bill Hartz & Marsha Pilachowski  
 3/11: Marsha & Dave Pilachowski  
 3/18: Claudia & Steve Dalton  
 3/25: Kristen & Carlos Castellanos

**READERS:**

3/4: Reg Jones  
 3/11: Dave Pilachowski  
 3/18: Bill Gordon  
 3/25: Patrice Nolan

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

3/4: Sandy Bechtel, Claudia Dalton & Jeannette Lesser  
 3/11:  
 3/18: St. Patrick's Luncheon  
 3/25:

**FLOWERS:**

3/4: Amy Tronsen  
 3/11:  
 3/18:  
 3/25: Palms